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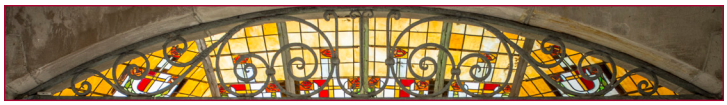

A newsletter for alumni and friends of the Department of

Germanic Studies

Fall 2019 Alumni Newsletter

Letter from the Chair

It is a pleasure to write this Letter from the Chair, but at the same time it's not easy for me to think my way into our storied department, with its scores of excellent PhDs leaving their marks in professions here and abroad; with its animated undergraduates who enliven our practice and have gone on to careers and communities in countless areas and who still from time to time drop in on us, remember us with cards, beloved books, or the generous gifts that make many of our scholarships and programs possible; and, of course, with my fellow faculty members whose passion for research and teaching—and infectious joy in the intellect—inspires us in our classrooms, our reading, and our reflections. Our department has been going strong for 134 years now, which is not a history to be taken lightly. At the same time, today has already arrived and tomorrow is eager for its turn, and neither is willing to let us forget them while we muse about what was once upon a time. So here I am, thinking my way into the department, with respect for where we've been, for our unflagging strength and camaraderie, but also with an eye toward the exciting places where we are heading.

Let me express my thrill at our three (!) new hires this year, Teresa Kovács, Gunther Jikeli, and Irit Dekel. They certainly represent an explosion of energy, which is powering our future, and we will be hearing a lot from them. I'll let our new colleagues speak to their own work elsewhere in the newsletter, but for my part I want to observe how much they collectively open up new areas of distinction for the department, new spaces for our ambitions, and new venues for our students to discover their own hopes and concerns. But the first challenge of the new comes from the bittersweet quality of change. While time flows indifferently onward, it's up to our shared memory to do the yeoman's work of tempering that onrush into the dignity of duration.

I'm still surprised to mention the recent retirements and departures of Marc Weiner, Bill Rasch, and after this semester, Troy Byler, who is moving to the provost's level as the new director of the Advance College Project. I cannot emphasize enough the depth of this change. Our colleagues' departures leave us in a wilderness out of which we have to bushwhack our way. To be sure, we are no babes exposed to the wild, certain to perish without fairy magic to save us,

(continued on page 3)

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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 i nformation, call 800-824-3044 or visit *alumni.iu.edu*

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Grüße aus Bloomington!

Hello and warmest greetings from Bloomington!

Another year and then some has passed, fall is turning to winter, and we are looking back on a year full of passages. Since our last news from Germanic Studies, quite a lot has transpired. You will find out all about it in these pages, but I can tell you now that we've waved good bye and wished smooth paths to three old friends, **Bill Rasch**, **Marc Weiner**, and **Troy Byler** (read on!) and we've welcomed three new ones, **Teresa Kovacs**, **Günther Jikeli**, and **Irit Dekel**,, whom we are excited to introduce you to in these pages. As for the rest of us, faculty and students are busy and active, pursuing interests and challenges, and watching life's carrousel turn. We hope you enjoy catching up, learning about the many facets of Germanic Studies, and wondering as I do what an Egyptian Walking Onion is.

We've added a new section to the usual notes from here and there: Recent Publications. We sent out an invitation to the department in general to tell us about recent books and articles, and were pleased to hear not just from faculty members but also from emeriti and current grad students. It's a nice beginning to a section we hope you will look forward to in future newsletters.

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 (*germanic.indiana.edu*) 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 still teaching "German for Musicians", as a happy adjunct with one foot in Germanic Studies and one in the Jacobs School of Music, and all the time wondering where the time goes. Finally, I would like to add a personal word of thanks to Bill, Marc, and Troy for many years of example setting, idea sharing, and mountains of positive influence. And remember, gentlemen, that just because you're leaving the building, this does not mean you're off the hook for newsletter contributions! See you next year.

For everyone else, please have a happy New Year, do good work, and let us hear from you!
Mit herzlichen Grüßen,

Julie Lawson
M.A., '68, Ph.D., '80
juklawso@indiana.edu
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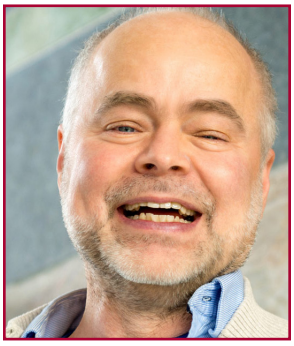
Letter from the Chair, (cont.)

but, even without magic in our story, we have quite an adventure before us.

