



Germanic Studies

Fall 2018 Alumni Newsletter

Letter from the Chair

Over the past few years, the Department of Germanic Studies has had the good fortune of being remembered with generosity by former students, faculty members, and friends. The gifts they have given the department have allowed us to support today's undergraduate and graduate students and recognize their achievements. It has also enabled our support of high school teachers of German and their students. Thanks to yearly donations by **William M. Goodwin** and matching donations by the Lilly Foundation, we have been able to give scholarships to every student taking part in one of our Overseas Study programs (Graz, Berlin, Freiburg) to minimize their costs. This year, again thanks to Mr. Goodwin,

we have granted our first Germanic Studies Scholarship to an incoming student who has Germanic Studies as her first major. Her name is Lia Bodine.

Lia, who hails from Atlanta, Georgia, joined us as an incoming freshman this fall. She is a true German-language enthusiast, which she couples with her second major in fine arts. **Nina Morais**, Lia's G200 instructor, tells us that "If there is a blank space on a sheet of paper, test or book, Lia will draw on it, and the most amazing pictures will appear (from landscapes to a portrait of Michael Jackson, we have seen everything!). Lia takes great joy and pride in her family, and shares beautiful stories with her colleagues about them." The picture below was taken at a

brunch honoring her arrival on campus.

With the continued help of Mr. Goodwin, we hope to assist additional well-deserving students, like Lia, in their endeavors to study the German language, literature, and cultural history. In the tradition of our predecessors (see chair's letter), we hope that the department becomes a place of comfort, refuge, and inspiration for all of our Germanic Studies students.

William Goodwin, Jeff Grove (who introduced himself to you in a previous issue of the newsletter), and **Warren Haas** all grew up in Indiana and came to the "big city" of Bloomington to study at Indiana University. They have all confessed to having been a bit overwhelmed by the campus, but soon found

a home in the Department, a refuge, a place they could come to and find *Kaffee, Kuchen*, and confidants. They have mentioned names of specific professors, and it is not surprising that **Frank Banta** (whose generosity to the department



Lia Bodine's parents, Jill and Albert, Chair Bill Rasch, and Nina Morais

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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 alumni.iu.edu

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Grüße aus Bloomington!

A message from editor Julie Lawson

Hello, and many greetings from Bloomington! Another year has passed, the seasons have turned, Bloomington is right now at its colorful best, and the newsletter keeps chugging along. We bring you news from all corners of the Department of Germanic Studies, where faculty and students alike are finding new ways to further their common interests, and from far away, where our older alumni are thriving personally and professionally, and our younger ones are blazing new trails into scholarship and teaching. You will read about successes and innovations in the discipline, as well as challenges to it, warm memories of years past and heartfelt wishes for the future. We enjoyed reading individual news items, but were also delighted to find so many mentions of alums and students included in the items submitted by others. So please laugh and sigh with us, and above all stay in touch.

If you are among this year's newsletter contributors, thank you for writing. If you have not sent in an item, please consider doing so next year. You don't have to wait until asked (but rest assured, I will ask!) Let me encourage you to write whenever you have something to share.

See my contact information below. You can also check in with us any time via the Department of Germanic Studies website (<http://www.indiana.edu/~germanic>) and on the facebook pages of IU Bloomington Germanic Studies and German House Indiana University. There's always something going on.

As for me, I can tell you that I'm as busy as ever. I developed and am teaching an intensive, graduate level course, "German for Musicians," which grew out of my work with the IU Jacobs School of Music Opera Theatre. Students earn credits in both Germanic Studies and Music, and I get to combine two loves. I also was very happy that the annual conference of the American Literary Translators Association was held this year in Bloomington. What a delight to spend three days listening to people talk about words – and all within walking distance of my house! I spotted more than one IU alum at the conference. Read on to see who.

Enjoy our newsy tradition, let us know what you think, do good work, and let us hear from you!

