



Germanic Studies

Winter 2016 Alumni Newsletter

Letter from the Chair -

The world is changing. Many of you expect me to write from the sixth floor of Ballantine Hall, but no more. We now reside on the third floor of a new building south of the Herman B. Wells Library. In this issue, you will see pictures of our big move last August. Our new residence is "lichtdurchflutet," as German advertisement language has it. Still, some of us need to get used to the many glass walls and doors. I for my part love the new building. The world is changing beyond our happy Germanic Studies community as well. Germany and Sweden have opened their borders. More than a million people are coming. In late September, I was in

Germany (Halle) for a conference and also visited Hamburg. There I got to see many of the incoming migrants and saw the *Erstaufnahme* and the quickly assembled *Zweitaufnahme* homes. One of my nephews even got me to play soccer with a man from Syria. It seemed to be a first for both of us. His kick was better than mine, though. I heard stories from many people and heard many different opinions from many Germans, but they all agreed: "Aufnehmen muss man sie." This is an act of humanitarianism reminiscent in recent memory only of the U.S. Marshall Plan. **Bill Rasch** has already hosted a small colloquium for our department to address the most recent events. Several of us will make it the topic of upcoming courses.

The world is changing for the better. Our small world of Germanic Studies is also doing well. Our beginning German language courses are not only full but waitlisted (we run nine beginning German sections, G100/ G105). There are so many good things going on that I must pick and choose which to report. Our department has been joined by a strong group of new graduate students with interests spanning our entire program. You can learn more about them on our

website: **Lee Czerw** (UNC, Chapel Hill, B.A.; Bremen/Palermo, M.A.), **Maria Fink** (U of Salzburg, B.A., M.A.), **Milo Rhodes** (Indiana University, M.A.; dual degree candidate with Gender Studies), **Luke Rylander** (Florida State, Tallahassee, B.A., M.A.), **Anna Spafford** (UW Madison, B.S.), **Benjamin Swakopf** (Covenant College, B.A.).

In his function as director of the Institute of German Studies, **Johannes Türk** has the pleasure to work with this new talent on campus. We are also sending students into the world. **Andrew Hamilton** was the very first to defend his dissertation in the new building in August 2015. He started teaching at the College of the Holy Cross a few weeks later. Our growing Dutch team of **Esther Ham** and **Bieneke Haitjema**, now joined by adjunct professor **Cynthia Vaona**, hosted a celebration of the fifty-year anniversary of the program at the end of October with many special guests, including **Bill Shetter**, retired professor and founding father, and **Russell Shorto**, author of *Amsterdam*. **Susanne Even** organized a large Symposium on Performative Pedagogy in language classrooms with international guests. The symposium pushed



The Global and International Studies building (SGIS).

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Germanic Studies

This newsletter is published by the Department of Germanic Studies with support from the College of Arts and Sciences, to encourage alumni interest in and support for Indiana University.

For activities and membership information, call (800) 824-3044 or visit <http://alumni.iu.edu>

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Grüße aus Bloomington!

a message from editor Julie Lawson

We hope the past year has been kind to you and that the new one will bring all good things with it! You will see in **Fritz Breithaupt's** summary and in the pages below that it has been an eventful year for the IU Department of Germanic Studies. In August we moved from our offices in Ballantine Hall, where we had been since the building opened, in 1959, to splendid digs in the new Global and International Studies Building. We hope you will enjoy the mini photo essay about the transition. And you will have noticed that the newsletter is coming to you a bit later than usual. We held the presses long enough to include the grand news surrounding the fiftieth anniversary of our Dutch program, which we celebrated with panache at the end of October. Faculty members up and down the bright new corridor have been very busy with academic endeavors and scholarly pursuits. They write of their travels and publications, some creative advances in pedagogy and collaborative outreach, and, as always in this venerable letter, they will share insights and more personal aspects of their experiences.

We are sad to report that one of our most steadfast contributors to the newsletter, **Peter Boerner**, passed away in June. We will miss his curiosity, energy, and wit. Another, more recent, loss to the

Germanic Studies community was **Beate Piedmont**, wife of Emeritus Professor **Ferdinand Piedmont**. Both are remembered below.

As for me, I have finally hung up my piece of chalk, and although I am no longer teaching for Germanic Studies, I seem quite busy with other projects. I continue to do translation work and the German diction coaching for the Jacobs School of Music Opera Theater—this year it was for an interesting new production of *Die Fledermaus*. In October I attended the 38th annual convention of the American Literary Translators Association in Tucson.

Read on, let us know what you think, and stay in touch! Don't forget to 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 that you may also send me items of professional interest, book announcements, or conference activities any time during the year, and I will post them on *ASNews* (www.indiana.edu/~asnews/index.php) for you.