With wolves howling and danger around every corner, rather than cower, we rallied 'round to mark our colleagues' achievements. As three-time chair of the department, and my immediate predecessor, Bill has had a career that called for celebration—his was a uniquely gifted and giving tenure and, as we found ourselves celebrating it among loyal department friends, it became an occasion to remember how much our calling consists in gathering a real community and an imaginary one across generations, and shaping both in colloquy with the language, poetry, and ideas we find irresistible, regardless of wolves and demons pressing in. We welcomed colleagues and former colleagues (Bill's partner in Luhmann studies, Eva Knodt) and many of Bill's Doktorkinder—from his first, Patrizia McBride (1998), to his most recent, Kasina Entzi (who defended her dissertation on the day of the celebration), as well as Howard Pollack, Wilfried Wilms, Derek Hillard, Corey Roberts, Andrew Mills, Joe O'Neil and Michael Schlie. (I take responsibility for those we missed, and please know that all of you who've worked with Bill were very much on our minds.) The testimonies to Bill and his role as a guide to (and participant in) the challenges, absurdities and adventures of "the life of the mind" were moving and humane, and very much because of that, they deeply reinvigorated our core sense of the humanities.

The news doesn't end there. We have been authorized to search for a specialist in philology and earlier Germanic languages to begin this coming fall and are eagerly awaiting the outcome of that search (about which more news will follow in the next newsletter). As I mentioned, Troy Byler, who has done more than anyone to integrate our department into the educational landscape of Indiana, will be moving on up to direct the IU Advance College Project, the concurrent enrollment program that allows Indiana high school students to receive IU credit taking courses from specially trained high school teachers. Troy not only traveled the state to visit the high school German teachers credentialed to teach our IU courses through the ACP, but also inaugurated ongoing departmental projects such as the Summer Theater Project and the German Instructor Summer Program that cultivate German education for our best high school students and offer professional development and Masters Degrees for outstanding Indiana teachers of German. Troy's are not easy shoes to fill, but undaunted, we are searching eagerly for the ideal candidate to try on his seven-league boots for size.

The cumulative upshot of these changes is that the department is embarking on a whole new era. Our métiers—in linguistics and philology, in German thought and intellectual history, in philosophical engagement with aesthetics and partisanship for the transcendentality of taste, in mixing cognitive science and narrative theory in new laboratories for the experimental humanities, as well as in an abiding concern for public culture and the poetics of knowledge—these long-standing strengths are holding firm as we explore new ways to configure the contemporary, to expand our circle of interlocutors to scholars at the cutting edge of cultural research and experimental performance. The forms we are adopting for this next era will ensure that we remain a department that brings others together, that forges interdisciplinary and international ties, that establishes new fields and attracts the brightest and most ambitious graduate and undergraduate students to our program. We are eager to have you follow along with us, open to surprise and delight.



Ben Robinson
Chair of Germanic Studies

Faculty News

We begin this year's notes from the faculty with **Troy Byler.** If you've read the preceding Letter from the Chair, you'll know that Troy is moving on to an exciting new position as the new director of the Advance College Project. And if you know Troy, you won't be surprised that he makes no mention of this in his report and instead singles out the accomplishments of another educator.

"Many of our department's talented undergraduate students come from German high school programs taught by pedagogically sound and dedicated teachers. For my newsletter submission this year, I would like to highlight one of these great teachers.

Fritz Krahl, German and History teacher at Pike Central High School in Petersburg, Indiana, came to the teaching profession later in life than most. He gave up a long, successful career working for General Electric to pursue a passion and give back in the form of education. Six years ago, he applied and was accepted to IU's Advance College Project. Since his orientation into the teaching philosophy and materials used here in our department, he has been offering his students the chance to take his German courses for IU G150 credits in the second year and G200/250 credits in the third and final year. All the while, he has been strongly upholding the rigor and quality of those courses, giving his students the opportunity to begin their college careers already in the intermediate and advanced levels of German. He has recently pioneered a true example of language teaching across the curriculum by offering his German students a yearlong course taught in German, where they will receive high school credit for both American and World History. Because of Fritz's initiative and the willingness of the administration at Pike Central High School to support him, his students will be able to gain a unique learning experience offered nowhere else in the state.

Every chance we get to encourage our primary and secondary educators, we need to make sure that we voice and publicize our appreciation. It is because of the hard work and effort from teachers like Fritz that we are able to welcome so many gifted and enthusiastic undergraduates wanting to learn more from us."

Thanks to the **Borns Jewish Studies Program** for sharing this introduction of our new colleague, **Irit Dekel**: Prof. Dekel is a cultural sociologist whose research focuses on collective memory in Germany and Israel, on contemporary antisemitism in Germany, and on migration and exile. After studying for an MA in sociology and anthropology at Tel Aviv University, she completed a PhD in sociology at the New School for Social Research. Since then, she has held a variety of postdoctoral and research fellow positions at Bard University Berlin, the Humboldt University, Berlin, and at the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena. In 2013, her book Mediation at the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin appeared with Palgrave Macmillan, a fascinating study that breaks with the traditional way of analyzing monuments and memorials. Her interest was not in the moral or aesthetic considerations that led to the Berlin Holocaust Memorial being created; rather, she conducted an ethnographic study of the way the memorial is experienced and used.

Her innovative interest in the way in which different social and ethnic groups experience and make use of Holocaust memorial sites in Germany; and in who are the influential actors in shaping German memory, will also result in a second, broader, book, tentatively titled "Witnessing Positions." Irit has also worked on philosemitism in Germany, on small home museums in Germany and Israel, and many other topics.

