DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES FIRST SCHOLARSHIP

“While my career came through the School of Law, my heart was still in Friendly Hall,” affirmed Phil Hansen, former UO German major, School of Law graduate, and Pacific-8 champion. Hansen is the first person in the history of the Germanic languages and literatures department to generously establish an endowed scholarship for undergraduates. “I am glad to be the first to set something like this up for the Germanic languages group. I was surprised to learn that it hadn’t already been done.”

The Philip and Teresa Hansen Germanic Languages and Literatures Scholarship Fund allows our department to award one or two outstanding undergraduates with a scholarship each year.

Phil Hansen was born in Portland, Oregon, and attended high school in Beaverton, Oregon. At home, his mother would occasionally speak German to him; however, it was not until he received the Oregon Department of Foreign Languages–Oregon Education Association’s Honor Award for Foreign Languages in 1963 that he decided to pursue a German major. The same fall he started his career at Oregon “as much for a college education as to run for Coach Bill Bowerman.” Phil Hansen’s event was the 3000-meter steeplechase, and in the spring of 1967, Hansen’s graduation year, his team won the Pacific-8 Championship.

While corresponding with us for this article, Hansen showed his sense of humor: “I declined Geoff Hollister’s offer to get involved in selling shoes, because I was going to law school. What was I thinking!” Although he did not become a Nike mogul, he first worked as a high school teacher. After “some soul searching,” Phil Hansen decided on a career in law. He enrolled in the School of Law at the University of Oregon, became an attorney, and practiced state and local corporate taxation law for thirty years. About his time at the School of Law, Phil Hansen says, “I discovered that everybody but me hated the federal tax course. I figured if it was so detested, there must be a career there.” And there was. Right out of college, he joined Ernst & Ernst in California and became a certified public accountant. Although he never used German directly in his professional years, Phil Hansen claims that his “language-skills background helped [him] with the legal compositions required.”

Phil Hansen comes from a family of Oregon alumni: his mother received her master’s degree from the UO, and two of his three grown children are also Oregon graduates. He retired in 1998 and is now enjoying hiking and traveling with his wife Terri, a native of Biloxi, Mississippi. Although not affiliated with the university, Terri has visited the campus several times and has been introduced to an Oregon must: seeing the Ducks at Autzen. In his retirement, Phil Hansen is also actively involved in digital photography and is still reading German literature. He especially enjoys Heinrich Heine.

Discussing his motivations to donate so generously, he said, “The UO has an excellent German department. When I graduated, I was dreaming in German, thinking in German, and, according to my professors who gave me my final oral examination, I had no American accent whatsoever. By giving to the College of Arts and Sciences, I intend to enable students in the field I studied to be able to concentrate on the subjects of their program with a bit of financial relief. Having to deliver pizza at night, like I did in law school, is hardly conducive to good work.”
Dear Friends of Germanic Languages and Literatures,

While our department continues to change, we enjoy maintaining contact with friends and alumni, who sometimes reach out to assist current students. We were thrilled to hear from former German major Philip Hansen '67, who, with his wife Teresa, has generously established an endowed scholarship fund that has already benefited two German majors and will continue to support deserving students each year. In addition, an anonymous donor awarded scholarships to two other German majors this year. Scholarships make such a difference in these times of rising tuition. Alumni support also assists with guest lectures, and you can read about the exciting visitors we sponsored this year.

Two new faculty members, Jeffrey Librett and Ellen Rees, joined our department, adding intellectual energy, stimulating courses, and new initiatives; and under Kenny Gates’ dynamic leadership our student office staff is thriving. We congratulate former webmaster Max Johnson on his graduation and wish him much luck in his career.

I am sad to report that Beth Maveety passed away in September. She retired when I began my work here, but I had the privilege of benefiting from her encouragement and expertise. She was an intelligent, elegant, and beloved colleague and teacher who touched many lives in wonderful ways.