With warmest greetings,

Julie Lawson
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Letter from the Chair, (cont.)

the limits, both on theoretical and practical grounds. In April 2015 **Ben Robinson** and **Johannes Türk** hosted the Midwest German Research Workshop. It was so good that they will do it again in April 2016. In February 2015, we hosted the chairs and coordinators from many German departments (the CIC network). **Ben Robinson** is a key organizing member of Themester this fall on the topic of labor and is laboring hard, as he reports below. **Gergana May** has helped broker a new exchange program for our students with Telemark University in Norway. **Tracy Hall** led our successful study abroad program to Graz this summer. We had a funny incident with that trip, since somehow the university and marked “Graz” incorrectly as “Gaza Strip” on one drop-down menu—I suddenly had our vice president on the phone, who basically wanted to start a rescue mission. Our Max Kade Distinguished Visiting Professor for 2015–16 is **Helmut Schneider**. He will be in Bloomington in January and February and offer a course on drama in the German classic period. **Claudia Breger** and **Bill Rasch** have both reached the end of their terms as chairs of Gender Studies and International Studies, respectively, and are both off for the year to regenerate and propel their research forward. We have much to look forward to. **Michel Chaouli** remains director of the Theory Center (though he was on sabbatical in fall 2015

in Berlin), 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.

Michelle Dunbar, **Jill Giffin**, and **Sara Goodwin** remain our faithful and reliable administrators for the department. They had a lot to shoulder this summer with the move and the increasing demands of quantitative accounting. We are very thankful for their hard work and their positivity. In the spring, we marked **Julia Lawson’s** retirement from active duty in teaching, again. Like few others, she has shaped our program in many ways. Most of our majors and minors first took one of her courses as a transition into our literature and culture courses. Luckily for us, she has agreed to continue on as newsletter editor. Thank you, Julie!

We do have sad news to report as well. Our dear friend and colleague, Emeritus Professor **Peter Boerner** passed away peacefully on June 12, 2015. Peter will be remembered in many ways. The international community will remember him for his many contributions to German classicism and romanticism, including his best-selling Goethe biographies, especially the Rowohlt version. Germanists will also remember him for his contributions to the history of Germanistik. The Goethe Museum in Frankfurt and the Lilly Library will remember

GISB atrium under construction



him for his generous gifts. Many people in Bloomington will remember him as an avid walker near Bryan Park, who would do his daily rounds whenever his time and health would permit it. Our department will remember him for his strong presence up to this year, even decades after his retirement. Our best thoughts are with his wife, Nancy, his sons, and their families. We will honor his legacy with a Peter-Boerner Faust-Lecture. Stay tuned!

Herzliche Grüße,
Fritz



Panoramic memories:

*opposite page - Ballantine 644,
below - the new offices in
SGIS Building 3103.*



Student News

Lane Sorensen offers this report: During the summer of 2015, six Germanic Studies graduate students ventured to Graz, Austria, to teach and coordinate two important IU language immersion programs. **Lane Sorensen, and Katya Cervantes**, together with **Professor Tracy Hall**, accompanied a group of nine IU undergraduates who participated in the annual summer program. These bright and energetic students took courses on Austrian culture and language, toured gorgeous museums and historic fortresses, experienced the sights and sounds of Salzburg and Vienna, hiked mountain paths and valley trails, tasted the sweetness of the very modern and fair trade-conscious Zotter chocolate factory, and participated in family life with their welcoming and encouraging Austrian host families. And they read an entire crime novel (*Das Ewige Leben*, by Wolf Haas), to boot! Not only did their German improve significantly, but their horizons broadened and new friendships were forged as well. What a wonderful experience for the teachers, coordinators, host families, and students alike!

Juliane Wuensch adds: The IU Honors Program for Foreign Languages took 21 Indiana high-school students to Austria for the first time, after more than 50 successful years in Krefeld, Germany. **Emma Kriss, Elliott Evans, Arne Willee**, and **Juliane Wuensch** were the first coordinators to explore this new location with the students. Their work and enthusiasm helped establish a new connection with Austrian host families and on-site

coordinators, which we hope will be the basis for another 50 years of great experiences. Some of the high-school students who attended this program in the past are now German majors in our department. The group spent almost five full weeks in Graz and enjoyed the delicious food (*Käferbohnen* and *Kürbiskernöl!*) and several exciting excursions and cultural events, such as a visit to the world-famous Zotter chocolate factory or a day trip to beautiful Klagenfurt on the Woerthersee. During their last week, they had time to explore yet another great city: Vienna. The students were excited to walk in the gardens of Schloss Schönbrunn, see Klimt's famous paintings at the Belvedere, visit the Mozart Museum and the House of Music, and discover all the treasures hidden in the Hofburg. Six weeks in Austria went by way too fast, but thanks to a great team of coordinators, teachers, and host families, these Indiana students were able not only to improve and practice their German language skills but also to embrace a very European way of life in Austria.



