THE FUTURE OF GERMAN STUDIES AT THE UO IS LOOKING BRIGHT

BY JEFFREY S. LIBRETT

The interdepartmental German Studies Committee at the UO consists of faculty members from the Departments of German and Scandinavian, History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies, the Comparative Literature Program, the Clark Honors College, and the Schools of Architecture and Allied Arts and Music and Dance. For several years the GSC has supervised the interdisciplinary German studies minor and sponsored each spring a scholarly symposium on German music history, open to members of the community, in connection with the Oregon Bach Festival. At the symposium, invited scholars discuss with participants various aspects of music history, each year focusing on a different topic.

Building on this foundation, the committee hopes to create new programming and institutional structures as we move into the future, and we have actively begun to realize these hopes. Our medium-term goal is to establish a research center, the Institute for German Cultural Analysis, at the UO. The institute will function as a site of intellectual exchange about things German among the faculty and students of the UO and the wider academic and artistic community in the U.S., Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and beyond. The focus of this institute is the study of borders, limits, and divisions of all types—political, religious, psychological, artistic, historical, and philosophical.

To advance this research agenda concerning “borderline” analysis, the committee (and perhaps one day soon the institute) will hold two conferences each year, one a general German studies conference, the other specifically related to music history and theory, the Oregon Bach Festival (OBF) German Studies Symposium. The two conferences will be linked by turning around a common annual theme that solidifies the notion of border analysis.

For example, this year, in order to create this pattern of linked conferences, we made our first annual theme that of the relations between religion and politics. Thus, on March 1–2 we held a conference titled “Political Theology: The Border in Question.” Over a day and a half, eight lectures were given by instructors from across the U.S. and from the UO on the relationships between politics and theology, from Paul to the Renaissance to contemporary Germany, and from theoretical and philosophical texts by Walter Benjamin, Carl Schmitt, and others, to today’s literary and juridical debates around Turkish-German cultural politics. The conference was, by all accounts, a huge success, the intellectual interchange extremely lively both during the sessions and, at night, over dinner. In spring term, on May 24–25, the OBF German Studies Symposium followed this up with lectures under the title of “Sovereigns, Servants, Sermons, and Song: Religion and Politics in the Baroque.”

Next year’s annual theme will be “Logics of Perception, Perceptions of Logic.” To pursue this theme, the general German studies conference will organize a confrontation between the Continental European and the Anglo-American traditions in philosophy, the former of which has been said to be a philosophy of perception, the latter a philosophy of logic. Since these two traditions diverge in developing two different approaches to certain crucial German philosophers, such as Immanuel Kant.
FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

Welcome! As you can see, we have changed our department’s name from Germanic Languages and Literatures to German and Scandinavian, which highlights both parts of the department. As this change has gone into effect, our most prominent representative of Scandinavian, Virpi Zuck, has taught her last class and begun enjoying the freedom of retirement. You can find out more about her on page 4.

I regret to report the sad news that Professor Emeritus Roger Nicholls died on August 31. A former department head who helped create our graduate program in German, Roger was an inspiring teacher-scholar. As Barbara Nicholls wrote, “he died as he lived—in gentlemanly fashion, courteously, lovingly, and marvelously, at home, with people who loved him.” Please see page 3 for a tribute to him.

We are also saddened by the loss of Tommy Mang, M.A. ’95, who died November 9. Our hearts go out to his family.

Both the German and Scandinavian programs have been very active, sponsoring guest lectures, film series, and other events. The 2007 German studies conference on political theology and the joint German studies–Oregon Bach Festival symposium, both organized by Jeffrey Librett, engaged students and faculty members from several disciplines in a series of lively discussions. Such events will continue under the new interdisciplinary Institute for German Cultural Analysis, which Jeffrey is working to establish.

Our major and minor programs continue to thrive, and several students have been awarded scholarships, including the newly established Beth Maveety Study-Abroad Scholarship and the new Nina Grieg Study-Abroad Scholarship. As this newsletter is going to print, we have learned that Dr. Joseph Kanter has made a gift in honor of Astrid Mørk Williams.

Phil Hansen voluntarily spent nine months researching and writing The History of Germanic Languages at Oregon, 1878–2008. This is the first history of the department and it contains fascinating information and photographs. Our whole department thanks Phil for creating this exciting gift. Please see page 13 for more information.

I invite you to peruse these pages and to stop by the departmental office if you are ever in town.

Alles Gute! Mange hilsener! Kaikkea hyvää! Vänliga hälsningar! Med venlig hilsen!

Susan Anderson

Institute for German Cultural Analysis

Our heartfelt thanks goes to the following donors, who have graciously contributed to the Institute for German Cultural Analysis:

**Cornerstone (up to $50)**
- Stephen F. Anderson
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- James A. and Gudrun Hoobler Kohlstrand, Inc.
- Jeffrey Librett and Dawn Marlan

and, later, Ludwig Wittgenstein, the German Studies Committee is well-positioned to host such an event (this time in conjunction with our partners in the Department of Philosophy). The OBF symposium for spring 2008 will accordingly focus on “Structures and Feelings in Music.”