Please stop by if you are in town or use our website to let us know your news: http://uoregon.edu/~gerscan.

Susan C. Anderson

Schiller Matters!

By Alexander Mathäs

When I first came to the University of Oregon as a graduate student in 1983, the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures looked very different. Peter Gontrum was department head. Jean Woods succeeded him in 1984. Edward Diller, Walther Hahn, Wolfgang Leppmann, Beth Maveety, Roger Nicholls, Helmut Plant, Ingrid Weatherhead, Jim McWilliams, and Virpi Zuck were still teaching. I immediately liked the department’s congenial atmosphere and the opportunity to get to know professors, which had not existed for me at the University of Tübingen. Edward Diller’s unexpected death in spring 1985 influenced my decision to stay in Eugene until 1987, because the department hired me as an instructor.

After getting a Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin and teaching for several years at Virginia Tech, I returned to the UO in 1996. During the past nine years I have been teaching and advising students of German at all levels. My research ranges from the age of Goethe to contemporary literature. It addresses the relationship between identity formation and artistic creativity. I am interested in how writers attain a sense of who they are through the creation of literature.

The impetus for defining the self is most compelling at times of uncertainty. At the end of the eighteenth century, many writers attempted to give their individual lives purpose in a world that they felt had become devoid of transcendental meaning due to the erosion of religious belief systems. The literature of this time is highly self-reflective and provides insights into how writers compensated for the loss of meaning by creating an inner self. I have recently finished a book manuscript, Cloning the Bourgeois Subject: Narcissism and Paranoia in the Age of Goethe, that examines German middle-class intellectuals’ search for identity during that period.

Of course, one of the challenges is to convey my intellectual interests to the students. Why should they be fascinated by works that were written 200 years ago and in language that is really hard to understand? How can I link the problems addressed in these texts to today’s students’ concerns, I keep asking myself. Only if students are stimulated to draw from their own experiences can they make original contributions and develop a genuine enthusiasm for the literature.

For instance, in fall 2004 I was able to teach a course on Friedrich Schiller. The 200th anniversary of Schiller’s death provokes the question whether the writer’s works are still pertinent. In spite of all his highfalutin pathos, which appears dated, his fundamental conviction that human beings are more than the sum of their physical parts receives new meaning in today’s age of biogenetic advances. Schiller’s ideas of what it means to be human may be more relevant than ever in view of widening social and economic disparities. We had stimulating discussions in class about human freedom, ethnic prejudice, religious fundamentalism, political opportunism as well as the loss of common values. These discussions have inspired me to offer a future course—What Is Human(e)?—that also addresses these issues.
Welcome to New Faculty Members
By Doris Waffinger and Jeffrey Librett

Last year two new faculty members joined the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures: Jeffrey Librett and Ellen Rees.

Professor Jeffrey Librett, who received his Ph.D. in 1989 from Cornell University in comparative literature, came to the University of Oregon because he was excited by the prospect of working in a “thriving, vibrant Germanics department,” with a “young and still developing faculty,” and because he was further attracted to “the specific profile of this department as one that focuses from various perspectives on studies of the modern and postmodern periods.” Librett’s interdisciplinary research and teaching interests range from the Enlightenment and Romanticism to Judaic studies, literary theory, philosophy, and psychoanalysis. In the period around 1800, he is particularly interested in “the political and aesthetic implications of the tension between rationality and irrationality, i.e. the tension between clarity and opacity, with which this period is obsessively concerned.” In pursuit of these implications, Librett recently taught, for example, a class on Spinozism and nihilism (which attracted students from within the department as well as from other disciplines, above all philosophy), and another on constructions of the Orient in Goethe’s later lyric poetry. In our own time, the interplay between idea and sensation has received sustained attention, especially in French philosophy, in the form of an examination of the relation between philosophy and literature. Librett has been involved in this discussion as well through translations and essays. His book, The Rhetoric of Cultural Dialogue: Jews and Germans from Moses Mendelsson to Richard Wagner and Beyond (Stanford University Press, 2000), examines the Jewish-Christian relation in modern German history from a rhetorical-philosophical point of view. Other publications include a translation of Jean-Luc Nancy’s The Sense of the World (University of Minnesota Press) and various articles and essays in scholarly journals. This summer he was awarded a position as Gastwissenschaftler (visiting research fellow) at the Zentrum für Literaturforschung in Berlin, where he spent a month working on his current book (working title, The Metaphysics of Orientalism: Typology and Panic in the German Tradition). In this context, he also delivered a lecture on Goethe’s West-östlicher Divan at the Freie Universität Berlin and led a miniseminar on Orientalism in the German tradition. Aside from writing and teaching, Librett spends his time with his spouse and two children, and enjoys exercise, music, and movies.