Saying goodbye to Ballantine Hall 644.

Faculty News

Claudia Breger reports from her sabbatical: “I am delighted that I made it through my last year of chairing the Gender Studies department and am on leave for this entire academic year! Somehow, things haven’t entirely calmed down yet — with all the home remodeling, family visits, office moving and conference travels. I even went to Shanghai for the Internationaler Germanistenkongress in late August—my first 12-hour time change and jet lag ever. And Shanghai is a pretty crazy city. With my final conference for this season (on Affect Theory: Looking Forward) coming up next week, I am hoping to finally settle down in my beautifully re-vamped house and do some serious WRITING (along with some halfway serious hiking while the good weather lasts). And yes (since everybody keeps asking), I am also planning on spending some time in Europe, but in all likelihood not before spring. Winter in Berlin is really not that lovely at all!”

Troy Byler has been very busy, as usual: “The second annual IU German Theater Project for High Schools culminated in a festival that took place Saturday, April 11, 2015, on the Bloomington campus. Around fifty students and nine instructors from seven high schools attended the daylong festival that included tailored workshops for the high-school students led by our own graduate students (Michael Bryant, Katya Cervantes, Kasina Entzi, Emma Kriss, Lindsey Rucker, Friederike Schläfer, Catherine van Halsema, Silja Weber, Juliane Wunsch) and a workshop on Improv Pedagogy for the instructors lead by Susanne

Even, our language coordinator. The project, which was sponsored by the Max Kade Foundation, the IU Department of Germanic Studies, the IU College of Arts and Sciences, the German Embassy, the IU Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL), and the IU Center for the Study of Global Change, was directed by a committee composed of Germanic Studies graduate students, with help from the department’s fiscal officer, **Jill Giffin**. Special thanks go to both **Franziska Krüger** and **Tyler Lear**, for their behind-the-scenes work, and to **Johannes Türk** for his communication with the Max Kade Foundation.

During the last academic year, Indiana high schools were asked to record their German students’ live performances, based on original or adapted scripts.

We received 19 submissions from seven schools. The committee selected the top two in each category and presented them at the end of the festival. The audience then voted for their favorites. Book awards and framed certificates were given for first place and honorable mention in each category. The website has been updated and the winning submissions are available for viewing: www.indiana.edu/~german/theaterproject.

[edu/~german/theaterproject](http://www.indiana.edu/~german/theaterproject).

We received many positive reactions from the participants. One instructor, who was here last year, mentioned that he did not know how, but we did even better this year than the very successful first year. He said he hopes that we can carry on this program as a yearly destination for his students. Here are some selected evaluation comments from the student participants:

“I had a great time learning new things in German and I feel as if my German skills have improved quite a bit from this.”

“I had a lot of fun today! I met new people, learned new things, and I almost ran someone over with one of those desk chair things. It was awesome!”



Student participants in the IU German Theater Project for High Schools

Student participants in the IU German Theater Project for High Schools



*“Absolutely loved it! Although I wish I had more time in the workshops.”
“I’m a shy person and the theater made me come out of my shell and act out skits and body language. I wish there was more time as a group.”*

Our own College of Arts and Sciences is impressed with our project’s ability to integrate language learning and teaching from high school to the graduate level. Integral to our success have been the willingness and passion that our graduate students have brought to designing and leading the festival workshops. Our hope is to continue to establish the IU German Theater Project for High Schools as an annual event and eventually to reach our maximum of 10 participating schools. This year we did increase the number of schools, but we still have a little more room to grow. Outreach programs like these are not only instrumental in recruitment for and promotion of our department, but also serve a crucial role for advocacy of German language and cultural instruction at the K-12 level.”

Susanne Even: „Mein Newsletter-Eintrag vor einem Jahr endete mit Troys Worten: “Was jetzt noch nicht richtig funktioniert, wird nächstes Jahr einfach besser gemacht!” Der Umzug nach GISB hat ein weiteres Motto in die Welt gesetzt: „Warten, bis sie

alle weg sind, und dann machen, was sinnvoll ist.“ (Was übrigens auch auf andere Lebensbereiche angewendet werden kann.) Inzwischen lebt mein Scooter – zumindest übergangsweise, bis sich jemand beklagt – in der Garderobe. Beim ersten Einparken habe ich ihn erstmal versehentlich voll gegen die Wand gesetzt, die jetzt eine minimale Delle hat, was aber bisher keinem aufgefallen ist ...

