“Hel-mut - Hel - mut - Hel - mut ...” An enthusiastic choir of fifty voices celebrated the man who had organized an unforgettable didactic event for them. This was the way the UO’s 2002 International Language Retreat ended, highlighting the spirit of those eighteen hours of complete abstinence from English, which the students of German, Spanish, French, Italian, Swedish, Norwegian, and Finnish had just savored. As a guest I had the chance to participate in what has become a tradition at the UO over the past twenty years. The simultaneously exhilarating and exhausting experience left me with a puzzling question regarding Associate Professor Helmut Plant: What is his secret to vitality? Let’s try and find out:

After joining the UO faculty in 1967, Plant taught German language and culture courses on the undergraduate level, and on the graduate level history of the German language, Middle High German, introductions to Gothic, to Old High German and Old Saxon, and contrastive English and German phonetics. His scholarly publications show an interest in tritative English and German phonetics. His imagination to the point that he was eager to see some of the major sites of this early

See Plant, page 3

Head’s Comments

Spring is in the air with rhododendrons in full bloom on our beautiful campus. A few more weeks and it is again time to say goodbye to another group of graduates; today’s graduates who are tomorrow’s alumni and, hopefully, readers of and contributors to our newsletters. With summer comes also our yearly migration to Europe where many of us, students and faculty alike, spend at least part of our summer months in the dusty, but oh so alluring, libraries and archives. 2001 and 02 have been marked by transitions. Colleagues have left and new ones have joined the Department. Professor Karla Schultz retired, prematurely, we felt, and Kathy Saranpa, after eight years of successful teaching, left the University at the end of Spring 2001. Fortunately, Karla returns each Fall to direct a German play performance, already a popular tradition at the UO, capping our winter term. Saddest of these transitions was, of course, the untimely death of our long-time office assistant, Judy Finch, in February 2001 (see page 3) This Fall, two new colleagues joined the Department, Dr. Dorothee Ostmeier in German and Dr. Michael Stern in Scandinavian (see page 5 and 6). An extensive program review which the Department underwent in Spring 2001 gave us an opportunity to assess our past accomplishments and to articulate visions for the future. Over the past decade, our instructional program has been restructured along increasingly interdisciplinary lines. With each new faculty hire we have broadened our interdisciplinary reach and strengthened links with the future. Over the past decade, our instructional program has been restructured along increasingly interdisciplinary lines. With each new faculty hire we have broadened our interdisciplinary reach and strengthened links with the future.
Learning German in the Spotlight: Bertolt Brecht’s . . .

“Learning German in the Spotlight: Bertolt Brecht’s . . .

“I know three of the actors,” a professor of German commented during the intermission of the final performance, “in my language and culture classes they were wallflowers who barely dared to speak. Now I see them on stage, animated, self-possessed and proficient. What happened?” The answer is simple: Ten weeks of hard work paid off. Apart from acquiring a vast repertoire of German phrases and idiomatic expressions through memorizing their lines and listening to those of fellow actors, the students of GER 425 (Play Performance) receive one-on-one diction, singing and acting coaching, all of which boost their speaking ability and self-confidence tremendously. In addition to language learning, the cast of 2001 studied and discussed Brecht’s theory of epic theater and put it into praxis, gaining expertise in acting, set and costume design, make-up, lighting and choreography. They all shared in the experience of a synergistic collaborative effort working toward a common goal.

In the fall of 2001 twenty undergraduates and four graduate students tackled a challenging project, Brecht’s The Threepenny Opera, under the experienced guidance of Professor Karla Schultz. To the great disappointment of everyone involved, Karla had to leave in mid-term due to a family emergency. However, Karla had provided a solid structure for the course and, more importantly, she had set the tone—one of high motivation. Everyone was infected with her enthusiasm and agreed that the show must go on. Under the leadership of Hildegard Regele, a Ph.D. student in German literature, the rehearsals continued. Karla was still very much part of the project through nightly phone conversations with the insecure “green” director. During the transitional period, the production was in a severe state of crisis when a network of support, of which Brecht would have been very proud, rapidly unfolded within the Department. Along with the relentless efforts of the theater troop, it was the unanimous support of faculty and staff that made two excellent performances possible.