Susanne Even
Professor Even tells us about her busy and creative year engaging with colleagues, students:

"Hier sind die Highlights meines Jahr:

❖ German Heritage Weekend. Danke **Nikole Langjahrs** Einladung durfte ich 45 Minuten lang von Micky Maus, Bonanza, den Waltons und Karl May erzählen, meine gleichzeitige Liebe zu und Genervtheit bzgl. den USA darstellen und über das Phänomen der dialektischen Verschränkung von fake und real sinnieren.

❖ Nach anderthalb Jahren Arbeit wurde im Frühjahr die **Festschrift für Manfred Schewe** – Doktorvater, Mentor, SCENARIO-Begründer und Freund – fertig. Das Buch, herausgegeben von Dragan Miladinović (University College Cork, Irland), Barbara Schmenk (University of Waterloo, Kanada) und Susanne Even (Indiana University) wurde am 4. Mai auf dem 7. SCENARIO Symposium am University College Cork feierlich übergeben.

❖ Graduate Students **Bettina Christner**, **Ben Swakopf** und ich bestritten im Juli das German Instructor Summer Program (GISP) zum Thema Märchen (mit tatkräftiger Unterstützung von **Nate Quinlan**) und arbeiteten eine Woche lang performativ mit High School Lehrer*innen aus Indiana.

❖ in der Orientierungswoche haben unsere neuen Als **Jillian Danaher**, **Corinna Fehle** und **Rebecca Haley** den größten Teil ihres Micro-Teachings an der High School North gemacht, wo unsere ehemalige AI **Nessi Domizlaff** inzwischen schon seit einigen Jahren Deutsch unterrichtet. Nessis Schüler*innen waren total gespannt auf die Studentinnen von IU und mit Eifer bei der Sache. Projekt mit Zukunft!

Und in eigener Sache: Inzwischen wohne ich in einem von meinem Mann Michael eigens für mich umgebauten (und vorher von **Lane Sorensen** enthusiastisch mitdemolierten) barrierefreien Haus, von dem ich jeden Tag aufs Neue begeistert bin. Projekt in Arbeit – gerne mal vorbeischauen!

Faculty News

Esther Ham reports in from the Dutch side of the corridor (and from her magical garden): "2019 was supposed to be an easy year, after a very busy 2018, but it has been busy anyway. The summer was very busy as I offered the entire second year of Dutch in the months of June and July. Online. Every day the students and I would meet online twice, discuss the texts and assignments of that day. Most materials were already online, but still a lot of work had to be done anyway, more than I anticipated actually. So, busy, busy, busy. I only had time to go back to the Netherlands for 10 days and eat my yearly herring early May. And now, time is really flying and I am already in the middle of planning the summer class of 2020 in The Hague, with another group of students from the Honors College. Lucky enough, I have assistance: **Cynthia Vaona**, helping me as a teaching assistant with the online classes, through a grant from EURO, and in The Hague, I will have a teaching intern to help me out not only with the teaching, but especially with all the excursions we are planning. What else? I had a lot of work in the garden, as always. From leeks, to Egyptian walking onions to raspberries and (for the first time!) homegrown figs. Who knows, I might turn into a farmer! Maybe my next career ....?"

The following introduction also comes to us courtesy of the **Borns Jewish Program:**

Günther Jikeli completed an MA in environmental sciences and a PhD in contemporary history at the Center for Research on Antisemitism at the Technical University Berlin, Germany's foremost institute for scholarship on antisemitism. In 2012, he published a study (in German) on perceptions of Jews among young Muslims in Europe, a revised version of which appeared with IU Press in 2015 entitled Muslim Antisemitism in Europe: Why Young Urban Males Say They Don't Like Jews. His current research, underway with IU colleague Asaad Alsaleh, looks at attitudes towards Jews among Syrian refugees in Germany. This year he was named Inaugural Erna B. Rosenfeld Professor in IU's Jewish Studies Program. Günther has been an informed contributor to current debates about antisemitic trends, and has been frequently cited in the international press, including Le Monde and The New York Times. While at IU, he has found innovative ways to involve his students in research, including partnering with the U.S. Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating Anti-Semitism at the U.S. State Department.

Ben Robinson introduced us to **Teresa Kovacs** in his "Letter from the Chair," now let's hear from her herself:
"Two years ago, I was asked at roundtable on the future of Austrian Studies what had aroused my interest in Austrian theatre and literature. Whereas my dialogue partners at the roundtable expressed their admiration of Austria's rich culture and history, my honest answer was that my disapproval of this country evoke my devotion for what I am working on today: contemporary theatre, performance, and literature. Growing up in Austria and experiencing the problems caused by a belated remembrance culture and the rapid rise of the far-right Freedom Party, authors and directors like Thomas Bernhard, Elfriede Jelinek, and Christoph Schlingensief were for me what for other teenagers had been the Beatles, Sex Pistols, or Rage Against the Machine: they stood for protest and dissent. Their plays and performances not just deconstructed the myths that shaped Austria, but they also successfully interrupted the public discourse. Jelinek's play *Burgtheater* (1985) shed light on continuities of Nazi-ideology in Austria on the example on the actress Paula Wessely, Thomas Bernhard's play *Heldenplatz* (1988) made an end to Austria's claim of being the first victim of Nazi-Germany, and Christoph Schlingensief asked with

his *Big Brother*-based "Containeraktion" *Please Love Austria!* (2000) how xenophobia and antisemitism will express themselves in a country ruled by the far-right Freedom party and the conservative People's Party.