As a native of Washington state, Assistant Professor Ellen Rees has long had the desire to return to the Pacific Northwest. The University of Oregon was attractive because of its scale, dynamic atmosphere, and faculty colleagues—in short, a place she “could imagine spending the rest of her career.” Rees gave up tenure at Arizona State University to join the UO faculty in fall 2004. She received her Ph.D. in 1995 in Scandinavian languages and literatures from the University of Washington. Her dissertation focused on the work of Cora Sandel, a twentieth-century Norwegian novelist. This year Novik Press published Rees’s first book, On the Margins: Scandinavian Women Modernists of the 1930s, a comparative project that looks at Scandinavian as well as British and American modernist prose fiction. She also has published some fifteen articles, most of which relate to Scandinavian prose fiction or contemporary Scandinavian cinema. When it comes to research, she “tends to gravitate toward projects that explore questions of identity and the function of place or topography in narrative.” Lately, Rees has become fascinated by questions of genre and the rhetorical strategies that fiction writers apply. “I typically like to work with narratives that resist or undermine formal conventions,” she says; thus, she often finds herself back in the 1930s.

Her academic plans are to collaborate with colleague Michael Stern to strengthen the undergraduate major in Scandinavian. However, she also wants to reach out to graduate students: “Although I am a so-called Scandinavianist, I think that much of my expertise could be useful for students working on similar issues in other national literatures (hint, hint).” And why did she become a teacher? “I like being put on the spot and being held accountable to my students each day in the classroom. I like the process of writing and rewriting an article until I know that I’ve managed to say something interesting.”

Jeffrey Librett and Ellen Rees
The Departmental Scholarship

Although Friendly Hall, built in 1893, is among the oldest buildings on campus, it only recently appears to be haunted by a very friendly ghost. The ghost seems not to shy away from broad daylight and frequents the hallways and rooms of our castle fairly often—yet our ghost is always a welcome sight. This past year he must have discovered a hidden treasure and, with it, helped the German department by contributing to an undergraduate departmental scholarship. Every other year, two outstanding undergraduates are now being awarded this scholarship. Thank you, dear ghost, we hope to see you around for a long time!

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The first two students to be awarded the Philip and Teresa Hansen Scholarship are Travis Campbell and Zachary Tigart.

Travis Campbell, from Milwaukie, Oregon, started to attend Oregon with an undeclared major. After two years of German classes, he decided that he wanted to spend a year abroad. “I found out that the best way to do this and graduate on time was to major in my language of choice, German,” he says. Travis then spent his junior year in Freiburg, Germany, as part of the Baden-Württemberg exchange program. Upon his return as a senior in September 2004, he added international studies with a focus on business as his second major. However, it did not take too long before Travis started hunting for more international opportunities. He successfully landed an internship with an advertising company in Hamburg, Germany, where he had the opportunity to work in a close-knit team learning the ins and outs of online marketing. When asked how his decision to study German has affected him, Travis says, “What started off as an arbitrary choice has changed my life in ways that I have only started to realize. I hope to continue my work in the international business arena and look forward to following this windy road called life wherever it takes me.”