An interview in which Nigel Cottier, ABD, questions Hildegard about her experiences as a Brechtian director will appear in an upcoming issue of Communications from the International Brecht Society. Karla Schultz and Penelope Heinigk co-authored an article on pedagogy and theater at the UO, which uses the 1999 production of Goethe’s Urfaust as an illustration of Karla’s teaching methods: “Urfaust: Magic on Stage,” Body and Language. Intercultural Learning through Drama, ed. Gerd Braeuer (Atlanta:Greenwood Academic Publishers, 2002).

Please join us in the fall of 2002 when we celebrate the 20th season of the UO’s German play tradition with the performance of Ludwig Tieck’s Der gestiefelte Kater.

Faculty News and Notes

Congratulations to Susan C. Anderson! She has been promoted to full professor. Anderson co-edited, with Bruce Tabb, two books. The first, entitled Water, Culture, and Politics in Germany and the American West, was published in the German Life and Civilization Series, series ed. Jost Hermand (New York: Peter Lang, 2001). Also in collaboration with Bruce Tabb, she recently finished editing the interdisciplinary book Water, Leisure, and Culture: European Historical Perspectives which will appear in September in the Leisure, Consumption, and Culture Series, series ed. Rudy Koshar (Oxford, UK: Berg, 2002). Susan has two forthcoming articles: “The Power of the Gaze: Visual Metaphors in Schnitzler’s Prose Works and Dramas” in A Companion to Arthur Schnitzler, ed. Dagmar Lorenz (NY: Camden House, 2002), and “Outsiders, Foreigners, and Aliens in German Narratives from the 1980s and 1990s” German Quarterly (2002). Susan enjoys teaching “Diversity in Germany”, which is attracting increasing numbers of students each spring, and has had excellent students in her courses for majors and minors, such as “Das Fremde”, and in her graduate course on Narrative. She is currently conducting a survey of the department’s alumni since the 1940s and hopes to receive enthusiastic responses.


At the Twenty-Fifth Annual German Studies Association Conference, Alexander Mathias presented a lecture entitled “Colonizing the Bourgeois Subject: Self and Other in Sturm und Drang Drama” in October 2001. In May 2002, he gave a lecture at the University of London within the framework of the Institute of Germanic Studies’ Conference “Seelenarbeit an Deutschland.” The title of his talk was “Kafka-Metamorphosen: Martin Walser’s frühe Erzählungen und ihre Folgen.” The following articles recently appeared in print or are forthcoming: “The
“clash of civilizations” for himself. He spent the fall of 1992 at the Universidad de las Américas in Cholula teaching German and English — for a free room in the dorm.

Inspired to add a Spanish retreat to the existing German language retreats, Plant had to realize that such a move would exclude the French and Italian students of the department of Romance Languages. So back to school he went, until in 1997 he felt ready to offer the first international language retreat, for students of German and the three Romance languages. With the help of the teachers of Swedish (Ursula Wiljanen) and Danish (Jan Nielsen) in Spring of 2000, and of Norwegian (Linda Gunn) and Finnish (Hanna-Marika Mitrunen) in Spring of 2002, he has been able to offer two truly international language retreats. Plant would like to continue holding German language retreats himself, and hopes to find people willing to offer separate Romance and Scandinavian retreats.

Plant’s other hobbies, which are a vital part of the language retreats, are music and dancing; he plays the harmonica but wishes he knew how to play the guitar or accordion, as “it is difficult to simultaneously sing and play the harmonica.” Plant also likes both folk- and ballroom dancing (his favorite dance is the waltz, from English to Cajun to Viennese). In 1999 he joined the Oregon Ballroom Dance Club (“It’s more fun than a commercial exercise club, and time flies!”). In addition, Plant has offered workshops on German folkdancing on various occasions, and he has acquired a modest repertoire of French, Italian and Mexican dances.

For 35 years Plant has enjoyed organizing hikes in summer and cross-country ski trips in winter for students and other members of the campus community. (Anyone wishing to get on his “hikers email list” is welcome to send an email with the request: “Please put me on your hikers list”).

As everyone in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures knows, the list of services which Plant continues to offer to colleagues, GTFs and students is long. He has been tutoring ESL and German and has been offering “help with homework” sessions on a drop-in basis every Thursday at 3PM in 206 FR to any students of German. He has freely shared his time, expertise and reassuring presence in various other “states of emergency.” To give just one example: When Professor Schultz had to leave the 2001 play production, Plant spent many hours on diction and acting coaching and consulting.