My early engagement with theatre and literature made me finally decide to study German Philology as well as Theater-, Film- und Media Studies at the University of Vienna, where I simultaneously had the opportunity to work as a researcher at the "Elfriede Jelinek Research Center" for nearly ten years. I wrote my dissertation on Jelinek's concept of "secondary drama." A genre, invented by the author herself, which must be staged with the primary texts they base on: Lessing's *Nathan der Weise* und Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's *Urfaust*. Besides my dissertation, I edited a number of books on specific plays by Jelinek, but also within the field of theatre theory. Most recently, I have published a book on *Postdramatic Theatre as Transcultural Theatre* (with Koku Nonoa), currently I am working on the *Schlingensief-Handbuch*, which will be published by Metzler. Thanks to my ongoing interest in theatre theory and form, my main focus at the moment lies on my second monograph, which seeks to describe theatre in time of liquid modernity. In this book, I will think of theatre and performance as ruinous landscapes, and I will do this on the example of Heiner Müller, Elfriede Jelinek, René Pollesch, Heiner Goebbels, Dimiter Gotscheff and others.

Additionally, I continue to work as a dramaturg. My most current project *Murakami by the Sea* (directed by Tzveta Kassabova) that premiered in April 2019 at the University of Michigan will tour to Europe in summer 2020."

Nikole Langjahr writes a bit about her activities, a highpoint of which was the German Heritage Weekend which she organized in March 2019. Look for photos and information about it as well in these pages: "The German Heritage Weekend (March 2019) was two days of events celebrating the rich story of German immigrants to Indiana and elsewhere in the US. There were many amazing speakers, lively discussions, and the weekend was extremely well attended by students, faculty and community members. Oh, and a tasty German *Abendbrot*.

This semester's *Stammtisch* (every Monday at 6:00 pm at Bear's Place. Come by if you're in town.) has been the liveliest and most diverse in years, and German Club is in the process of being revived, with me as faculty advisor. Our annual *Nikolausfeier* might find its way back into the department, with plans of holding it this year in the Hamilton Lugar Building.

Maybe 2020 will be just as exciting."

Our Norwegian colleagues have been busy as well, according to **Gergana May**: "The Norwegian program is thriving – classes are fully enrolled and the students are working industriously, gaining solid proficiency in the language and culture of the European North. In Spring 2019, I taught for the first time a 100 level Gen-Ed class surveying Scandinavian culture. The students responded wholeheartedly to the multitude of topics in the class, including the intricacies of Nordic film, the specifics of the welfare system, and the insights that could be gained through solitude and embracing the harshness of polar exploration. This fall we delve again in the fascinating universe of the tales of Hans Christian Andersen. Summer was busy with preparations for the upcoming Study Abroad trip to Norway in 2020 as part of IU's Bicentennial celebration. The course will constitute an exploration of the way in which the unique natural environment of Norway - its landscape (high mountainous plateau, little arable land, extensive rugged coastline,) the specific climate conditions (the Gulf Stream and large areas above the Arctic circle,) as well as the extremely varied amount of sunlight in the different seasons, have shaped the historical

development and culture of the Norwegian people. There is a tight symbiotic relationship between the people and this extreme natural environment, and we will explore the way it has contributed to the shaping of attitudes, mentality, the history, language and culture of the people. We will use train and boat travel, hiking in the mountains and exploring city centers as valuable experiential learning opportunities to address this special relation."

Bill Rasch asked me to include words from his letter to his students thanking them for attending and speaking at his retirement celebration in late October. Their presence was a tribute to his teaching; his words tell us why they came:

"I want one more time to thank you all for coming to Bloomington and sending me off in grand style to what awaits me in retirement. As I mentioned Saturday night, I listened carefully to what each of you said and was struck by a common thread, to wit, that I pushed each of you continually to do better, especially when writing your dissertations. I have always harbored the suspicion that I am a soft touch, so believe it or not, I was gratified to hear that your recollections were different than mine. I hope I was never cruel, but a little push, a little pressure, a jab or two at a soft spot in a body of work may have been necessary from time to time. I am happy to have been of service.