But conferences—which are here one day, gone the next—will not be the only activities of the institute. To create out of these conferences (augmented by further scholarly and artistic contributions) an archive that will be openly accessible to the reading public, we are starting an electronic journal. Its provisional name is Konturen: Interdisciplinary Journal for German Cultural Analysis. We are currently in the process of assembling a distinguished board of international consultants to supplement the internal editorial board comprising UO faculty, and we plan to have the journal online by late 2007.

Finally, we do not plan to allow the activities of the committee (as it grows into the Institute for German Cultural Analysis) to stop here. Other plans for the future include the establishment of an annual distinguished lecture in German-Jewish studies (all the more pertinent to Oregon as the larger part of the Jewish immigrants to the Northwest are of German-Jewish heritage); and a writer-in-residence program for creative writers currently active in the German language. The future of German studies at the UO is indeed quite promising. In order to realize these projects, we will be applying continuously for further internal and external funding. As always, the success of these various new and exciting initiatives will be conditioned by our capacity to establish adequate resources.
Roger Nicholls  
In Memoriam

Longtime colleague and friend Peter Gontrum spoke these fond words at the memorial service for Roger Nicholls, who passed away August 31 at age eighty-five. Clearly, Nicholls was more than a teacher—he was mentor, friend, and gentleman. Jim McWilliams remembers him as a dear friend and colleague: “What stood out was his genial, relaxed, and gentlemanly manner, and how both students and peers regarded him in the same light: as helpful and considerate as well as intellectually demanding.”

Born in 1922 in London, England, Nicholls first served in the Royal Air Force and entered Oxford University at the end of his active duty. After he graduated with honors in French and German, he moved to America to teach as well as to pursue his Ph.D. at the University of California at Berkeley. In 1953, he successfully defended his doctoral thesis, “Nietzsche in the Early Work of Thomas Mann,” which was published in 1953 by the University of California Press. The next seven years were spent teaching in Toronto and Chicago, followed by two years at Reed College in Portland, Oregon. In 1963, he started his career at Oregon, where he was recruited to start the graduate program. He became acting head in 1966 for a year, and served as department head from 1969–76. He took early retirement in 1987 and taught part-time for the next five years. Susan Anderson remembers just how popular Nicholls was as a teacher: “If Roger was slated to teach a graduate course, then we all knew that students would choose his seminar first and there would be fewer in ours. A widely respected scholar of Nietzsche, Thomas Mann, and Grabbe, Roger offered courses on various aspects of German literature from the eighteenth to the twentieth century.” Former students share equally fond memories: “Roger was particularly gifted in helping students locate the rough ideas concealed in hardened trivia, in finding and freeing the thoughts that lead to the most profound education: that of knowing what is intellectually and emotionally defensible and being whole enough to fight for it” (Karen Drabek).

In retirement, Nicholls enjoyed “watching classical cinema and going to the theater,” recalls McWilliams, “often traveling to Ashland for the Shakespeare festival. Both Barbara and Roger became loyal, avid Duck fans—not that they waved pompons before the TV in their living room at games away from Eugene. Barbara led the way, having once been the academic adviser to the university’s athletes.”

Clearly, Roger Nicholls will be missed by everyone he inspired: “Trying to distill a sense of Roger into a few words is an impossible task. Speaking of him in the past tense is a painful endeavor that gives only an inkling of what has endeared him to so many people. He had a brilliant mind and an expansive spirit, and he remains present in our memories and in the ways he has helped us to think broadly and beyond systems and rules” (Susan Anderson).

In addition, we would like to end this tribute by stating that we are starting a fund for graduate-student support in honor of Roger. The goal is to raise $50,000 for an endowed fund that will provide annual fellowships. Donations can be made to the UO Foundation in memory of Roger Nicholls.

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Virpi Zuck has always been passionate about reading. As a child in Tampere, Finland, she read all the books in the children’s section of the local library. She was yet too young to enter the grown-up section, so she fibbed about her age in order to sneak in. “I had a bad conscience for a long time,” she chuckles. Zuck received her M.A., magna cum laude, in Nordic philology from the University of Helsinki in 1965.

Her studies continued with a degree in library science, which Zuck earned from Indiana University in 1968. She then held the position as chief bibliographer at the Indiana University Library in 1968–69. Thus, Zuck fulfilled her dream of being surrounded by books—however, she did not have time to read them! This is what inspired Zuck to pursue a Ph.D. in Scandinavian literature with a minor in linguistics at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, which she received in 1977.