Plant’s life appears to evolve around sharing and learning, two poles which mutually reinforce each other in an ever expanding vitalizing spiral. But let’s ask him directly: What is your secret to vitality? – “Keep moving - physically and mentally!”

Helmut Plant can be reached at <hplant@oregon.uoregon.edu>.

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**Månen by Edith Södergran**

Vad allting som är dött är underbart och outsägligt:
ett dött blad och en död människa och månens skiva.
Och alla blommor veta en hemlighet och skogen den bevarar.
det är att månens kretsång kring vår jord är dödens bana.
Och månen spinner sin underbara väv, den blommor älska,
och månen spinner sitt sagolika nät kring allt som lever.
Och månens skära mejar blommor av i senhöstnätter,
och alla blommor vänta på månens kyss i ändlös längtan.

Judy Finch began working in our department in September 1986. She was usually the first person faculty and GTFs would see after arriving at Friendly Hall, and her welcoming greeting always helped get the day off to a good start. Judy was a constant in our frequently changing work environment. She was also more often than not the first person our students encountered whenever they stopped by the main office for advice or assistance. She put a human face on our department. There are countless people whose lives Judy has touched, and her patience, calm manner, and good cheer brightened the disposition of hundreds of students and colleagues over the years. She was the grounded center amidst our sometimes stormy world of impending deadlines, visiting crises, budget anxieties, and copymachine breakdowns. Just as she nourished the plants she brought to the office, she nurtured the people around her, ready to listen to our complaints or share a laugh. Judy was a kind human being, whose light will shine on in the memories of all those who had the honor of knowing her.

Kathy Saranpa and Susan Anderson read the poems at her memorial service.

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**Monndacht by Joseph von Eichendorff**

Es war, als hät der Himmel
Die Erde still geküßt,
Daß sie im Blütenschimmer
Von ihm nun träumen müßt.

Die Luft ging durch die Felder,
Die Ähren wogen sacht,
Es rauschten leis die Wälder,
Und meine Seele spannte
Weit ihre Flügel aus,
Als flöge sie nach Haus.

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**In Memory of Judy Robertson Finch (1945-2001)**

by Susan Anderson

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**Mondnacht by Joseph von Eichendorff**

Es war, als hät der Himmel
Die Erde still geküßt,
Daß sie im Blütenschimmer
Von ihm nun träumen müßt.

Die Luft ging durch die Felder,
Die Ähren wogen sacht,
Es rauschten leis die Wälder,
So sternklar war die Nacht.

Und meine Seele spannte
Weit ihre Flügel aus,
Flog durch die stillen Lande,
Als flöge sie nach Haus.

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Welcome to New Faculty

Within the past two years, three new faculty members joined the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures: Elke Heckner, Dorothee Ostmeier, and Michael Stern.

**Elke Heckner** received her Ph.D. in 2000 in German from the Johns Hopkins University. She was excited to join a department that focuses on German as well as on Scandinavian languages and cultures.

Professor Heckner’s interdisciplinary research and teaching interests range from gender studies and film theory to recent debates on the politics of memory in Berlin. She brings new approaches in literary and cultural studies to canonical 19th- and 20th-century authors of German literature, such as Kleist and Brecht.

She is currently working on a book entitled *Unruly Modernities: Gender, Sexuality and the Temporality of Exclusion*. The book argues that modernity’s politics of exclusion can be critically addressed by examining strategies of resistance within various discourses of modernity (e.g. philosophy, drama, and criticism). Heckner received a CSWS grant for the project and presented parts of her manuscript in April 2002. Part of a book chapter on Kleist’s novella “Die Verlobung in St. Domingo” was published recently in the *Kleist- Jahrbuch.*

In the past two years Heckner offered courses such as “Bodies and Law” and “Feminism and Hysteresis” which attracted both students inside the department as well as from other disciplines. In the fall of 2002 she will teach a course on representations of gender and sexuality in German film as they pertain to issues of history and national identity.

Most recently she has written on issues of urban memory in the reconstruction of Berlin. Her article “Berlin Remake: Building Memory and the Politics of Capital Identity” is forthcoming with *Germanic Review.* Heckner is particularly interested in how Berlin’s construction of a new post-unification identity.