A number of you also mentioned that one of my main concerns was not so much that you should choose and be a partisan of this or that theoretical approach, but rather that you view theory or intellectual argument of any sort as an object of study, an object the shape and contours of which are as fascinating as the structure of narrative fiction or poetry or drama. In the final undergraduate class I taught last fall, I tried to impress on the students that it was more important to analyze the structure of an argument than to agree or disagree with it. I didn't want to hear their opinions, only

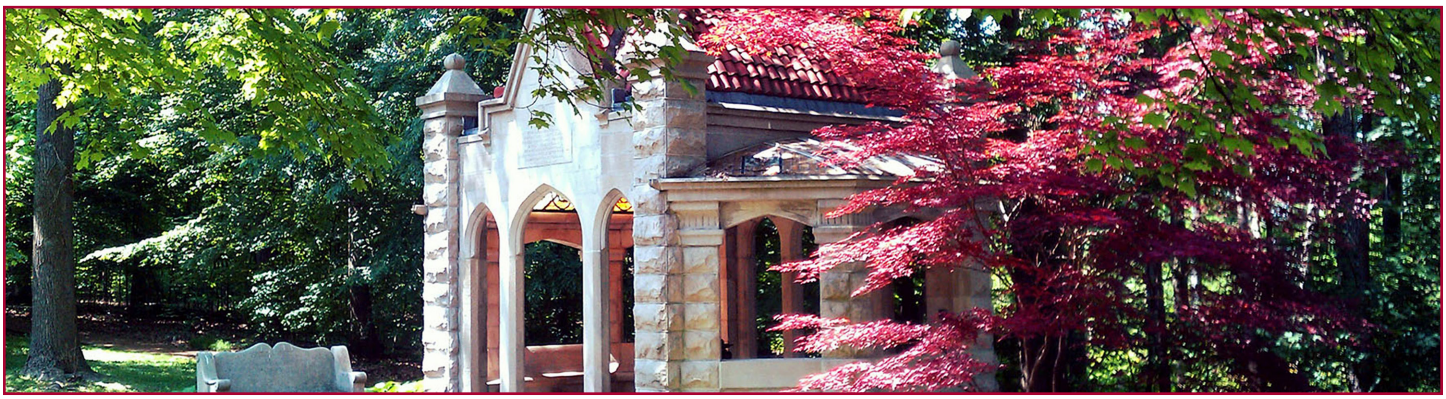
Bill Rasch with doctoral students who returned for his retirement festivities: back - Michael Schlie, Patrizia McBride, Andrew Mills, Corey Roberts, Bill Rasch, Derek Hillard, Wilfried Wilms, Kasina Entz. front - Collin Grant, Joe O'Neil, Troy Byler, Howard Pollack

Esther Ham, Gergana May, Julie Lawson, Troy Byler, and Jennifer Bowen at Bill Rasch's retirement party

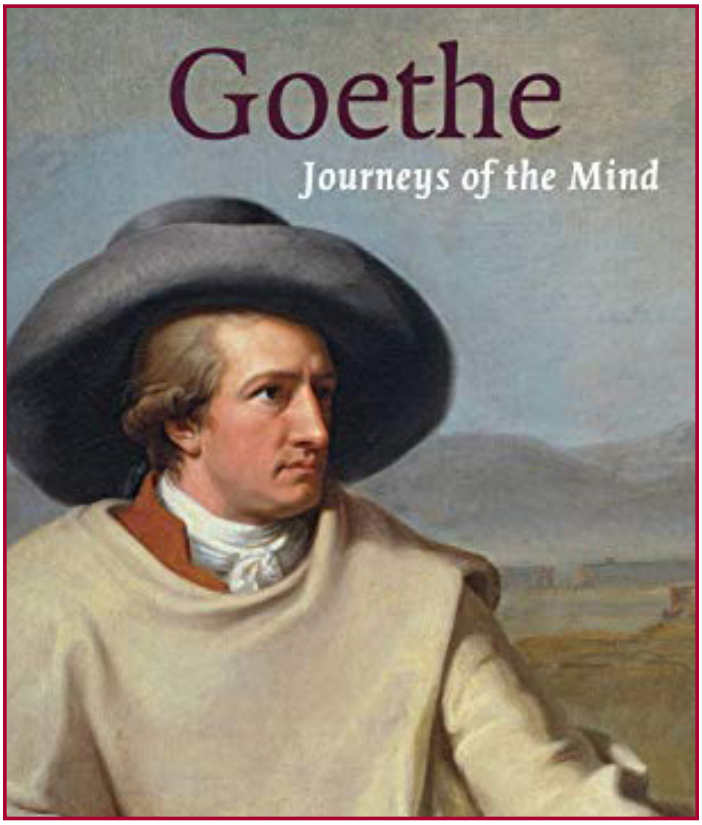
their analyses. So in this case, I was pleased (and surprised) to hear an echo of that ethos in your talks.

Over the years I have thought about all of you often, along with many other students who worked with me or simply were in a seminar or two. At the risk of sounding like Lou Gehrig, I feel like the luckiest man alive to have been able to teach at Indiana University and have the students like I have had – you and all the rest. I hope your anxiety level at that time was manageable; and I hope you have been able to take what I believe to be the IU spirit with you, namely, that the life of the mind is not a chore, not a task, not something that will necessarily improve anything, but a form of pleasure and creativity that binds a select community – not a snobbery, but an exhilarating activity driven by heart and mind, and not a little humor! As I put it in a talk recently, deliberately echoing Weber, what we do is a calling without a call. Or at least, the call we hear comes from us, and we follow the calling with no necessary reward except the one we receive by simply following our heart and mind to wherever it may lead us."