Mit herzlichen Grüßen,

Julie Lawson
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Letter from the Chair, (cont.)

has allowed many of our more ambitious activities over the past few years) and **Ferdinand Piedmont** (who is remembered by an annual award given to a graduate student working in the field of drama and theater) have been mentioned often. None of today's faculty members was here when these former students were in residence in the early 1960s and in the 1970s, but we all remember the professors whom they frequently mention. Listening to their stories renews my respect for these former colleagues and the departmental culture they fostered. As a department in the late 2010s, living in a very different social and administrative climate and thus facing very different challenges, we still aspire to be that kind of department, a place that students can call home within their larger IU home away from home. Inspired by the past we hope to emulate their example.

Listening to the stories of these former students has also caused me to reflect on the professors who played an important role in my life as an undergraduate. I went to three institutions of higher learning (state university, junior college, private liberal

arts college – the '60s were a restless time), and in each I encountered professors who, to use the accurate cliché, changed my life. William Robinson my freshman year at the University of Florida, whose freshman English course opened my eyes to the power of literature and also simply caused me to rethink who I was and what I was to become. Alberta Goodman at Miami Dade, who got me addicted to Anglo-American modernism and tolerated my nearly daily over-enthusiastic visits. Jim Carlson and Jerry Gill at Florida Presbyterian College. Carlson allowed me the run of this amazing, technologically brilliant theater as I dreamed of becoming the next Judith Malina and Julian Beck, only to be brought back to reality by Gill, who walked me through Wittgenstein's *Philosophical Investigations* and listened with well-crafted interest to my gibberish. To my shame, I never thanked them when I had the chance, and only one is still within my reach. I name them all here as a belated tribute.

The American university now is far, far different from the university Goodwin, Grove, Haas, and I attended. Older ideas of what a liberal arts education meant prevailed

then, even if we also challenged them, especially in the proverbial 1960s. We – or maybe it was just I – took the “meaning of life” seriously and could not have cared less about “professional training.” After graduation it took me twenty years to settle on a profession – this one – and a better twenty years one could not have had. Unless it was the thirty years that followed.

I retire from being chair and from being a professor at Indiana University at the end of this academic year. I was extraordinarily and undeservedly lucky to have been hired by this outstanding Germanic Studies department, where I have enjoyed a charmed and satisfying career as teacher, researcher, and administrator. I especially savor having known the students who have studied here and who in their various ways have left something of themselves with us and taken something of us with them. I hope the next twenty years or so (optimistically speaking) will be a suitable closing chapter.

Es war das Schönste,
Es war das Schönste,
Es war das Schönste,
Auf der Welt.



Student News

We're always happy to hear from our current grad students. This year two of them were brave enough to introduce themselves.

"Hello! My name is **Corinna Fehle**, and I'm originally from a small town between Augsburg and Munich. After spending one year in Norway during high school, I discovered my passion for languages and other cultures. I got my BA in Scandinavian Studies and English at the University of Tübingen and my MA in literature and cultural studies at the University of Linköping in Sweden. While in Tübingen, I worked as DaF tutor for international students -- this was what lead me to work as a TA at Wabash College in Crawfordsville, IN during the academic year 2015/16. I'm not really sure what it is about Indiana that I like so much, but my "homesickness" (among other things) made me transfer to IU after one year in a PhD program at the University of Oregon. I'm a very active person and I enjoy traveling, swimming, hiking and other outdoor activities, so I'm glad that Bloomington has a lot to offer. I'm very happy to be back in Indiana and I'm excited for the years to come!"

Claire Woodward is in the second year of her Masters/PhD program with a Jewish Studies minor. She is interested in minorities and senses of "otherness" in 20th century German literature and culture. This is her first year as an AI at IU, and she is enjoying teaching German in addition to fostering her continual fondness for interlingual puns. (And this editor wishes she had included one of them! Maybe next time, Claire.)



Faculty News

Fritz Breithaupt, who is always up to something interesting, starts off this year's Faculty Notes. He writes that it is hard to get out of the shadows of empathy. He published another book on empathy in 2017, called *Die dunklen Seiten der Empathie* with chapters on Friedrich Nietzsche, helicopter parents, and Angela Merkel, and thought he would leave this topic behind, but he is now revising the proofs of the English version, *The Dark Sides of Empathy*, which will come out in early 2019 at Cornell UP. **Andrew Hamilton**, one of our 2015 Ph.Ds. now at Bowdoin College, did the translation. Fritz is happy about the work in his lab, the Experimental Humanities Lab (www.experimentalhumanities.com), with a number of our current students involved, including **Connor Baskin**, **Eleanor Brower**, and **Claire Woodward**. The lab works on narrative thinking and uses telephone games to study how stories are changed in distribution.