See New Faculty, page 5

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Pathways to the Future

In terms of the number of German majors enrolled, the UO’s Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures ranks in the top 3% of 400 U.S. colleges and universities according to statistics published in the journal *Monatshefte* (summer 2001). Why are so many undergraduates attracted to our program? What makes us so special? One of the reasons is the relentless endeavors of faculty and staff to continuously evaluate and adapt our program to meet the rapidly shifting demands of our times.

In an effort to accomplish this mission, our department, represented by Professors Susan Anderson, Virpi Zuck, Marilyn Linton, and Alex Mathäs joined forces with the Romance Languages Department to embark upon an interdisciplinary UO project by the name of *Pathways,* with the goal of helping Freshmen and Sophomores enrolled in their programs to complete general education requirements in a coherent manner by complementing language courses with culturally focused seminars. The GER/SCAN/RL *Pathway* was entitled *Voicing Diversity.* A one-credit seminar encouraged the multilingual and multicultural group of students to investigate connections between language and culture courses and learn about other cultures. *Pathways* is a cutting edge pedagogical program, developed to meet the needs of our time. In Professor Anderson’s words, “the students in *Voicing Diversity* are highly aware that confronting cultural diversity is a major challenge of the 21st century and they are eager to actively participate in building bridges between cultures.”

Professors Dorothee Ostmeier and Susan Anderson are in the process of implementing another innovative new project by the name of *Outreach* (see Ostmeier, p. 5), which is modeled after an initiative developed by Ostmeier in Seattle and a project created by the head of the Germanic Department at the University of Texas-Austin.

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**Faculty, from page 2**


**Karla Schultz** retired in spring 2001, but will continue to direct fall-term play productions until 2005 under the terms of Oregon’s early retirement system. Together with Penelope Heinigk, Karla has a book article in press entitled “Urfaust: Magic on Stage,” *Body and Language. Intercultural Learning through Drama* (2002).

**Jonathan Skolnik** was awarded the Oregon Humanities Center “Coleman-Guitteau Professorship in the Humanities” for 2001-2002. This Spring he is teaching a new team-taught course on “Philosophy and Tragedy.” In the Fall, he taught a seminar on “Exile in L.A.” His article “Le juif errant et le temps historique” appeared in the exhibit catalogue *Le temoin du temps. Images du juif errant.* He presented papers at Georgetown University, the Modern Language Association, and the German Studies Association, and treated the UO to a talk on “Jewish Pasts, German Fictions” in March 2002. Skolnik was awarded a Meyerhoff Fellowship for post-doctoral research in the Department of Jewish Studies at the University of Maryland and will be on a leave of absence from the UO in 2002/03.

New Faculty, from page 4

tion identity intersects with the question of Jewish memory in Berlin.

She is looking forward to taking a trip to Astoria in the near future to enjoy the most recent revival of Scandinavian cultures in the Pacific Northwest.

Dorothee Ostmeier joined the UO faculty in fall 2001. After completing her M.A. and Staatsexamen in Germanistik, Mediaevistik, and philosophy at the Ruhr Universität Bochum with a thesis on Goethe’s early classic dramas, she was invited to the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore where she received her Ph.D. in 1993. Her dissertation entitled Sprache des Dramas – Drama der Sprache: Zur Poetik der Nelly Sachs was published as a book in 1997.

In 1993 Professor Ostmeier accepted an assistant professorship at the University of Washington, Seattle, where she moved with her “husband-friend” Steve Golledge and where they “both became very fortunate when our two angels Lyssandra and Felix joined our lives.” At UW, Ostmeier designed and taught a broad variety of graduate and undergraduate courses in German literature and culture, participated in numerous dissertation defenses and Master’s exams, chaired two dissertations, initiated several internship programs, served on several departmental and university committees, worked intensely with the faculty senate, organized a 5-day Wim Wenders festival, and was local director of the 1996 German Studies Association’s international conference in Seattle. She developed her second book project Poetic Encounters: Constructs of Gender in texts of the Early 20th Century, which she plans to complete soon. Three of her recently published essays — addressing gender debates between Rainer Maria Rilke and Lou Andreas-Salome, Gottfried Benn and Else Lasker-Schüler, and in Brecht’s feminized utopias — cover some of the materials she investigates. The book in its entirety will ask how specific gender/sexuality debates of the early 20th century take issue with the stereotypes of this period. Ostmeier has lectured on these topics and will explore further aspects in two upcoming talks entitled “Visual Art vs. Poetry: Rainer Maria Rilke’s Poetic Reception of Femininity in Renaissance Art” and “Else Lasker-Schüler and Peter Hille as St. Peter and Tino.” She is an active collaborator on the new edition of the Brecht Handbuch (Metzler): two articles have already appeared, a third is invited. She is also interested in Brecht’s media theory. An essay on “Brecht and the Internet” appeared in the peer-reviewed journal The Brecht Yearbook 26 and she led a well-attended panel on “Brecht Cineast: Scripting and Making Films” for the International Brecht Society at the 2001 MLA conference.