Though intrigued by the German language already in high school, honors college student Zachary Tigart did not start his career in German until he came to the UO. A German Academic Exchange Service scholarship helped him finance his junior year in Heidelberg, Germany, a time he remembers fondly. It was his great experience abroad that made Zack declare German as a major. He says, “I took two excellent phonetics classes from a very direct and critical professor. They were difficult, frustrating, and sometimes embarrassing courses, but it improved my understanding of spoken German more than anything else has.” Zack is an active runner and invests a lot of time in tutoring and working with international students.

After graduation, he hopes to participate in an internship in Germany and then to teach English for a year in Korea or Taiwan before coming back to go to graduate school. The scholarship money he received will help fund this last year of his undergraduate education.

Two other students, Ben Halpern and Cara Pang, were awarded the departmental scholarship.

Ben Halpern chose German as a major because he “fell in love with the language after being an exchange student in Winterthur, Switzerland, in 2002.” He says, with amusement, “Most other German majors here at the university do not understand me when I speak because of my Swiss accent mixed with Hochdeutsch. I actually enjoy making jokes about others who do not speak German whenever I am with a friend who also speaks the language, because it is so nice to see people’s reactions when they do not understand you.” Halpern, however, is truly dedicated to his studies. In his free time he enjoys playing ultimate Frisbee, golf, Duck sports, and camping.

After graduation he would love to be able to combine his landscape architecture and German degrees and move to a German-speaking country to continue his studies. Originally from New Mexico, Halpern was able to use the scholarship money to pay not only for books, but also for out-of-state tuition. “The scholarship money has aided me as I continue my German language studies and has allowed me to save money in order to return to Switzerland and Germany.”

For Cara Pang, an exchange year in Hannover sparked her interest in the German language and culture. She spent the summer working at the German American Institute and at the Office of International Affairs in Nürnberg. After graduation she intends to move to Washington, D.C., and later land a job with the Department of State. She is not limiting herself to German, however; she has also studied in France and Italy and will start to learn Korean this fall. Regarding the scholarship, Cara says, “The money went straight into tuition, which really helped me out. At least now I have to come up with a little less.”


1990s

John Wagner '90 has been teaching German and Spanish in middle and high schools. He has a special request: Does anyone know the whereabouts of fellow Tübingen exchange student Hans-Michael Vermeersch?

Ingrid Hengherr '93 has been working for Microsoft for the past eight years. She functioned as a German language specialist and then as a project manager. She last worked as a localization program manager in the Windows International Content team.

Fumihiro Kuwahara '98 majored in German and is working as an interpreter-translator in Japan. She is "very glad to know that the graduates have, more or less, been utilizing their language ability for their career, just like me."

1980s

Judith Bode '80, assistant to the chair of the humanities department at Grant MacEwan College, Edmonton, Alberta, has been teaching German since 1990 at Grant MacEwan, and has managed the multimedia language lab since 1994.

Deborah Kaufman '81 received her master's degree in between traveling, working, and raising her daughter. She is currently working for a Portland-based organization that advocates for tobacco use prevention.

Donald Klotter '86 moved back to Oregon after his graduate work at Columbia University. He graduated with a degree in business, focusing on Western Europe. He is currently in Portland, Oregon, working for an asset management company.

Kathleen Petty, M.Ed. '88, is teaching German at Willamette High School in Eugene. She has fond memories of her summer 1975 grammar-review class in Friendly Hall with Professor Hahn. At the time, she and others in the class were preparing to leave for a year abroad at the University of Stuttgart.

1970s

Ken Travis. M.A. '74, has been teaching beginning German at a high school in Victoria, British Columbia.

Carol Simila '79 worked for several years as a high-school German teacher, six years as a college administrator, and ten years as an advocate for disabled people.