Performative Pädagogik (als *umbrella term*, der Drama- und Theaterpädagogik in all ihren Formen umfasst) ist am Wachsen. Der SCENARIO Forum Conference letztes Jahr in Cork (Irland) folgten drei weitere SCENARIO Symposia, und das dritte davon hier bei uns an Indiana University– das erste seiner Art in den Vereinigten Staaten! Im Sommer war ich drei Wochen lang in Deutschland und Irland unterwegs, darunter mit einem Workshop an der PH Freiburg im Rahmen ihrer Café Europe Vortragsreihe und einem Keynote Vortrag bei der Dramapädagogik-Konferenz an der Uni Reutlingen.



Participants in the Scenario Program

Alles lief soweit großartig, bis auf die Flugverbindungen: drei gestrichene Flüge (Grund 1: keiner, Grund 2: „no crew“ und Grund 3: „no plane“), sechs Umbuchungen und eine Verspätung, weil das Flugzeug *gewaschen* wurde (kein Witz). *That was an experience ...* Und das nicht nur bei Czech Airlines, sondern auch bei renommierten Fluggesellschaften wie United und British Airways. Fazit: entweder nicht fliegen oder viel Gelassenheit mit ins Handgepäck.

Unsere neue *Netzwerk Deutsch* Reihe lässt sich gut an. Für manche AIs ist es schon eine Umstellung – schließlich wurde acht Jahre lang mit *Neue Horizonte* unterrichtet. Während wir vorher kommunikativ zuarbeiten mussten, tun wir es jetzt grammatisch. Und das führt zu wertvollen pädagogischen Überlegungen praktischer und philosophischer Natur (was nie verkehrt ist). Und unsere Anfängerkurse waren dieses Jahr so voll wie noch nie. Begeistert bin ich dieses Semester von meinem neuen G605-Kurs: „Advanced Explorations into Foreign Language Education.“ Wir haben ganz generell mit John Dewey angefangen und arbeiten uns langsam in die Details von Syllabus-Erstellung, Planung von Vorlesungen und Durchführung von *content courses* hinein. Die von den Teilnehmenden selbst gewählten Themen sind faszinierend und reichen von Ernst Jandl, Bernhard Schlink, Irmgard Keun, Heinrich Böll und Karl May über deutsch-russische Beziehungen, Sprachgesellschaften und the Kung-Fu of Consumerism bis zum Leben, Sterben und Funktion von Blutegeln (just to name a few). Ich hätte gern selbst einen

Modellvortrag über den Beruf des „Wolfsberaters“ gehalten, aber leider ist der Syllabus schon zu voll. Aber, gemäß dem Motto dieses Kurses: *A good education leaves much to be desired* (Alan Gregg). In diesem Sinne. Ich bedanke mich herzlich bei allen unseren AIs, die auch dieses Semester mit Einsatz, Enthusiasmus, Fantasie und Teamgeist pädagogisch am Werke sind.“

Esther Ham and **Bieneke Haitjema** submit the following Dutch news: Dutch Language and Culture is more than a title in the course catalogue. Dutch language and culture on the Bloomington campus is uniquely well represented, with a collection of well over 20,000 Dutch language books in the Wells Library. At the nearby art museum, one can find an impressive collection of original works of art from the Netherlands and Belgium.

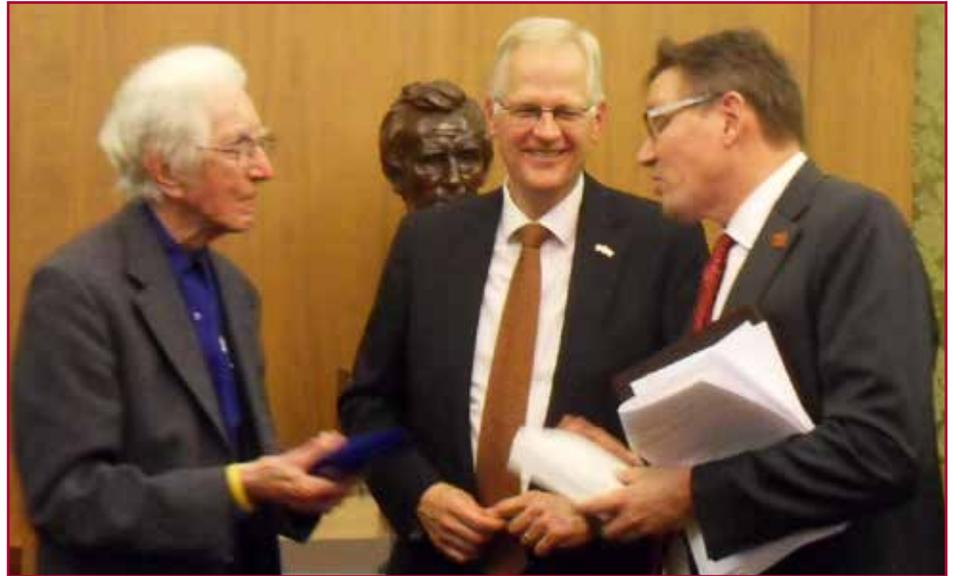
Small wonder that with the accessibility of these resources, our Dutch Language and Culture program is ideally positioned on the IU campus.