Johannes Turk brings us up to date on an interesting year: "I was invited to give a lecture at a conference on trauma in Paris, in which both academics and psychoanalysts participated in December. While I tried to measure the distance that separates us today from Freud, who used *Tasso* and therefore a conversion story from the time of the crusades as paradigm for the literary representation of trauma, the "yellow vests" were demonstrating and France was in disarray. In the spring, I had the opportunity to present a lecture on "Inconsolability" as response crisis as an ethos at the University of San Francisco's Department of Philosophy. I have also begun to prepare a new book project on taking offense. At the same time, I try to steer the **Institute of German Studies** in difficult waters and to keep (with my colleagues) our department's graduate program afloat in a period with a difficult job market and strong competition for a smaller pool of graduate applicants."

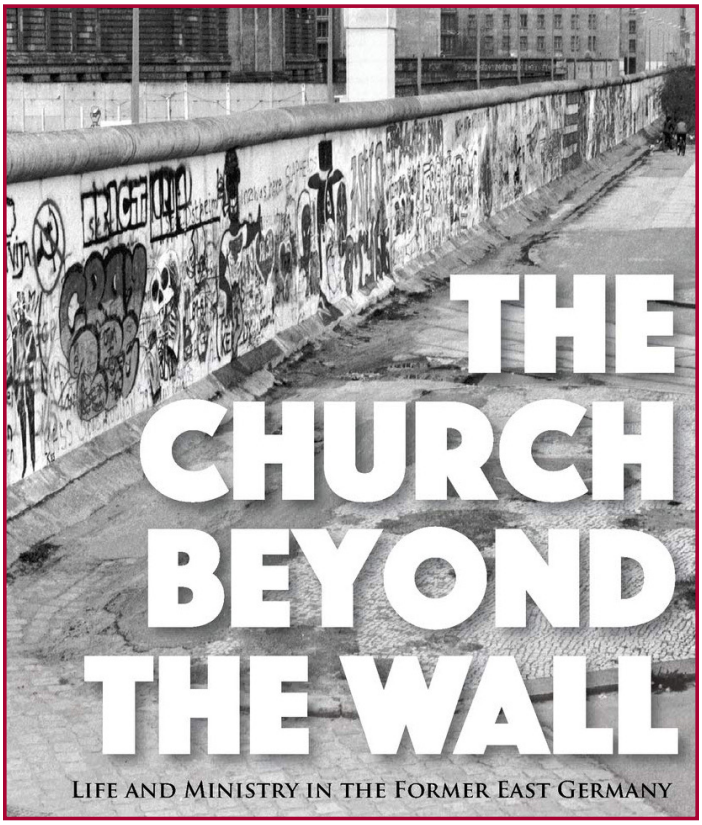


Publications



A book on Goethe's armchair travels that **Peter Boerner** worked on before his death in 2015 has been expanded and brought to completion by **Gabrielle Bersier**, Professor Emerita of German in World Languages and Cultures at IUPUI, and **Nancy Boerner**, retired IUB librarian for Germanic Studies. The focus of discussion is on the last third of Goethe's life, a period when he increasingly traveled vicariously instead of undertaking actual journeys.

The book has been published as *Goethe: Journeys of the Mind by* Haus Publishing of London and the University of Chicago Press. A review in the July 19, 2019 *Times Literary Supplement* (no. 6068, p. 27) noted that "...the chapters on Brazil and on the travels in the United States of Duke Carl August's second son, Prince Bernhard, in 1825 and 1826, deepen our understanding of contemporary material that Goethe is known to have read and of correspondence and meetings with individuals who journeyed to Weimar to discuss their work with him."



James S. Currie: "As a graduate of IU-Bloomington's Germanic Languages Department (M.A., 1976), I thought you might like to know of a book I wrote and was published earlier this year: *The Church Beyond the Wall: Life and Ministry in the Former East Germany*. It was published by Wipf & Stock Publishers and is available on amazon. It is an abridged version of my doctoral dissertation (Rice University, 1997)."