Karl Markgraf '80 is the director of the Center for International Education at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, where he manages the university’s international programs. He received his Ph.D. from Wisconsin in medieval German literature, a topic he pursued with the encouragement of Helmut Plant, who allowed him as an undergraduate to participate in some of his graduate courses.

Ben Doerge, M.A. '76, has been working as a civil and agricultural engineer for the USDA for the past twenty-two years. He is currently a geotechnical engineer at the National Design, Construction, and Soil Mechanics Center in Fort Worth, Texas. He is happily married, with six children.

1960s

David Benseler, M.A. '66, Ph.D. '71, Emile B. de Sauzé Professor of German at Case Western Reserve University, has retired. He left Oregon in 1969 to become an assistant professor at Washington State University. After thirty-six years of teaching at various universities, his plans for the future include enjoying the family, especially his four grandchildren, as well as reading, fishing, and golfing.

Rosemary Caterson, M.A. '68, has been teaching biology and occasionally German at Palos Verdes Peninsula High School. Also, she is looking for professors and fellow students from the years 1967–68.

Ken Hildebrandt, M.A. '69, retired in 1998 after twenty-nine years of teaching German at Lebanon Union High School.

1900s

Dear Alumni,

For the past three newsletters we have been able to use information some of you supplied to our Germanic Languages Graduate Survey. We have run out of new people to feature, however, so please get in touch with the department or simply submit your updated information to http://uoregon.edu/~gerscan/alumni.html. As much as you may enjoy reading about fellow students, they surely would love to hear from you.
Susan Anderson is working on a book about how notions of the foreign are dealt with in contemporary German prose and film. Recent articles, presentations, and courses explore diversity in Germany, unification and separation, and the epic tradition in modern narratives.

Kenneth Calhoon returns to full-time teaching following a one-year sabbatical, part of which he spent at the University of Bonn as a Humboldt research fellow. He delivered a lecture on Friedrich Schiller’s elegy “Der Spaziergang” at a conference, “Landschaftsgänge—Bewusstseinslandschaften: Zur Kulturgeschichte und Poetik des Spaziergangs,” held in June at the Museuminsel Hombroich (near Düsseldorf). His article “F. W. Murnau, C. D. Friedrich, and the Concept of the Absent Spectator” appeared in the German issue of Modern Language Notes. Another essay, “Charming the Carnivore: Bruce Chatwin’s Australian Odyssey,” is forthcoming. During academic year 2005–6, he will speak at the University of Chicago and the University of Washington. He is working impatiently on a book-length study whose working title is The Virtue of Things.

Elke Heckner is glad to be back in Eugene after her research leave in 2004–5. The American Association of University Women postdoctoral fellowship she received allowed her to work on her book, The Promise of Postmemory: Trauma, Holocaust Memory, and September 11, which is nearly complete. She presented her research in February at the Visual Cultures of the Holocaust Conference, Cornell University. In February 2006 she will give a talk at the UO, “Narrating the Nation Post-9/11: Spiegelman and Libeskind on Trauma and Memory.”

Dorothee Ostmeier organized a panel for researchers to discuss sociological, psychological, philosophical, and gender issues raised by the circulation of fairy tales. As research fellow of the Oregon Humanities Center in fall 2004, she presented several talks in Eugene and Germany on poetic texts, which the expressionist poets Else Lasker-Schueler and Peter Hille dedicated to each other between 1899 and 1904. She argued that this poetic dialogue questions the established western concept of the stable self by exploring the possibilities of cross-gendered and multicultural existences.

Michael Stern presented a paper, “The Ideology of Return: Collisions of Religious and Secular Discourse in August Strindberg’s Till Damaskus I.” His manuscript on Strindberg and Nietzsche is currently under review, and he is working on two projects: the first a comparative study of Nietzsche and the Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard, the second an explication of the origins of the “heart of darkness” motif in Western European letters. This year he will chair a panel on Nietzsche at one conference, and participate on another panel on the same subject at a different venue.