Troy Byler brings us up to date on both graduate and undergraduate student engagement in all things German: "Our department's second annual German Instructor Summer Program (GISP) was another success. Sixteen Indiana German high school teachers participated and most of them enrolled in the optional graduate course, *Germany 1945*, co-taught by **Bill Rasch** and me. State funds through the IU Advance College Project are being used to pay for the graduate tuition of these instructors, who are all working towards the 18 credit hours needed for accreditation to teach our concurrent enrollment courses. **Susanne Even**, and two of our graduate students, **Ben Swakopf** and **Bettina Christner** have agreed to teach a course on German Märchen for next summer's GISP. We hope that **Nina Morais** will be available once again to run the logistics, which she has done so well in the past.

Our sixth annual German Theater Project for high schools brought in a record number of high school students and teachers to this year's festival in April. Every year, I am so impressed

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and proud of our graduate students who not only put together a well-run event, but also shine in their workshop offerings to the participants. This year the committee also included enthusiastic undergraduates, who help spread the gospel of Germanic Studies to the festival participants. A special thanks goes to two of them, **Sam Day** and **Emma Helfrich**. We will continue to include additional undergraduate support in the years to come.

Finally, I would like to mention that this summer we had the largest group of undergraduate students attend our summer Graz program in recent memory. Sixteen of our strong and engaged German majors, Business Certificate and minor students spent six weeks improving their German / Austrian language skills (courses taught by current grad students **Bettina Christner** and **John Paul Ewing**) and discovering the many pleasures of a country that has so much to offer. Many thanks to our donors and especially to **Bill Goodwin**, who has continued to provide the generous travel scholarships to all of our overseas students."

Michel Chaouli has also been busy at home and abroad: "This year, I started a new project at the Freie Universität in Berlin, called "*Philologisches Laboratorium*," which aims to develop new forms of engagement with literature and art that do not primarily rely on critique. I was delighted that a number of IU faculty were able to take part in our first *workshop*, among them **Johannes Türk** and Eyal Peretz. I was also glad that some alumni of the program who happened to be in Berlin were able to attend the weekly *colloquium*, among them **Dana Weber** (Ph.D., '10, now at Florida State University, and **James Rasmussen** (Ph.D., '11, now at the Air Force Academy). The project is scheduled to continue for two more years and will, I hope, continue to forge close ties between our program and the Freie Universität."

Susanne Even shares her thoughts and adventures: „Wieder ein spannendes Jahr vorbei. Zur Bestürzung vieler Deutschlehrerinnen und -lehrer auf dem



nordamerikanischen Kontinent wurde das vom Goethe-Institut jahrzehntelang geführte *Teacher Trainer Netzwerk* außer Kraft gesetzt und zwar zum Jahresanfang und aus heiterem Himmel. Glück hatten **Lane Sorensen** und ich, weil wir im Oktober davor noch eines der letzten Wochenendseminare für Lehrkräfte durchführen konnten zum Thema „Mach bloß (kein) Theater! – Inszenierungen für den Deutschunterricht“ – diesmal sogar offiziell und professionell gefilmt: <https://www.goethe.de/ins/us/de/spr/unt/kum/the.html>.

Lane und ich waren auch zwei Beitragende auf dem 4. SCENARIO Symposium, das von **Erin Noelliste** (Ph.D., '16) an der University of Northern Colorado superkompetent organisiert und durchgeführt wurde. Fotos gibt's unter folgendem: *Web Link*.



Unsere neuen AIs (v.r.n.l.) **Kathy, Josh, Brian, Nate, Claire, Connor und Elijah** sind eine starke Truppe, die beim Unterrichten unerhört viel Spaß zu haben scheinen. Spaß gab's auch schon eine Menge in der Orientierungswoche.