Zuck’s career at the UO started in 1974, when she was first hired as visiting acting assistant professor. “When I first came to the UO, someone said ‘You will be here another thirty years,’” Zuck recalls; and while at first she thought “oh no,” she was in fact meant to stay, and fell in love with Oregon. Two years later, Zuck reapplied and was hired as assistant professor, a position she held for four years. In 1980, she was promoted to associate professor, and ten years later she became a full professor. While these certainly are key milestones in Zuck’s career, she was and is, without a doubt, more to the department than mere biographical dates. “She nurtured and expanded a thriving Scandinavian program, led our department and, for a while, the Russian department, with dedication, empathy, wisdom, and success,” Professor Susan Anderson fondly recalls.

However, not only faculty members and friends share fond memories. Former students’ eyes brighten upon the mention of Zuck’s name. One student exclaimed, “Virpi is so awesome, she is a constant inspiration. And her knowledge of the subject matter is inexhaustible. She really knows how to keep us going.”

“I am a jack-of-all-trades when it comes to teaching,” Zuck states, displaying a kind smile. “Oh, I have taught everything,” she continued. Her teaching experience is indeed marked by enormous variety: Swedish language courses and Scandinavian literature courses such as Modern Breakthrough in Scandinavian Literature, Vikings through the Sagas, and Crime Fiction, among many others. Zuck’s research focuses on the interwar years in Sweden and Finland, particularly the ideas and personalities around the Swedish feminist weekly Tidevarvet. She has examined the fierce opposition mounted by Swedish feminists against the European Union in the European unification, championed by Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi. Her more recent projects explore the Scandinavian perception of the Deutsch-Nordisches Schriftstellerhaus in Travemünde, an initially apolitical but later highly politicized meeting place for German and Scandinavian authors in the 1930s.

In spring 2007, Professor Virpi Zuck fully retired after thirty-three years of active service, not only in the Department of German and Scandinavian but also for the UO. Zuck will miss the Oregon Coast, “obviously Friendly Hall,” and her office, which she didn’t give up, even as the head of the department, until she left.

For her retirement, which she will spend in Boulder, Colorado, Zuck already has a plethora of projects lined up. She finally hopes to have enough time for all the books she has not read, and the immediate goal is to review two books. In her free time, she intends to spend more time cooking—but she said there will not be a publication!

—Associate Professor Michael Stern

Virpi Zuck: A Jack-of-All-Trades
What drew you to Germanics in the first place? What or who inspired you?

My first experience in the German-speaking world was in Switzerland. I spent the summer between my junior and senior years of high school in Romanshorn, on Lake Constance. I had taken three years of German, but I had not been prepared for the dialect I encountered there. I understood little, but I was charmed by the idea that the singsong cadence and guttural sounds I heard came naturally to the people around me. (“These are my people,” I thought to myself.) After working hard at my German during my senior year, I spent a year at the University of Salzburg, where I encountered a very different dialect. I came home with piles of records and books, determined to study German in college and eventually to earn a Ph.D. with a specialization in German historical morphology. I majored in German at the University of Louisville, where my father was on the medical faculty. After some research, I discovered that there was little opportunity in this country for studying German dialects, but in the meantime I found my interest shifting toward literature. Even today, however, I retain a fascination for these regional variations: I actually taught an undergraduate seminar on recent experimental poetry with a particular focus on poetry written in Viennese dialect, the idea being that students would come to recognize poetry primarily as an affair of sounds.

Which fields of research are you generally interested in?

I did my graduate work at the University of California, Irvine, where I wrote a dissertation on Novalis. After graduating, I expanded the project to encompass psychoanalysis. I was interested in looking at Freud’s work as an answer to questions that the Romantics had raised a century earlier. I have also had a strong interest in German cinema, especially the films of the silent era, and my writing on film has sought to explore visual and discursive links between cinema and earlier cultural moments, such as popular theater and Romantic painting.

What is the focus of your current research?

I am now at work on a book entitled The Virtue of Things. I have long been interested in the problem of ekphrasis and critical issues surrounding the attempt by poets to represent pictorially. The current project attempts to recast this interest in terms that link aesthetic criticism to judgment and examine the judicial implications of the latter. Central to this study is Kleist’s Der zerbrochne Krug, in which a peasant woman, seeking satisfaction for a ceramic pitcher, vividly describes the object before the court. Her refusal to omit any detail recalls Homer, whose sequential rendering of Achilles’ shield in turn provided Lessing with a standard for the proper unfolding of an action. This is but one aspect of an investigation that routes its way through a variety of texts by Lessing, Schiller, and Kleist, but also Shakespeare, whose Merchant of Venice—with its own courtroom drama—has a particular relevance for a number of German texts (and modern German history generally).

When did you start teaching at the UO? Where did you teach before?