Stefon Flego, current graduate student:
- Flego, S. (2019). Internally-headed relative clauses in Hakha Chin. Indiana Working Papers in *South Asian Languages and Cultures*, 1(1). DOI: 10.14434/iwpsalc2019.v1i1.27450
- Flego, S. (2018). Estimating vocal tract length by minimizing non-uniformity of cross-sectional area. *Proceedings of Meetings on Acoustics* 176ASA, 35(1), 060003. DOI: 10.1121/2.0001000
- Flego, S., & Forrest, J. (2019, October). *Spectral change applied to anticipatory coarticulation*. Poster presented at the 24th Annual Mid-Continental Phonetics and Phonology Conference, Milwaukee, WI. DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.35508.81286

- Flego, S. (2018, November). *Towards higher precision in vocal tract length estimation*. Poster presented at the 176th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Victoria, BC. (Published in The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, 144(3), 1904-1904.) DOI: 10.1121/1.5068346

Mark Roseman, Distinguished Professor of History, Pat M Glazer Chair in Jewish Studies, Adjunct Professor in Germanic Studies. Director, Borns Jewish Studies Program, Indiana University:

Books:
Lives, reclaimed. A story of rescue and resistance in Nazi Germany (New York: Metropolitan Books, 2019) 352 pp. 978-1627797870

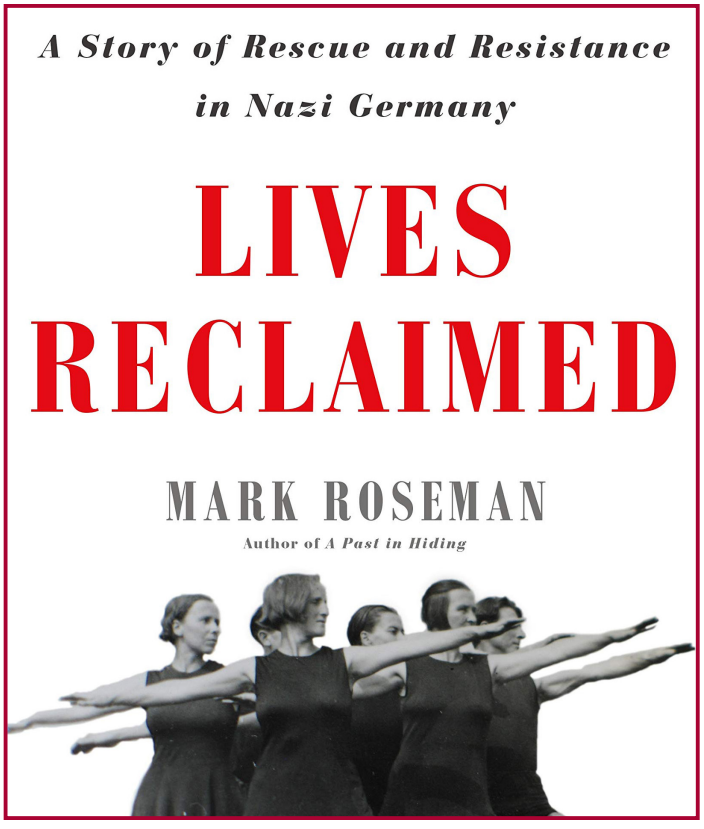
Articles:
"Late Obsessions", Dapim vol. 28 (2018), 2: 138-143
"German History writing and the Holocaust", *Central European History* Volume 51 (2018) 1: 96-102

Chapters:
"Jews on the defensive", in Norbert Frei (ed.), *Wie bürgerlich war der Nationalsozialismus* (Wallstein Verlag, 2018), 53-62

Foreword to Eva Noack Mosse, Last Days of Theresienstadt *(George L. Mosse Series in Modern European Cultural and Intellectual History)* by Eva Noack-Mosse (Author), Skye Doney (Translator), Biruté Ciplijauskaité (Translator), (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2018), pp. ix-xv.

Other writing:
"Mind the gap. What Nazis and their opponents said – and why," review (2951 words) of Johann Chapotout, The Law of Blood. Thinking and Acting as Nazi; Brunhilde Pomsel & Thore D. Hansen, The Work I Did. A Memoir of the Secretary to Goebbels; Robert Scott Kellner (ed.), My Opposition. The Diary of Friedrich Kellner – A German against the Third Reich, for the *Times Literary Supplement* (July 27, 2018), No. 6017: 24-5

"*Finding inspiration in an anti-Nazi resistance group*," LA Times digital and print editions, on Sunday, September 15 2019,



Lane Sorensen, current graduate student: "My second single-author, peer-reviewed article, entitled "Liver-Rhymes: A Continental Connection to *Vǫlsa þáttr* and the Faroese *drunnur*?", has been accepted for publication and will appear in the July 2020 issue of the Journal of English and Germanic Philology (University of Illinois Press). It is part of my dissertation research on the absurd tradition - first appearing in Hanseatic Low German at the beginning of the 17th century - of reciting improvised poetry at boozy social functions featuring liver (often pike or chicken, hence the common formula "Dys lever ys vom Hoen/Hecht und nicht von...") in order to impart relationship advice or biblical wisdom and foster flirtatious banter. I argue that this tradition is strikingly similar in form and mood to the Faroese *drunnur*, featuring mutton tails perceived as phallic objects, which in turn can be traced back to the Old Norse *Vǫlsa þáttr* from the late 14th century, in which King Óláfr witnesses a house of pagans recite R-rated poetry while passing around a preserved horse phallus."

Alumni & Current Grads News

Maria Fink:
"2019 has been a very exciting year for me, both personally and academically. On January 31st, the coldest day of the year, baby Oskar was born. He is now a healthy 9 month-old who loves to laugh, visit the petting zoo, and eat all things good ranging from turnip purée to bananas.