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Während dieser Woche predige ich immer wieder, wie sinnvoll es ist, im Rucksack oder der Tasche immer eine Sammlung von Dingen dabei zu haben, die für den Unterricht nützlich sein können (z.B. extra Kreide, Kulis, einen kleinen Tacker, ein paar Würfel, Post-its usw.). Dazu gab es auf der ACLA in Los Angeles eine wunderbare Situation. Luke Rylander (der eigentlich was zu Kleist vorgetragen hat) kam zu der Session, auf deren Panel ich war. Diskussionsergebnisse sollten ans *White Board* geschrieben werden. Aber: keine Stifte vorhanden. Luke öffnete in Ruhe seinen Rucksack: „I have a few pens right here...” Einfach großartig. Ich freue mich auf ein weiteres Jahr mit euch allen!“

Robert Fulk's new book, *A Comparative Grammar of the Early Germanic Languages*, has been published by John Benjamins, Amsterdam. The ISBN is 9789027263124. The electronic edition is freely available under Open Access at

<http://www.jbe-platform.com/content/books/9789027263131>.

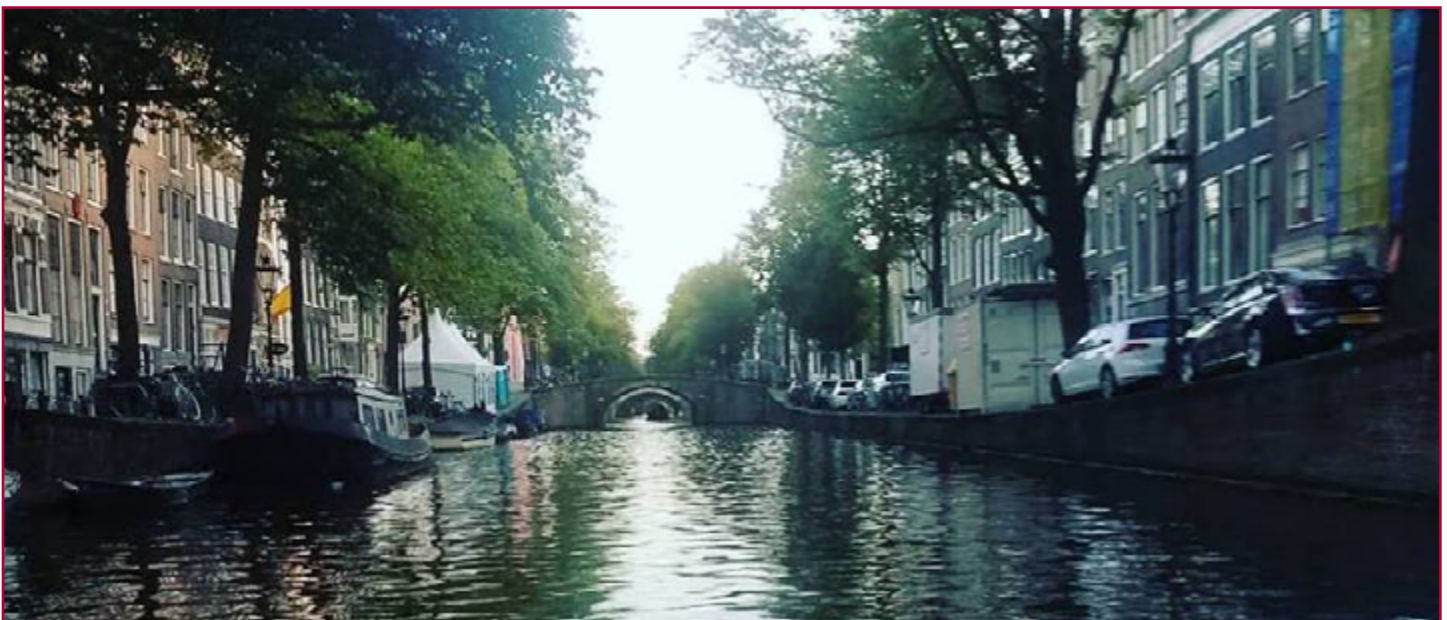
Bieneke Haitjema reports from Amsterdam: “Looking back at last year’s newsletter, we reported on the addition of a number of Dutch Culture courses in our course offerings and how one of them, a course on the history of

Amsterdam, had just been approved for Gen Ed accreditation. Needless to say that the accreditation helped with the enrollment, hence the course, which was taught in the fall semester of 2017, was filled to capacity. It was rewarding to learn that after the class had ended, there were several students who were inspired to go to the Netherlands to further explore Amsterdam’s DNA on location.