I’ve been teaching at the UO since 1987. Before coming here, I taught for two years at Haverford, a small liberal arts college outside of Philadelphia. My time there was enjoyable enough, but I much prefer a larger university like ours. Small colleges can be insular and stagnant. At a university, there is always movement, people circulating in and out. On the other hand, large universities can be Balkanized. Oregon is a very porous institution. Communication between departments and programs is easy, for faculty members and students alike, I believe.

What makes teaching at the UO rewarding?

I have always found teaching rewarding at the UO, and at all levels. When I first joined the faculty here, I was told that the students wouldn’t compare well with those I had taught at Haverford. This wasn’t the case then and it is less so now. I have always tried to make my classes challenging, and students have not only risen to the challenge but have also routinely expressed appreciation for being provoked, pushed, taken seriously.

A Literary Spaziergang with Ken Calhoon
Biking the Path of Bildung: MARTIN KLEBES

Happy to return to the Pacific Northwest, where he first landed as a high school exchange student in the late 1980s, Assistant Professor Martin Klebes joined the Department of German and Scandinavian in fall 2007. The particular commitment of the department to the study of modernity and its active involvement with interdisciplinary German studies and comparative literature provide a perfectly matched setting for his research and teaching activities.

Klebes received his Ph.D. in comparative literary studies (with German as his home department) in 2003 from Northwestern University, and subsequently taught at Kenyon College in Ohio and at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. His research examines the relation between literary and philosophical texts from the Enlightenment to the present, with particular emphasis on the German tradition, but also including French and American critical thought and contemporary texts. His first book, Wittgenstein's Novels (Routledge, 2006), followed the traces of the philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein in four contemporary Austrian, German, and French writers (Thomas Bernhard, W. G. Sebald, Ernst-Wilhelm Händler, and Jacques Roubaud). He also has contributed articles to several of the first critical collections on the work of Sebald, whose unique, photography-lined prose narratives have been studied with increasing intensity since his death in 2001; Klebes' contributions treat Sebald’s intertextual references to writers such as Kafka and Jean Améry, as well as Sebald’s early work as a literary critic. Klebes has also written on the philosopher Wilhelm Dilthey and his notion of the Geisteswissenschaften, and on the role of community in the aesthetics of Kant and Schiller. In his writing, Klebes is generally interested in the fractured way in which philosophy and literature tend to interact—“as two sides of a coin, so to speak, that is not strictly identical to the value imprinted on it.”

Klebes also works as a translator, having translated Ernst-Wilhelm Händler’s debut collection of stories, Stadt mit Häusern (Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt, 1995), under the title City with Houses (Northwestern University Press, 2002). Recently he translated several chapters in a collection of writings by Hannah Arendt, edited by Susannah Young-ah Gottlieb, entitled Reflections on Literature and Culture (Stanford University Press, 2007).

His current research project concerns the development of discourses of terror from the French Revolution through its reverberations in nineteenth-century Germany to twentieth- and twenty-first-century textual instances of “terrorism” in Germany and the U.S. He was invited to present a part of this project dealing with the reception of the French Revolution in the philosophical work of Kant and Hegel at the University of Chicago earlier this year.

Finally, Klebes is also a cofounding member of the editorial board of the electronic journal parapluie (parapluie.de), which celebrates its tenth anniversary this year, making it one of the longest-running journals of its kind on the web. Guided by the belief that any analysis of culture must participate in the very cultural process it addresses, parapluie is committed to publishing essays written in German on cultural phenomena, arts, and literature that are intended for a readership beyond that of more specialized academic journals. An upcoming issue to be published in spring 2008, coedited by Klebes and Alexander Schlutz, will present essays investigating the theme of Übertragungen.

This year Klebes is teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses on a healthy variety of topics: the concept of Bildung; travel writing; aesthetics and politics in contemporary pop literature; and the divisions between analytic philosophy, Continental philosophy, and literature.

If you are looking for our newest faculty member outside of his office (located on the second floor of Friendly Hall, directly across from the department office), check the river bike paths—he has already bought a matching set of fenders for his black mountain bike.
BETH MAVEETY STUDY-ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP

Patrick and Elaine Maveety have generously endowed a scholarship in memory of Patrick’s mother, Beth Maveety, a wonderfully talented and popular professor of German who taught in our department. As an undergraduate, Beth Maveety majored in English, but minored in German. Her son Patrick remembers: “My mother must have finished her degree in the 1930s. She started teaching German at Springfield High School in the late 1950s. It was only after the National Defense Education Act funded language instruction in the early 1960s that she went to Germany. She thought spending time in Germany was important for German teachers, so this seemed like an appropriate scholarship.”

Starting in 2007, the Beth Maveety Fund will provide an annual scholarship “for outstanding undergraduate or graduate students majoring in German in the Department of German and Scandinavian for study abroad in Germany.” Preference will be given to students who intend to teach German and who demonstrate financial need. The department head will be responsible for selecting a recipient based on the individual’s overall quality of academic work, commitment to learning, and potential for further academic achievement. The Maveetys specially want to enable potential German teachers, who otherwise could not afford it, to experience the linguistic, cultural, and personal benefits of living abroad in Germany. We are very excited about this great new scholarship!