At the beginning of June, after I had taken my qualifying exam, we travelled to Austria to spend the summer surrounded by lakes, mountains, and Mama Fink's delicious cooking. At the end of July, I got married to my longterm partner Mitch Raney.

With regard to academia, two of my translations of Austrian poet Christine Busta's poems have recently appeared in *The Arkansas International*. Several other poems from her body of work are due to be featured in the Omniglot series by Harvard Review Online later this year. And my translation of Paula Köhlmeier's short story "Diary of a Madwoman" is forthcoming in AGNI.

We have recently moved to Berlin where I am working on my dissertation. Mitch is making art and Oskar a mess.

Maria Fink, Mitch Raney, and Oskar

Jeff Grove, IU graduate 1978, sent in his greeting along with several marvelous photos from the summer program in Berlin. He writes: "In the summer of 1975, IU offered a summer German course in Bonn under the direction of **Christa-Maria Beardsley**. While in Bonn, we had class Monday through Friday for several weeks with weekends free to travel about the country. As a bonus, the entire final week was free for extended travel. A small group spent a few days in Berlin that final week. **Troy Byler** expressed an interest in seeing some of the pictures I took back when cameras and film were required to take photos." Some of these shots are included in this newsletter.

In his Letter from the Chair, Ben Robinson mentioned that we occasionally hear from alums of the department when they donate books to us. One such donation came in this year from **John House,** who writes: "I am a retired IU German major living the good life in North Carolina. I have been fortunate in my professional like to have put my German language skills to good use in various capacities in the US armed forces and teaching in public schools." It's always gratifying to hear that Germanic Studies is remembered with gratitude.

See full set pages 16-17

Madhuvanti Karyekar

"Hello, as many of you probably know, we moved back to India in the summer of 2018 after spending 15 years in Indiana, and ever since it has been a roller-coaster ride for all four of us. One thing that has helped me keep my sanity intact is teaching. I am currently Visiting Professor at Savitribai Phule Pune University, India.

The city of Pune is a big hub for learning foreign languages. Last year I was juggling teaching at three different institutions – a private business school, a private junior college and a state university. This year I am teaching only at the state university namely University of Pune, which I am immensely enjoying. The *Studentinnen* are very motivated, inquisitive and brilliant, and the courses are diverse – from *Study of an Author to literarische Verfilmulgen, Übersetzungstheorie und –praxis*, and to even *Einführung in die deutsche Sprachwissenschaft* (thank you, **Tracy Hall** !!!). Without doubt, all this would not have been possible without the training I received at IU – the interdisciplinary approach, solid grounding in theoretical thinking, **Bill Rasch**'s way of making the labyrinth of complex thoughts quite lucid by asking pointed but simply formulated questions, **Susanne Even**'s Drama-Grammar-informed post-method, friendly, firm, yet ever-so-practical approach to teaching and handling the problems arising with it – the list can go on! So, a big thank you to each and every one of the department, whom I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with. Hopefully, I will have more to add to this about my research career in the next year. Until then!"

Madhuvanti Karyekar (third from R.) and students

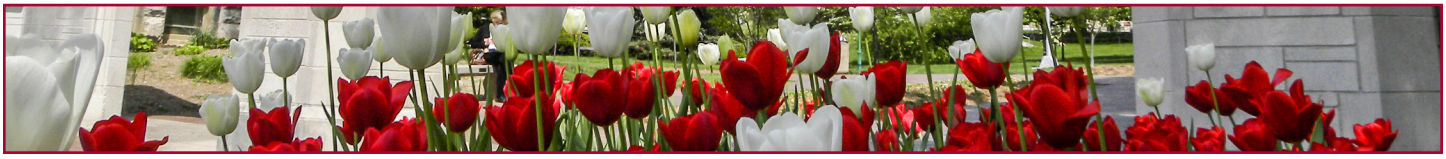
Alumni Photo Archive - Old Berlin Wall, 1975

by Jeff Grove

Pictures of the wall itself looking from West Berlin into East Berlin. One shows the Brandenburg Gate and another shows the East Berlin TV tower.

Two close ups of the Brandenburg Gate and a closer picture of the East Berlin TV tower. At the time, the tower was the second tallest in Europe behind only the tower in Moscow. I'm betting that was NOT a coincidence. The requisite statue of Lenin is also shown.

Remembrance



Catherine Patricia Riesenmann, 86, of Bloomington, Indiana, died June 7, 2019 at Bell Trace Rehabilitation Center. Pat was born in Franklin, PA to Joseph and Catherine (Geary) Riesenman on Nov.3,1932.

She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Allegheny College, and MA and PhD in German at Indiana University in 1966. She taught there in Germanic Studies until 1976, then received a Master of Library Science in 1977. She spent the rest of her career as a reference librarian in the IU main library and retired in 1998. Former students in German remember her fondly as an inventive, cheerful, and dedicated teacher.