One of those students was **Matthew Kramer**, who, prior to his trip reported to me that ‘he was very much looking forward to seeing all of the historic places he had been so lucky to learn



(Above) Matthew Kramer (left) and friend on a bridge across one of the canals in Amsterdam’s old city center. (Below) Bridge across one of the canals in Amsterdam.



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about in the course.'

Teaching this course has impacted me on a personal level too. I enjoyed becoming reacquainted with this unique city and in preparing for the class I got to review many fascinating articles and books about the city's successively changing political, demographical and cultural landscapes. One of those books is the historical novel *The Coffee Trader* by David Liss, a book I can highly recommend. A particularly good find for me was a book with a collection of poetry about Amsterdam, published in 2013 on the occasion of the 4th centennial celebration of the famous Amsterdam canal ring. These poems provide insight into Amsterdam's spirit of enterprise, civic virtue, creativity and freedom of thought over the past 400 years. In preparation for a poetry workshop in the Netherlands, I'm working on an English translation of a number of these poems, a task quite challenging as there are numerous words or phrases denoting objects, facts, and phenomena that are deeply and uniquely rooted in the Dutch culture, and that have no equivalent in the English speaking culture. A poetic challenge for sure."

Albrecht Holschuh sends his greetings and writes a few words on a personal note: "There is nothing of professional importance to report. Just to show you: I just returned from a family reunion in Germany where 51 people gathered. I admit, I was the oldest. Next will be the fiftieth anniversary celebration of IFLTA (Indiana Foreign Language Teachers Organization), of which I was president many years ago."

Good news from Norway comes as usual from **Gergana May**: "The Norwegian Program is back to high enrollments in both the language and culture courses, with a record of 28 students enrolled in Beginning Norwegian in fall 2018. Two of my students attended the summer program at the University of Bergen thanks to scholarships from the hosting institution and our department, and one student is currently spending a year at the University of Southeast Norway as part of our bilateral agreement

with them. I, myself, had a very productive summer in Norway, preparing to teach a Study Abroad course there with a wide and varied travel itinerary in summer 2020. The course is one of IU's Signature Projects – the Grand Expedition -- which have been initiated to celebrate the University's centennial. It will take the students along the Norwegian fiords, the cities of Trondheim, Bodø, Tromsø, Oslo and Bø, and Lifjell Mountain in Telemark. I will share more news about this exciting opportunity in our next newsletter! I am also happy to report that the Scandinavian Lecture Series has now been in existence for twelve years and continues to feature one national or international expert annually who presents a lecture on a variety of Scandinavian topics. In March 2018 we hosted Professor Olivia Gunn from the University of Washington, who gave a talk on Knut Hamsun's novel *Growth of the Soil* in relation to its receiving the Nobel Prize for Literature 100 years ago."

Nikole Langjahr has been super busy this year teaching her popular business German and



Images from our reoccurring game nights and the Nikolausfeier (Christmas Party) 2017

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about Frege's Foundations of Arithmetic and what the number 1 is, and under what circumstances it might make sense to speak of (or better, to point out) such a thing as an actual, spontaneous unit. Besides that monotasking, I've willy-nilly branched out to other tasks and have been teaching a course on contemporary German writing related to themes of Islam, Judaism, minority identity, migration, and, most generally, secularity and revelation (what used to be figured as Athens and Jerusalem). I'm also teaching a new class on German neoliberalism that juxtaposes it both to German social democracy and to American neoliberalism. It is stunning to me how much the debates between people like Karl Polanyi and Friedrich Hayek still echo in the discussion of the 2008 financial crash and its continuing effects after 10 years, which I'm reading about in Adam Tooze's big tome of a book *Crashed*."