The Maveetys already support a scholarship for a graduate student in English Renaissance literature through the Stanley Maveety Fellowship, in honor of Patrick’s father, who was a professor of English.

Caitlin Conley is a junior majoring in biology and German. She first fell in love with the German language and culture in high school when she participated in a one-month exchange to Hamburg, Germany. While in college, she has involved herself in a variety of German-related activities such as a German teaching internship, attending weekly Stammtisch gatherings, and conversing with native Germans whenever possible. Caitlin will also be participating in a yearlong study-abroad opportunity in Baden-Württemberg, beginning this fall. Outside of academics, Caitlin enjoys speaking German, writing, running, hiking, playing pool, and spending time with friends. Caitlin also works as a program intern for the International Student Association.

Caitlin was very excited and fortunate to have received the Beth Maveety Study-Abroad Scholarship for 2007–8. This generous scholarship will help her fund her study-abroad experience. The scholarship will mostly be used to cover airfare costs to and from Germany.
Blessed with a German mother who happened to know every German lullaby and nursery rhyme in existence, he rapidly attained an incredible understanding of the language. Not infrequently, he recalls, the task fell to him to entertain guests with recitals of rhymes or songs. Sadly, in an extreme fit of toddler rebellion, Nikos decided at the age of three to never again speak a word of German. Sources indicate that he was tremendously disappointed at the discovery that his young friends spoke English.

This, however, was to be the only blemish on Herrn Aragon’s otherwise meteoric rise in the discipline. He quickly foreswore his oath and began to study German again in grade school. Unfortunately, subsequent studying amounted to little more than an effort to recover that magical aptitude he exhibited as a young child.

During college, Nikos has endeavored to improve his limited understanding of German grammar and those ever-elusive noun-articles. To this end, he visited Germany as recently as 2006. There, his time was rather evenly divided between watching the World Cup and perfecting his understanding of what in Latin is called *fermentum.*

Nikos Aragon is beginning his senior year as a German and comparative literature major. Academically, he likes modernist literature and philosophy as well as German cinema. To that last end, he thinks *Good Bye, Lenin!* is an excellent film.

Paige Cramond was recently awarded the prestigious Elizabeth Baricevic–Josefina Botta Memorial Scholarship from the Confederation in Oregon for Language Teaching, an award recognizing lifelong commitment to language learning. Paige started her journey learning languages at the age of fifteen, when she received a Congress-Bundestag scholarship to spend a year in Germany living with a host family and learning German. A year later, she took off again in order to learn Spanish, this time in Uruguay. After transferring to the University of Oregon, Paige declared her major as linguistics. As she put it, “I love linguistics because I can get to know languages without necessarily feeling the pressure to learn how to speak them fluently. I wish I could learn them all, but there’s too little time!” Not that she did not continue to learn languages: through the UO, she also spent a semester back in Germany honing her language skills and also started studying Arabic. She enjoys sharing her love of foreign languages with others as well: in Eugene, she tutored international students with their English, and she was a teaching assistant for a German culture class as well as a first-year German GTF while pursuing her master’s degree in linguistics. She looks forward to a career teaching English while living abroad. “It would be the best of both worlds,” she said, “to apply what I’ve learned in linguistics to other learners of a foreign language while living in a country where I could continue to speak German or Spanish—or maybe a new language!”

Kerry Marnell is a second-year German major who has recently decided to major in Romance languages (Italian and French), too. In April she won a scholarship from the German-American Society of Portland after participating in an essay contest. Kerry first started learning German at Roseburg High School when she was fifteen. At eighteen, she spent a year in Kalkriese, Germany (in Niedersachsen), where she lived with a German family and attended high school as part of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange. Of course, she fell in love with the country and the language even more, and intends to spend much more time in Germany in the future. Until then she will continue working and attending classes at the university, in her spare time kayaking and playing the tuba. She hopes to study in Europe again before finishing her undergraduate degree. After college, Kerry hopes to spend time teaching English in Germany, and her ultimate goal is to become either a high school German or Italian teacher or a professor at a university in the United States.
The Philip and Teresa Hansen Scholarship

The Hansen Scholarship Fund was established in December 2004 by Philip and Teresa Hansen for outstanding students majoring in German. Two students are selected each year by the Department of German and Scandinavian to receive a Hansen Scholarship. Candidates are nominated by the faculty and evaluated on the basis of the overall quality of their academic work, their commitment to learning, and their potential for further academic achievement.