Ostmeier is conceptualizing a teaching internship program with Crest Drive Elementary School to offer our advanced undergraduates the opportunity to gain teaching experience. See New Faculty, page 6

Meet Our GTFs

Nigel Cottier (GTF in German) from London has been in the Ph.D. program in German for six years and is currently writing his dissertation. His prospectus, entitled “From the Beautiful to the Sublime: Reading Peter Weiss’s ‘The Aesthetics of Resistance’ in the Shadow of the Postmodern,” was published in the International Peter Weiss Yearbook (Feb. 2002). He conducted an interview with Hildegard Regele entitled “Learning German in the Spotlight: Bertolt Brecht’s Die Dreigroschenoper at the University of Oregon” to be published summer of 2002 by Communications from the International Brecht Society.

Hildegard Regele (GTF in German) from Munich is in her first-year of Ph.D. studies in German. She served as acting-director of the 2001 play production (see article page 2). In spring 2002 she produced this Newsletter. She is finishing her coursework this year and is looking forward to devoting herself to her dissertation project in which she will compare Samuel Hahnemann’s healing art of homeopathy to concepts of Friedrich Nietzsche and Sigmund Freud.

Elizabeth Agner (GTF in German) from Florida received her B.A. in biology from Agnes Scott College in Atlanta. She will finish her master’s studies in German this year with an emphasis on translation.

Doris Pfaffinger (GTF in German) from Arnstorf, Niederbayern, received her B.A. from the Universität Regensburg in German and English. Her special interest is the role of woman in literature.

Amber Hollers (GTF in German) from Los Angeles received her bachelor’s degree in art history (emphasis on history of Gothic architecture in France and early Christian art) at the Universität Heidelberg. She is a first-year M.A. student of German.

Kathrin Klotz (GTF in German) from Clausthal-Zellerfeld, Germany, completed her first Staatsexamen in Grund- und Hauptschullehramt at the Universität Hildesheim. In her first year of M.A. studies in German, she is especially interested in drama, 20th-century literature, cultural studies, and German film.

Sabina Pasic (GTF in German) from Bosnia-Herzegovina received her Bachelor’s degree in German at the UO. She is now in the first year of our M.A. program. She is especially interested in nineteenth century German literature. After her graduation, Sabina wants to spend a year abroad and then pursue a Ph.D.

Kalsang Phari-Vespignani (GTF in German) from Tibet acquired her Laurea in political sciences at the Università di Bologna. This is her first year in the M.A. program in German. She is especially interested in the political dimension of life.

Kerry Bannister (GTF in Swedish) from Yorkshire, U.K., received her B.A. in Scandinavian studies at the University of Hull, U.K. She is in the second year of her

Dissertations 2000 - 2002

May 2001 Penelope Heinig “The Other Side of the Tracks: Representaions of Gender in Early Railroad Turmoil.”

August 2000 Dan Gilfillan “From Monstrosity to Liberation: Situating Technology in the Work of Alfred Andersch.”
New Faculty, from page 5

Ostmeier is looking forward to exciting years “in the stimulating and creative atmosphere of Eugene and the department.”

Michael Stern received his Ph.D. in Scandinavian Studies from the University of California at Berkeley in the fall of 2000. His first job was as a visiting Assistant Professor in the German Department at the University of Chicago. He came to Oregon in the fall of 2001. Stern’s research focus is the construction of subjective positions in nineteenth-century philosophical and literary discourse. He is currently working on a book manuscript entitled Nietzsche’s Ocean, Strindberg’s Open Sea, which investigates both the encounter between the two men and the commonality between their authorial projects. Stern posits that this commonality can be found on the level of autobiographical narrative through the construction of what he calls the genealogy of self. Stern’s next project will be an investigation of the Jewish critique of the Danish philosopher, Søren Kierkegaard.