And finally from **Johannes Türk**: "I have co-convened the Center for Theoretical Inquiry's reading group focussed on Lyotard's "The differend" in the spring. With a large group of colleagues and graduate students from different departments, we rediscovered this magisterial book and its topic of conflicts in which a wrong cannot be articulated in a shared language. With *Hall Bjørnstad*, I organized a workshop "Exemplary Affect" that aimed to redefine the terms in which we understand the political dimension of affectivity. This coming year, the Institute of German Studies goes into its 50th year. My position at the head of the Institute was renewed for three years, and one of my responsibilities is the recruitment of graduate students. In spite of the difficult environment, our recruitment was successful and we continue to attract excellent students to our department. But the question of how to face the future of German Studies and how to respond to a changing discipline and university remains critical. I have published on "Health and Illness" in Kafka and on Schiller relationship to the French Revolution. Currently I am teaching Goethe's "Faust I" for the first time in a course for undergraduates."



Long-time Stammtisch participant (four years and counting) John DePaemelaere surprised us with a custom-made wooden Stammtisch sign! Thank you so much, John!

conversation classes for undergrads, hosting the weekly Stammtisch informal conversation group, and keeping us all up on activities and current events both here in Bloomington and abroad via the German House Facebook page. Look for photos of fun activities she organized for the department and friends in these pages.

Ben Robinson has been busy indeed: "I have been monotasking for the past year or so on my book manuscript, "On the Unit of the Present: A Theory and History of Indexicality." I don't like to think of myself as having spent the summer taking care of #1, but I did spend it thinking

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Our old friend **Francis Gentry** (Ph.D., '73) sends his greetings and a brief but regal update: "Things are fine, but not much has happened this past year except this: I was nominated for and was invested as a "Knight Commander of the Most Noble Order of the Three Lions" for my services to Medieval and German Studies. But you can still call me Frank."

Ron Horweg (Ph.D., '71) reports: "I have been happily retired since 2015. That means more time spent for visits to the doctors, more time for yard work and a chance to devote a lot of time to work in our local church, namely the choir, where my wife Sandra is the choir director. I still manage to do a little professional work: mainly translations for my poet-friend Ralph Grüneberger in Leipzig. When I retired I took the Sweet Briar German program with me. The College almost closed and was saved through the efforts of dedicated alumnae. Since then Sweet Briar has also canceled its Spanish and French programs and its Junior Year in Seville. Still remaining is the Sweet Briar Junior Year in France. I am very proud of my oldest granddaughter Cassandra, who received a 99th percentile on the AATG National German exam and won an AATG trip to Germany this summer. I love to speak German regularly with her on the telephone and to give her books from my library."

Another active – and distinguished -- retiree is **Marianne Kalinke**, (Ph.D., '70): "I have now been retired at the University of Illinois since 2006. After a hiatus of eleven years, the university finally hired Verena Höfig in 2017 in a tenure-track assistant professor position as my successor in Old Norse-Icelandic Studies. I continue to do research, give papers, and publish. In August I attended the triennial International Saga Conference in Iceland, on the occasion of which the president of Iceland conferred on me the Order of the Falcon, Iceland's highest honor, for my research, scholarship, and teaching in the area of medieval Icelandic literature. Who would have thought that a required course for medievalists in Old Norse, taught by **Foster W. Blaisdell**, would

lead to this."

We caught up with **Astrid Klocke**, (Ph.D., '00) at the recent American Literary Translators' Association Conference, held in Bloomington this year. Astrid is Associate Professor of German at Northern Arizona and was a presenter at the ALTA conference. She is finishing up a translation, the first English translation, of Edgar Hilsenrath's *Fuck America: Bronskys Geständnis*, the semi-autobiographical account of the author's exile in New York City in the 1950's. The book is scheduled for publication in November by Owl of Minerva Press. At ALTA, Astrid, along with Jason BeDuhn, Professor of the Comparative Study of Religions at Northern Arizona, spoke about their 10-year collaborative translation and editing project of Nietzsche's *Will to Power*, a reconstruction of his draft manuscript from the unpublished notebooks. The third collaborator, Paul Donnelly, Professor of the Comparative Study of Religions at NAU, was not able to attend.