2006–7 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Jessica Ruch fondly remembers eating Katzenzungen and creating her own story to match the pictures from her mother's copy of Max und Moritz. It was her German heritage that first motivated her to begin taking German in high school. Jessica's opportunity to participate in a three-week student exchange in Bavaria during her junior year of high school led her to pursue a German major at the University of Oregon. She was thrilled to be studying at the University of Heidelberg to improve her German proficiency and to learn about the world from a different perspective. Jessica just returned to the UO and hopes to graduate this year with a double major in German and international studies.

For first-year graduate student Trish Bronte, the German language is a passion. "I had been learning Spanish for almost a decade before I decided to try German my junior year of high school," Trish recalls, "and it was love at first umlaut." She came to the UO with a desire to continue German, but it was not until studying in Tübingen, Germany, that she realized this was what she wanted to do for the rest of her life. Trish remembers her junior year in Tübingen as an experience that surpassed all of her expectations. The immersion in German culture inside and outside the classroom is something she cherishes and hopes to experience again. Trish divides her time among her studies, teaching German 101, and playing rugby for the UO women’s rugby team, the Dirty Ducks. Trish looks forward to the next two years as a master's student: "I’m very excited to be continuing my education at the University of Oregon." The scholarship money she received from the Hansens helped fund her senior year of college, easing her financial load while she finished her honors college thesis, a study on how the German media represent the United States.

2007–8 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

A. J. Leavitt is a junior majoring in German and accounting. He was first introduced to German in the seventh grade when he met a bicyclist from Germany who was riding from New York to Florence. A few months later he flew with his grandmother to Germany, and he has had a desire to learn the language ever since. In high school, he was a member of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program and spent his junior year living in Meerbusch, Germany. A. J. decided to go to Oregon because he took a few German classes and was impressed with the German department. He was very happy to receive the Hansen Scholarship, and enjoyed meeting with Philip and Teresa Hansen. The scholarship will help him achieve his goals in college. A. J. was recently accepted into the business honors program and plans on graduating in June 2009. A. J. works at Reed’s Fuel and Trucking. He likes to run and stay active, play Frisbee, swim, and play basketball.

Maitreya is a senior currently majoring in German. In 2003, he received a B.S. in educational studies from the University of Oregon. He is also a classical singer: in 2001, he began to learn and perform songs from the German repertoire. This inspired him to take up formal study of the German language in 2003. In 2007, he performed (entirely in German) the role of Der Kaiser in Bertolt Brecht’s play Der Bettler, oder Der tote Hund. Maitreya is very honored to have received the Philip and Teresa Hansen Scholarship. The scholarship will help him not only to complete the requirements for the B.A. in German but also to pursue his goal of performing German classical music with as much authenticity as possible. Maitreya is a nontraditional student who returned to the world of higher education after twelve years of Zen Buddhist monasticism.

2007 DEPARTMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Will Clark is a junior at the University of Oregon. He is a German and political science major and is also pursuing a minor in environmental studies. He was first introduced to German when he was accepted into the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program his senior year in...
receive this scholarship, as she is staying another year in Germany to study at the Hochschule der Medien and work as an intern at Meyle+Mueller. She is currently tutoring two German-born, Turkish children in math as a side job, and helps their aunts with their English homework. When in Oregon, she participates in campus groups such as Dance Oregon, ASUO, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and Students for Choice. In her free time, she enjoys going to the Stadtstheater, museums, swimming, making new friends, and traveling.

The Friends of Scandinavian scholarship was awarded to Simon Helton for 2006–7. He majored in philosophy and Scandinavian studies and is now pursuing a Ph.D. in Scandinavian studies at the University of California at Berkeley. (It was not awarded for 2007–8.)

The Nina Grieg Study-Abroad Scholarship was awarded for the first time for the 2007–8 year, and it went to Daron Yamauchi. She is a linguistics major and Scandinavian studies minor, and she is studying at the University of Oslo.

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Bringing Brecht Back to Stage

A long tradition in the department was continued this year, when Matthias Vogel took over the job of theater director and, together with his cast of fifteen undergraduate German majors and minors, performed Bertolt Brecht’s Die Kleinzüglerhochzeit and Der Bettler, oder Der tote Hund. In the past, Karla Schultz, Elke Liebs, Susan Anderson, Carsten Strathausen, Gert Bräuer, and others had taught the class. Ever since Karla Schultz retired, however, the theater workshop had not been offered.

Vogel, who coordinates the first- and second-year German language courses for the department, points out that performing a play entirely in German is a valuable tool to teach language in a more exciting setting than the conventional language classroom. Though the course required a lot of effort by the students and the instructor, everybody was very enthusiastic about it. Under Vogel’s supervision, the students explored every aspect of the theater, from acting to directing, from costuming to makeup, and put all their strength into memorizing their lines by the performance dates of March 8 and 9 (winter 2007).

The two sold-out performances were well received by faculty members, fellow students, and general audience members. Dorothee Ostmeier exclaimed, “Hut ab!” and the students expressed interest in performing again next year.