Stern has taught five classes this year. A freshman class, “Masks and Ecstatic Experience”, explored aesthetic responses to trauma. “Nietzsche in Scandinavia” provided the students with both an introduction to the philosopher’s work and enabled them to analyze literary instantiations of the philosophical content. “Realism and Antirealism” traced the development of the psychological novel in Scandinavia. Stern’s spring offerings were “The Emergence of Scandinavian Cultures”, a survey course that investigated belief systems in the north before 1800, and “From Stage to Screen”, an exploration of film adaptations of nineteenth-century drama. Future course offerings will include a seminar on the notion of Repetition in philosophy and literature, a survey of Ibsen’s prose cycle, and a course featuring Kierkegaard’s pseudonymous production.

The Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures is proud to welcome these new faculty members who boast the efforts for increased interdisciplinarity through their specializations in philosophy, gender studies, and German and Scandinavian intellectual history.

GTFs, from page 5

M.A. studies in linguistics. Her special interests are second-language perception and production of sounds. Kerry was awarded the Annual Bakony Professional Development Grant 2002. This is the second year the award has been offered in connection with the Yamada Language Center’s Foreign Language and International Studies Day. Kerry is the first GTF to receive the $1,000 prize which she intends to use “to give the Swedish program a fighting change and put it on more equal footing with other popular language programs at the UO.” To this end Kerry will create a multimedia library of Swedish language and culture materials at the Yamada Language Center, which will include films, music and radio programs on CD, magazines, books, CD-ROM software and other interactive materials for learning Swedish, supplementary course materials, and a website with links to web-based resources for Swedish language and culture. The multimedia library will be available to Swedish students and other interested parties. In addition Kerry will design a curricular framework (which is currently not available) to help create a sense of continuity in Swedish language teaching from year to year. This will include a catalog of resources to supplement the syllabi and a language teaching manual and database. Kerry will also research currently available teaching material, choose an up-to-date textbook for future use in the department, and investigate modes of financial assistance to help fund the continuation and extension of this project and facilitate future projects.

Karina Frederiksen (GTF in Danish) from Copenhagen earned a degree in marketing management at Copenhagen Business School. She is currently working on her M.B.A. in marketing and sports marketing. Upon her graduation in June 2002, she plans to stay in the U.S. and work in the field of strategic planning, sponsorship, and brand building (ideally for a subsidiary of a Danish company).

Hanna-Maria Mitrune (GTF in Finnish) from Tampere, Finland, received her B.A. in Finnish language at the University of Tampere from where she will also receive her M.A. this fall. Currently, she takes courses in linguistics. Her special interest is second-language acquisition (especially Finnish) and her aim is to concentrate on this area in her Ph.D. studies when back in Finland. This spring, she received a grant for her studies from the Finnish Cultural Foundation.

Kathryn Olsen (GTF in German) from Kingsport, Tennessee, graduated with a B.A. in English from Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina. She is now enrolled in the Ph.D. program in comparative literature. She is very interested in 20th-century English, French, German, and Danish fiction, with a special focus on the community of American expatriates between WWI and WWII, who settled in Europe, and their European contemporaries. Her future plans/hopes are to teach literature at the university level.

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Distinguished Lecturers Visit Campus

In conjunction with the course “Philosophy and Tragedy,” co-taught by Professors Jonathan Skolnik and Peter Warnek, the Oregon Humanities Center and the Coleman-Guiteau Professorship in the Humanities sponsored a series of lectures in April and May 2002:

Alejandro Vallega, professor of philosophy from California State University at Stanislaus, started the series with a talk on “The Myth of Reason and the Philosopher’s Tragic Voice: On Plato’s Phaedo.”

John Sallis, Edwin Erle Sparks professor of philosophy from Pennsylvania State University, spoke on “Hegel and the Tragedy of Philosophy.”

Dennis Schmidt, professor of philosophy from Villanova University, presented a lecture on “Hölderlin, Heidegger, Tragedy.”

In February 2002, the Department of Comparative Literature invited Prof. Dr. Helmut Schneider from the Universität Bonn give a presentation on “Modernisierung der Natur: Die Entstehung des Weimarer Parks und das Bild des Parks in Goethes Dichtung.”