The impressive collection of Dutch literature at the Wells library can be largely attributed to the acquisition efforts by Professor **William Shetter**, who started the Dutch program at IU in 1965. Professor Shetter retired in 1994, but the program continued under **Inge van der Cruyse** and since 2001, under **Esther Ham**.

Fifty years of Dutch at IU this year was cause for a party, and a celebration was planned for October 28 and 29, 2015. The two-day event was attended by many colleagues, friends, and alumni of

the Dutch Language and Culture Program. The opening ceremony took place in the Lilly Library at 4 p.m. on October 28. After the arriving guests had an opportunity to view an extraordinary display of historic Dutch maps and books (thanks to Lilly Director Joel Silver) in the Ellison Room and to listen to lovely flute music provided by one of our own students, **Robin**

Meiksins, they gathered in the stylish Lincoln Room to hear speeches by several IU dignitaries and Mr. Klaas van der Tempel, the consul general of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Chicago. Guest of honor at the opening ceremony was Professor Shetter, as the founder of *Neerlandistiek* at IU. Bill was honored with a Service Award from the College of Arts and Sciences,



Professor Shetter, Consul-General Klass Van der Tempel, College of Arts and Sciences Executive Dean Larry Singell



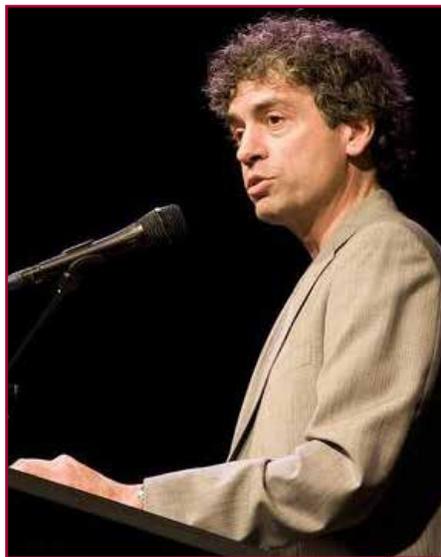
Professor Bill Shetter, accompanied by his wife, Jeanette, accepts the Arts and Sciences Service Medal

conferred by Dean Larry Singell. Dean Singell spoke about Bill's vital role in the academic community of Dutch scholars in the U.S. He also touched on Bill's multifaceted career and contributions, such as his chairmanship of the Modern Language Association's first discussion group on Netherlandic language and literature and on his contributions to the American Association for Netherlandic Studies, which he co-founded. While Vice President Emeritus Patrick O'Meara gave a historic perspective on the university's language, literature, and culture studies program, Professor Ton Broos, from the University of Michigan, talked about his professional and personal relationship with Bill Shetter and their joint contributions to Dutch studies in the United States during its pioneer stage and beyond. Afterward, the program's current director, Esther Ham, also the emcee at the opening ceremony, invited the guests to a reception at the IU Art Museum. There, the attendees had an opportunity to view the museum's two newly acquired Rembrandt sketches, on display amid a remarkable collection of paintings from the Low Countries.

The reception was followed by a well-attended keynote address by award-winning journalist and author Russell Shorto, who lectured about the first Dutch colony on American soil in the 16th-century, creating the city of New Amsterdam, later to be called Manhattan.

Day 2 of the anniversary celebration was devoted to a four-hour colloquium on topics relating to Dutch language and culture,

Keynote speaker Russell Shorto



with opening words by our chair, Professor **Fritz Breithaupt**, and contributions from IU art history professor **Bret Rothstein**, director **Esther Ham**, Professor **Ton Broos**, Calvin College Professor **Herman de Vries**, and **Amy Ransford**, a doctoral student of history at IU. **Bieneke Haitjema** served as the moderator at the colloquium. The semicentennial celebration was made possible with generous support from the Department of Germanic Studies, the Institute for European Studies, the executive dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and the *Nederlandse Taalunie*.