Scholarship Recipients cont.

Alexandra Gallup is a senior majoring in German and digital arts. She first became interested in studying German to communicate better with her native-speaking German friends, and her interest developed into her adding German as a major at the University of Oregon. She has studied abroad for a year at the Hochschule der Medien in Stuttgart, and is excited to

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Joseph Kanter in 1942

NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN AND SCANDINAVIAN

Editor: Doris Pfaffinger
Designer: Meghan McCloskey

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED!
Sandra Dillon is a Ph.D. student in German and has recently been advanced to candidacy. Sandra is working at Idaho State University as a full-time instructor. She has been rebuilding the German program there by becoming the liaison for all high school teachers of German enrolled in the Early College Program. She has also recruited two more German high school programs to join the Early College Program. In addition, she organized sixteen mini-language sessions for the International Language and Culture Fair held in March 2007. Sandra has become the adviser for all German majors and minors and for the Idaho State University German Club, and testing chair for the Idaho chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German.

In April, Sandra presented a paper titled “Paradoxes in Audacious Metaphors in Paul Celan’s ‘Todesfuge’ and Nelly Sachs’ ‘O die Schornsteine’” at the Building Bridges/Brücken schlagen Conference at the University of Arizona. Sandra has also started writing her dissertation, titled “Re-working Social Constructs through the Representation of Women Terrorists in Literature and Film,” and she will be presenting a paper based on her dissertation at the Modern Language Association conference in Chicago, December 2007.

Erin Rokita graduated from Colorado College with a bachelor’s degree in comparative literature and German after completing a thesis about the literary representation of the Holocaust. As an undergraduate, she studied abroad at the Universität Lüneburg and the Georg-August Universität Göttingen. She recently earned her master’s degree in comparative literature from the University of Oregon and also completed her comprehensive exams in post–World War II German ethnic literature, U.S. ethnic literature, and transnational migration. She is currently working on an article manuscript on the formation of a transnational identity in the narratives of Yoko Tawada. For a number of years, she served the Department of German and Scandinavian as an introductory- and intermediate-level German language instructor. Most recently, she worked as a graduate research fellow, and starting this fall she will serve as an assistant undergraduate adviser and teacher’s assistant for the Introduction to Comparative Literature sequence. She looks forward to a year of teaching and working on her dissertation project about German migrant culture. Her warmest thanks go to her committee chair, Professor Susan Anderson, and to her novio for their continued support and encouragement. In her time away from her studies, she can be found traveling and working as a reporter. We wish her the best on her academic and personal voyage and future adventures as a comparatist.
German students at the UO are picking up on an old tradition, which existed from 1929 to the mid '60s: the Deutsch Klub. Although the German Game Club and the German Dance Club have been part of the department for some time, it seemed as if something was missing, namely the opportunity for students to share their interests in German culture and language with each other and the community at large. As a result, the students merged both clubs into the Deutsch Klub, which is scheduled to be officially recognized by the University of Oregon’s student government in spring 2008.

The initial spark, which led to the merger and resultant rekindling of the German club, can be traced back to Jan Schramke, a second-year graduate student. When he realized that the German program did not have an official German club, his goal became clear. “Someone just needed to ask, ‘Why not?’ It seemed like the students were just waiting for someone to take the lead. When I brought up the idea, I remember a student saying, ‘Finally!’” Another new and vital member of the Deutsch Klub is Doris Pfaffinger, who will coadvise the Klub with Jan Schramke. Since its founding, the Deutsch Klub quickly gained support from the faculty in the Department of German and Scandinavian, so it looks like the Klub is here to stay. This fall term, the Deutschklub already sponsored a variety of activities, including movie and game nights and an evening with traditional German dances. All events have been well attended. However, the most popular event so far was “Fairy Tales or Scary Tales,” held on Halloween night by the GTFs and the Klub. Thirty brave souls attended and exposed themselves to the surprising and gruesome nature of German fairy tales. Doris Pfaffinger and Trish Bronte read from some of the famous fairy (scary) tales, and afterward people played charades, enjoyed snacks, and socialized with the silent film Nosferatu in the background.

Throughout the coming academic year, the Deutsch Klub plans to participate in campuswide activities such as International Week to gain visibility and to promote membership. For more information about the Deutsch Klub or to cosponsor an event, please contact jschramk@uoregon.edu or visit the UO Deutsch Klub site on facebook: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=7876596082. We already have seventy-one members! Join now!
Every quest begins with a mystery, as did this one, when, back in January 2007, Phil Hansen discovered his mom’s college German class reader, *Tiergeschichten* by Manfred Kyber (1931). Interestingly enough, the book had been edited by three UO professors, of which only one name, F. G. G. Schmidt, was familiar to the current faculty. The search for archived files on the department proved fruitless. Phil Hansen recalls, “I suggested this would make a good student project. Well, I ended up being that student.” Eight months of steady research, numerous hours at the library, two visits to Eugene, and many interviews later the quest came to an end: *The History of Germanic Languages at Oregon, 1878–2008* was published by blurb.com on August 31, 2007. The book vividly portrays the fascinating and lively history of the Department of German and Scandinavian, which dates back as far as 1878! Go find it at blurb.com under “history.”