Andrew Mills (Ph.D., '09) reports in from the University of Michigan: "In the time since I last wrote in 2016, I successfully requested to be released from my academic advising duties, to enable me to dedicate all of my time to teaching and mentoring students. The results are fulfilling. For me. It's unclear how the University of Michigan student body feels about the development. I've reorganized and taught our department's largest course, a 120-student lecture on German fairy tales, on two occasions. The experience has forcibly extinguished any fear of public speaking, or tripping on stages in front of crowds of students holding cell phones. My German honeybee and beekeeping course has flourished, and has become a magnet for students in environmental studies, the natural sciences, and for anyone who wishes to overcome a fear of stinging, winged insects. I have consolidated my faculty-advisor iron rule over the UM student beekeeping club, which has resulted in our first-ever shed-raising, a brand-new apiary location, and the regular occurrence

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that 20-30 young people sign up for beekeeping whenever we announce trips to the bee yard. Most recently, an undergraduate from my advanced translation workshop and I completed a project that consisted of translating the personal letters of three brothers of a German-born UM Professor Emeritus, all of whom died fighting in World War II on the German side. The correspondence consists of the surviving letters that were sent home to family members in Heidelberg from the front lines on the Eastern, Western, and Italian fronts. After all this success, I naturally fell victim to extreme hubris, and attempted to found yet another endlessly successful student organization, the University of Michigan *Frakturschriftliteraturlesegruppe*, dedicated to the enthusiastic study and enjoyment of extremely dusty, disintegrating German novels printed in Fraktur. Suffering under the psychological burden of a shockingly low level of student interest, the book club subsequently squandered its departmental budget on uneaten pizza, and my aspirations for cementing my legacy in Ann Arbor quickly collapsed into a heap of ruins, the ashes of which are still, from time to time, kicked at scornfully by passersby.”

It was good to hear from **Sharon Wailes** (Ph.D., '13): “I have been hired as an associate teaching professor by the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures at Penn State University, where I will be teaching their course on medieval through Baroque literature and serving as their online German language course coordinator. Older son

Philip (now 23) has completed his Bachelor's Degree in Jazz Studies at the Jacobs School of Music and is living in New York City as a freelance musician. Younger son Patrick (now 19) is a sophomore in Jazz Studies at the Jacobs School.”

And last but certainly not least is **Silja Weber** (Ph.D., '18) with exciting news: “After detours and topic switches, I defended my dissertation (“The role of performance for student agency: A Discourse Perspective on Whole-group Interaction in Intermediate German Classes”) in June. In case anyone doubts it, I am evidence that it is possible to enjoy the process. To a large extent, this was due to my very helpful (and eclectic) committee, and most of all my dissertation director, **Dr. Susanne Even**, who introduced me to drama pedagogy, saw me through, and taught me by example how to stay a whole person while doing highly theoretical work. I was also fortunate enough to encounter a job search committee looking for someone with experience in weaving different fields together, which I had done in my dissertation, and so as of this fall I have a renewable lecturer position at Columbia University with the expectation that I will actively engage in shaping their teacher training. When German faculty ask me where I got my PhD, the IU Germanic Studies department gets approving smiles. I miss Bloomington, especially our graduate student community, but New York City is an enlivening place to be!”



Class Notes from the IU Alumni Association

Bill Elliot from the Indiana University Alumni Association sends us this invitation to keep in touch via the IUAA Class Notes:

Tell us about all the achievements and milestones in your life. We want to know when you get married. When a future IU alum joins your family. When you win an award, publish a book, or get a great new job. If it's good news for you, it's good news to us. alumni.iu.edu/class-note.

Remembrance

We were so very sorry to learn of the passing of **Edith Antonia (Wagner) Rentz** (Ph.D., '75). She was a tireless champion of the teaching of both German and English language and literature, and a dear personal friend. The following is excerpted from the obituary in Funeral Alternatives, Brunswick, Maine.

After an extended struggle with pancreatic cancer Edith Antonia Wagner Rentz passed away on June 6th of this year.

Edith received her Bachelor's Degree from Valparaiso University, her Master's Degree from Middlebury College which included a year's study at the University of Mainz in Germany, and finally her PhD from Indiana University, completed in 1975. She taught German at Martin Luther High School in NYC, at Valparaiso University, at Indiana University, at Hiram College in Ohio, and finally at Bowdoin College.

Having qualified to teach English while at Valparaiso, Edith was later hired to teach it at Freeport High School where she spent nearly a quarter century. In that time she was beloved by generations of students and by her fellow faculty members. After retiring from teaching, she found time for volunteer work with the food pantry and the library's used book store. She was also an avid quilter and adventurous traveler.