In other news, Esther moderated a one-day workshop at the 18th annual conference on less commonly taught languages in Washington, D.C., in April, as well as another one-week workshop at the Intensive Summer Institute of the National African Language Resource Center. In the summer she traveled to the Netherlands to attend the 19th *Internationale Vereniging voor Neerlandistiek* colloquium in Leiden. Esther keeps busy with teaching all eight semesters of Dutch in an online

format. Because of her directorship of online education at IU's Center for Language Excellence, part of her course load has been taken over by our newly appointed adjunct lecturer **Cynthia Vaona**, who teaches first-year Dutch this semester. Cynthia is a native speaker of Dutch and hails from the eastern part of Flanders, Belgium.

Bieneke is also teaching first-year Dutch as well as the second-year Dutch language courses. Outside of her teaching, she is involved in several collaborative translation projects. In the summer, Bieneke traveled to Amsterdam to visit the exhibition "Late Rembrandt" at the Rijksmuseum, a comprehensive overview of the master's work from the last decade of his life. A Dutch art collection of this magnitude is hard to find, yet as many of us could experience at the recent celebration, the Lilly Library and the Art Museum are treasure troves of Dutch art, greatly benefitting our students, faculty, and the community at large. These collections, together with the Wells Library resources, serve our Dutch Language and Culture program well. May this program, started by Professor Shetter fifty years ago, continue to flourish in the years ahead.

Albrecht Holschuh sends this greeting: "At the Bloomington Fourth Street Arts Festival, a lady stopped to say that she remembered a lot from a class of mine quite a few decades ago, and then broke into: 'Als der Krieg aus war, kam der Soldat nach Haus. Aber er hatte kein Brot.' We continued together, noisily and to the entertainment of the crowd around: 'Da sah er einen, der hatte Brot. Den schlug er tot. Du darfst doch keinen totschiessen,

sagte der Richter. Warum nicht, fragte der Soldat.’ Wolfgang Borchert and the PTSD of 1945-47.”

Hildegard Elisabeth Keller: „Ich freue mich, wenn ich auf dem Campus Studierenden begegne, die mir auf dem Velo winken oder für einen kleinen Schwatz stehenbleiben (neulich grüsste mich eine Studentin im Islamischen Gottesdienst, der neben der *Conference on Renaissance Surgery* stattfand, wo ich über Jakob Ruf referiert habe). Weil sie an einem der letztjährigen Events mit Schweizer Schriftstellern waren (im Herbst 2015 Arno Camenisch, im Frühjahr 2015 Monique Schwitter). Weil sie im Indiana University Cinema den Film *Whatever Comes Next* gesehen haben oder weil sie in einem meiner Kurse waren. Viele Highlights im letzten Jahr, ganz am Semesterende dann die besondere Ehre des *Graduate Students Teaching Award* und ein Glas mit Lindseys köstlichen Bohnen.

Ein grosser Szenenwechsel nach den Sommerferien. GISB, ein neuer gläserner Flügel für uns. Noch frieren viele von uns, aber die neue Heimat ist ein gutes Omen für eine Erneuerung der Department-Kultur und für interdisziplinäre Offenheit! In meiner Lehre und Forschung wachsen die Dinge zusammen: Zur Zeit produzieren

die Studierenden im Kurs G424 Hörspiele, natürlich auf Deutsch, die wir am 10. Dezember im IU Art Museum präsentieren werden. Jedes Hörspiel bezieht sich auf ein Gemälde. Mit meinen Ko-Kuratorinnen in der Lilly Library bereiten wir die grosse Frühlings-Ausstellung *The Performative Book* vor, mit der sich auch die Teilnehmer meines Frühlingskurses G571 beschäftigen werden; schon beteiligen sich Maria Fink als Audioproduktionsassistentin und John Paul Ewing als Spezialist für die Handschrift Ricketts 198.

Schliesslich forsche ich zu Alfonsina Storni, von der ich in früheren Newslettern berichtet habe, und schreibe ihre Biografie zu Ende (*Distel im Wind*; Mai 2016). In Zusammenarbeit mit dem Spanish & Portuguese Department, dem *Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS)* und dem *Latin American Music Center* bereiten wir eine multimediale Performance auf Englisch und Spanisch vor. Von Germanic Studies engagiert sich auch Arne Willée als Produktionsassistent und Stage Manager. Mark your calendars: March 31, 2016, in the Buskirk-Chumley Theatre! “

Gergana May wants us to know that “A lot is cooking this year in the Norwegian Program. Both the first and third semester classes

are enrolled at full capacity, and I am preparing to start teaching an intensive second eight-week course on a new topic, developed this summer: “Scandinavia and the Modern Breakthrough.” Thanks to a travel grant from the Norwegian government, I was able to spend two weeks in Norway, combining research on feminist author Amalie Skram and the painters of the Modern Breakthrough with a visit to Telemark University College, our new Norwegian partner for international exchange. Qualified IU students now have the opportunity to enroll there as non-degree students in the following program tracks: Scandinavian Studies in Telemark (Norwegian Literature, Language, and Life), Alpine Ecology and Environmental Management, Business Administration for Exchange Students, and Outdoor Life and Eco-Philosophy.