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**SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES ENDOWMENT**

During 2006–7, the Scandinavian Studies Committee and the UO Friends of Scandinavian Studies initiated a capital campaign to permanently fund an instructor position in Scandinavian studies. We successfully gathered the $25,000 in donations that are required by the UO Foundation to start such an endowment. This fall the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation generously contributed an additional $25,000. Our goal is $350,000. For more information, contact Ellen Rees (erees@uoregon.edu).
RECENTLY PUBLISHED AND FORTHCOMING BOOKS BY FACULTY MEMBERS


RECENT PUBLICATIONS


Book Review of Richard T. Gray’s About Face: German Physiognomic Thought from Lavater to Auschwitz in Comparative Literature 58.2 (Spring 2006): 175–77.


AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Susan Anderson received a UO Research Innovation Award in spring 2007.

Kenny Gates, departmental office manager, was a recipient of the Outstanding Classified and Officer of Administration Award in spring 2006.
Ellen Rees received tenure and promotion to associate professor in spring 2006. During winter 2007, she held the Ernest G. Moll Faculty Research Fellowship in Literary Studies at the Oregon Humanities Center.

In spring 2007, Michael Stern received tenure and promotion to associate professor.

In spring 2007, Alexander Mathäs conducted research at the Deutsches Literaturarchiv in Marbach while on a Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD) research grant.

Dorothee Ostmeier received an IT Grant in summer 2007 and a research fellowship from the Center for the Studies of Women in Society in spring 2007.

Last summer, Nigel Cottier defended his dissertation, “Totality and the Sublime in Peter Weiss’ The Aesthetics of Resistance.”

Joshua Archey successfully passed his M.A. exams in spring 2006. Two other students who received their M.A. this past spring are Mefdüne Yürekli and Claire van den Broek.

A Graduate School Travel Grant was awarded to Ph.D. candidate Doris Pfaffinger in 2007. She also received the 2006 departmental graduate scholarship for academic achievements and teaching excellence.

German major A. J. Leavitt was selected to receive a 2007–8 Dorothy Jane and William Joseph Green Foreign Languages Scholarship.

Undergraduate Karen Hudson received an undergraduate DAAD scholarship for 2006–7. Amelie Brazelton and Nick Stevens both spent last year as Fulbright scholars in Berlin.

Stephanie Schwenger ‘04 spent the summer traveling in Europe after three years as an analyst at the Portland-based political polling firm Grove Insight. She is currently seeking employment in the field of public affairs.

Sarah Rubin ‘04 works for the DAAD information center in San Francisco.

Nicole Campbell ‘04 lives and works in Frankfurt. She is employed as secretary, English teacher, and translator for Mazars (www.mazars.com).

Joanna Lunkiewicz ‘02 is employed as online marketing manager for Countrywide Home Loans, a mortgage company in Los Angeles. She is looking forward to getting married next year.

Jake Tellert ‘01 works for Mead Johnson Nutritional in California and enjoys living in San Francisco.

Robin Kupferman ‘98 graduated from Vancouver Film School last year and started a production company, focusing on documentaries. In May 2007, Robin participated in a competition at the Cannes Film Festival.

Dear Alumni,

For the past four newsletters we have been able to use information some of you supplied to our Germanic Languages Graduate Survey or have sent to us by e-mail. However, we have run out of new people to feature, so please get in touch with us at gerscan@uoregon.edu. As much as you enjoy reading about fellow students, they surely would love to hear from you as well. Thank you!
YOU CAN HELP ENSURE THE DEPARTMENT’S CONTINUED EXCELLENCE!

We are a thriving department with one of the largest enrollments of German majors and minors in the country. We work hard to attract the best undergraduate and graduate students, to offer an innovative and comprehensive curriculum, and to encourage creative and interdisciplinary research that will bring new knowledge to our field. Financial contributions from friends and alumni are key to our efforts to achieve these goals. Gifts are needed to support undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships, guest lectures, and special events.

Please show your support for our work and for the many students who are discovering, through us, the intellectual excitement and pleasure of studying German, Danish, Finnish, Norwegian, or Swedish language, literature, and culture.

We welcome your tax-deductible contributions, made payable to the University of Oregon Foundation. Please write on the check’s memo line whether the funds should go to the German and Scandinavian departmental fund, its undergraduate scholarship fund, the Roger Nicholls memorial fund, the Institute for German Cultural Analysis fund, or the Scandinavian languages instructional fund. For your convenience, a pre-addressed envelope is enclosed.