In May 2002, the Department of Comparative Literature featured David E. Wellbery, University of Chicago, speaking on “Nietzsche’s Theory of the Tragic Imaginary” within the framework of the public lecture series “Of Words and Worlds.”

The Germanic Department invited Professor Diana Behler from the University of Washington to present on “Sexual Fantasies: Arthur Schnitzler’s Dream Story and Stanley Kubrick’s Eyes Wide Shut” in May 2002. Behler is a world renowned scholar on German Romanticism and its influences on 20th-century literature. Her work builds a bridge between the fields of Germanic literature and film studies. The visit was also co-sponsored by the Office of the Vice Provost, the Departments of English, History, Philosophy, and the Oregon Humanity Center.

Alexander Mathäus invited Ekkehard Sprenger from the Goethe Institute to offer a workshop on teaching methodologies for the GTFs. Dr. Sprenger presented on “Using Film in the Foreign Languages Classroom” (October 26, 2001).

In early April, Kyllikki Rantala, a lecturer in music education at the University of Tampere, Finland, gave a public presentation titled “Hip Hoi, Musiisisi: About Early Childhood Music Education in Finland.”

Alumni Whereabouts

Dan Gilfillan is nearing the end of his second-year as a Research Associate for the Center for the Study of Women in Society’s Feminist Humanities Project, where he has designed a collection of online teaching modules based on current research being accomplished on issues of women and gender in historical context at the University of Oregon. He is also excited to announce that he has been offered a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor of Information Literacy at Arizona State University in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. He will begin this next stage of his career in August 2002. <dgilfil@darkwing.uoregon.edu>

Monika Fischer is presently teaching in the German Department at Hunter College in N.Y. <monika_hotmail.com>

Gudrun Hommel is ending her first of three years as co-chair of the Modern Languages Department at Linfield College. In this capacity she particularly likes her work as the department’s liaison to Linfield’s International Programs Office. Together with a colleague from the business department, she developed a course, “Business Culture and Culture in Germany and Austria.” In Jan. 2003, the two professors will teach fifteen students on site in Mainz, Munich, and Vienna. Gudrun continues to teach two German courses per term, anything from first-year German to a topics in German culture course on German film. <ghommel@linfield.edu>

Martina Kolb is in her fifth year of Ph.D. studies in comparative literature at Yale University. She passed her comprehensive exams and is working on her dissertation. <martina.kolb@yale.edu>

Angela Schaefer completed a licensure for German in high school. She is now in her second year at Elmira High School which maintains a strong German program (levels 1-4). “Despite funding cuts in education,” she writes, “German continues to gain support here, and students and staff are great.” This summer she will travel to Germany with twelve of her students. <katzen27@yahoo.com>

Yasmin Staunau teaches German (levels 1-4) at South Eugene High School and she loves it. <staunau@4j.lane.edu>

Carsten Strathausen is preparing for his promotion to associate professor at the University of Missouri, Columbia. His manuscript “The Look of Things: Poetry and Vision around 1900” is currently being edited by University of North Carolina Press and is scheduled for publication early next year. Carsten’s latest project involves digital media. He recently received a major teaching award from the University of Missouri. He can be reached at: <strathausenC@missouri.edu>.
with adjacent programs, such as Film Studies, Judaic Studies, Philosophy, and Women’s and Gender Studies as well as between the German and Scandinavian sections of the Department. We continue to explore ways to further intensify this collaboration, in instruction as well as research, particularly with colleagues in the departments of Philosophy and History who are specializing in German philosophical and historical traditions. Looking into future, we thus see our task less one of setting new goals than of consolidating gains already made. These are also my farewell words as Head of the Department. Looking back at my eight plus years in this position, I see years filled with challenges but also with many rewards. Perhaps the greatest of them has been the opportunity to interact with the graduate students in the Department, an experience which I cherish and on which I would otherwise have missed out as we have no graduate program in Scandinavian. My sincere thanks to colleagues, past and present, for their support and collaboration and best wishes to all of our alumni.

Linda Gunn (visiting instructor of Norwegian) and Hanna-Marika Mitrunen (GTF in Finnish) in traditional folk dresses at the 2002 UO Foreign Language & International Studies Day.

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