An exciting event to report about this fall semester was the honor that the IU Department of Theatre, Drama and Contemporary Dance paid to Norwegian master playwright Henrik Ibsen when the department opened its 2015–16 season with a production of Ibsen’s masterpiece *Hedda Gabler*. I was delighted to be invited to give an opening talk as part of the Theatre Circle lecture series. The production was fantastic! On a similar note, our own Scandinavian lecture series



is going to return in the spring with an engaging speaker from Denmark—stay tuned!”

Bill Rasch weighs in: “I completed my 3-year commitment as chair of the Department of International Studies on June 30, 2015. I did my best to remain true to the ethos and self-understanding of the old International Studies Program while facilitating its transformation into a department, and also fought (like we all do in this university as currently configured) to retain at least some of the rudiments of faculty governance. That I “did my best” does not necessarily mean I succeeded.

For the past two summers my wife and I have traveled to the UK, where we have friends in London. We have become quite fond of London, and we have also explored some of the UK’s other locations: the Lake District, Lancaster and the Midlands, Canterbury and the Thames estuary, the Orkney Islands. This past summer we also visited Dublin and spent a week in Berlin. I am currently on leave (the reward for the doing “the Lord’s work” in administration). I am supposed to be doing research but must admit



that my research has been hindered by my obsession with what is currently going on in Germany and Europe. I am thrilled by Angela Merkel’s fundamental decision to accept unconditionally political asylum seekers (in principle, even if the practice is proving difficult), but dismayed (*not* surprised) by the response of much of the rest of Europe and the increasing negative reaction in Germany itself. Merkel, intentionally or inadvertently, challenged Germany and Europe to live up to their putative ideals. If one habitually intones the language of human dignity and human rights, one willy-nilly assumes obligations. One ought not claim rights for oneself that one denies others, or simply use the phrase as a club with which to chastise opponents. And, if one profits economically from globalization, one has responsibilities regarding its negative effects. Astonishingly, Merkel seems to be the only one who acts in accordance with such an understanding.

It is of course easy to sit and make judgments from the claustrophobic confines of the US, “protected,” as we are, by water, ignorance, provincialism, and xenophobia. So my overriding judgment centers on the contrast between the decision of a right-center leader of Germany and the administration of a supposedly left-center president of this land. As Frank Capra would say, I have led a “wonderful life,” have had a surprisingly rewarding career, and the miraculously good fortune of an amazingly responsible and talented daughter. Sometimes, however, I wonder, what life in the rest of the world would have been like had Chris and I never returned from Iceland to the US, to a “New World” that once promised so

much but now feels so very old and used up.

Ben Robinson reports: “Two projects have been dominating my attention since the last newsletter. One is the College Themester I co-chaired with Alex Lichtenstein (History) on the topic “@ Work: The Nature of Labor on a Changing Planet.” After much planning, it finally took place this fall, with some terrific courses and events. The other project is faculty governance—I serve on the Bloomington Faculty Council (with **Johannes Türk**), and for the second year I co-chair the Educational Policies Committee, which **Troy Byler** has just joined. I’m also serving a second year on the Executive Committee. The more I’m involved with faculty governance, the more I appreciate the importance of initiatives like themester for maintaining the independence of the liberal arts and sciences from the market pressures on higher education. One aim that inspired the “labor” theme was teaching back against the drumbeat of “career and college readiness” that shapes schooling as a personal investment in a private future. By all means, I hope for the best careers for our students—and lives of love and fulfillment. But career is only the most private version of the work we do—it captures neither the collective agency Marx envisioned nor the redemptive aspirations Weber divined. Our marquee event—“Labor and Civil Rights: Bold Legacies and New Directions”—brought together the dynamic leader of the North Carolina NAACP, the Rev. William Barber, with the president of the AFL-CIO, Richard Trumka, to explore Martin Luther King Jr.’s recognition that civil rights and

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labor share the same interests in the beloved community, that “a crisis which lacerates you” is “a crisis from which we bleed.” The College’s labor theme also informs the faculty-graduate reading group on “The Working Subject” that Ilana Gershon (Anthropology) and I are co-convening at the Center for Theoretical Inquiry in the Humanities. Meanwhile, **Claudia Breger** and I just had our co-edited special issue of *Modern Language Notes* on “Complexity/Simplicity” come out. I had enjoyable trips to Sweden, England, and Berlin last year to present on different aspects of socialist realism. Teaching a graduate class on Döblin, Kafka, and Seghers and an undergraduate class on Marx, Nietzsche, Freud, and Arendt makes for a full and exciting year.”

Emeritus professor and former newsletter editor **Bill Shetter** sends these greetings: “The well-known scientist Christiaan Huygens was the son of the statesman Constantijn Huygens, who, in addition to his diplomatic duties, composed music and wrote a large number of elegant and often witty verses. In 1684 he wrote one reflecting on his current age, and it went like this:

*Doe 'k 84 was, kost ick mij licht
verschrijven,
En met de 4 voord' 8 een' sotte kunst
bedrijven,
En maecken gecken wijs,
'K was heel jong en heel grijs.
Nu'k 88 ben, geld geen 8
logenachtich,
Want 8 voor, of 8 na, 'k blijf altoos
88.*

In case you didn't catch all that 17th-century slyness, he's saying that when he was 84 he could fool

people by “accidentally” switching the numbers, suggesting that he was a youthful 48. But now he can't do that anymore, because 88 remains 88 no matter how much switching he does.

When some students and I read this little verse around 1970, I could hardly have imagined that the day would come when I too could call myself “irreversibly 88.”

Johannes Türk winds it up for us with his report: “This year was my first full year as director of the Institute of German Studies. The crucial part of my responsibilities is graduate student recruitment, and I am glad that the department has been able to attract an excellent cohort of graduate students—a sign of our department’s lasting strength but also a responsibility for us. With **Ben Robinson**, I organized the Midwest Symposium in German Studies, and I am proud that we could host such a collegial and inspired conference, bringing together colleagues from diverse private and public institutions in the region. My own work has led me to conferences such as the GSA and the ACLA, where I presented on the episodic in Aristotle and the novel, as well as on Shaftesbury’s critique of enthusiasm and its relation to the current debates on freedom of speech. I was also happy to give a keynote lecture in Leuven, Belgium, at a conference on immunity. I look forward to the year ahead and hope the mice I drove to surrounding fields in the spring will not make an effort at cohabitation again next winter.”

Jeanette Clausen (M.A., '66, Ph.D., '75): I returned in late March from my two years of Peace Corps service in Thailand. Reintegrating into American culture was a bit more stressful than I expected, but it's great to be living in my own space in beautiful Bloomington, reconnecting with old friends and fun institutions like the Faculty Drama Club and the Icelandic saga reading group, and enjoying a plethora of arts events. My daughter now lives here, too; her purchase of a house with a sizable garden provides plenty of opportunities for planting, weeding, mulching, and harvesting—just what I needed. Otherwise, I'm relearning Spanish, doing some tutoring and other volunteer work and training to become a student advocate on campus. I'm also looking around for my next career—we'll see how that goes!



Remembrances



Peter Boerner died peacefully at his home on Friday, June 12. Born in 1926 in Estonia, he grew up in Germany. He received his Ph.D. from the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt, and studied for a postdoctoral year at the College d'Europe in Bruges, Belgium. Subsequently he served as curator of the Goethe-Museum in Dusseldorf and as resident director of the Stanford University Study Center in Germany. In 1961 he began a teaching career in the United States, initially at the University of Wisconsin in Madison and also at Yale University. After 24 years at Indiana University in Bloomington, he retired as professor of

Comparative Literature, Germanic Studies and West European Studies. He was the recipient of a Guggenheim fellowship, followed by research fellowships in Germany at the Herzog August Bibliothek in Wolfenbuttel, the Zentrum fur Interdisziplinare Forschung in Bielefeld, and the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin. His publications include studies of the Faust legend, the diary as a literary form, and the concept of national identity, as well as a 45-volume paperback edition of Goethe's works. His biography of Goethe, originally written in German, has been translated into English and nine other European and East Asian languages.



Beate Piedmont passed away at home among family on December 6, 2015. She was born on August 22, 1933, in Cologne, Germany. Adventurous and bold, Beate traveled the world and had two successful careers, as well as raising two Hoosier children. Beate studied library science at the University of Cologne and became a librarian, a career which took her to the West German capital of Bonn as well as to Johannesburg, South Africa; Lisbon, Portugal; and Washington, D.C. In 1966 she



married **Ferdinand Piedmont** in the Altenberg Abbey in Odenthal, Germany, and immigrated to the United States, specifically Bloomington, where Ferdinand was a professor of German at Indiana University. Her florist shop, Blooms of Bloomington, offered European-style, artistic flower arrangements in downtown Bloomington for 15 years. Beate loved flowers as much as she loved books, and she continued designing bouquets and arrangements for loyal customers for many years even after she closed her shop in 1998.



These remembrances are excerpted from the Bloomington Herald-Times.