Matthias Vogel now coordinates first- and second-year German courses at the University of Oregon. He is also teaching two sections of GER 201 and honing the grammar skills of the German majors in GER 411, Advanced Language Training. He is also exploring distance-education courses for the Germanic languages and literatures department, and is coordinating and supervising the publicity and community outreach efforts of the department.

Remembering Beth Maveety

By Roger Nicholls

It was sad to hear the news of Beth Maveety’s death. I have very happy memories of her. When I first came to Eugene I was a little concerned about the level of the students, but I needn’t have worried. My first graduate seminar included two older students, Beth Maveety and Jean Woods, the wife of Bill Woods in the School of Music, two extremely capable people. Beth was a lovely student to have; she was always lively, helped keep the class discussions in balance, and wrote excellent papers.

Those were the days long, long ago when, after the appearance of the Russian satellite Sputnik, the government decided to invest, rather oddly perhaps, in foreign-language studies. This was under the National Defense Education Act, and we had many excellent and interesting students on graduate fellowships. Beth stood out in my mind—she was so competent, so friendly and easygoing. She later wrote her Ph.D. dissertation with me, “Three Phases of Comedy,” a study of archetypal patterns in three well known German comedies—a very interesting piece of writing. Again she proved an ideal student; she did all the work herself, and all I had to do was approve. By this time she and Stub, her kind and friendly husband, had become good friends with Barbara and me, and their friendship, I think, was one of the reasons our days in Eugene were so happy. Afterwards, Beth was employed at the university, partly in the department and partly in the College of Education teacher-training program. She was very popular with the students, who often spoke of how helpful she was. She also added a lot to the congeniality of department life.

It was a sad event when Stub died so young, leaving a big gap in many people’s lives. We were very sorry, too, when Beth decided later to move to Carmel, but it’s a beautiful place. Who can blame her?
Walther Hahn: Multum, non multa!

In his twenty-nine years of teaching at the UO, Professor Emeritus Walther Hahn not only profoundly helped shape our department, but also influenced and inspired a great number of students who got to enjoy his language and literature classes. Peter Gontrum remembers him as a “good and honest colleague,” saying, “Walther’s high standards in both language and literature courses were crucial at times to the success of our program.”

Originally from Berlin, Hahn had a very different idea of what his career should look like. He intended to study Eastern European languages and pursue a career in the foreign service (Auswärtiges Amt). However, the war changed his path and he continued a family tradition that reaches back to his grandfather: he decided to become a teacher. The excellence of the teachers he encountered as a high-school student sparked his interest in history and German literature, which he decided to pursue for a lifetime.

In 1946 his former high-school principal founded the Pädagogische Hochschule with the motto Multum, non multa as the guiding principle of teacher training. By this he meant a focus on the most thorough learning in just one field, not a superficial overview in several. Walther Hahn got his first teaching experience in Berlin public schools while simultaneously pursuing his pedagogical studies at the Freie Universität. Hahn and his wife Caecilia decided to emigrate and arrived in the United States in 1953. He enrolled at Eastern New Mexico University and took courses in English as well as history and type-writing. In fall 1953 he began an assistantship at Rice Institute and received his M.A. within one year. In 1954 he continued his graduate studies at the University of Texas and recalls with humor the mandatory course in Texas history.

In 1956, Hahn received his Ph.D. from the University of Texas, focusing on Gottfried Keller, and he started teaching as an instructor at Purdue University. After joining the UO faculty in 1961, Hahn taught German language and literature courses, a combination he had always wanted to teach. His areas of expertise were Goethe, the Romantic period, Lessing, and especially Novellenliteratur of the nineteenth century. In 1965 Hahn was promoted to associate professor with tenure, and in 1973 was awarded the status of full professor. He draws his teaching philosophy from a professor of methodology at the Pädagogische Hochschule in Berlin: first, “There is more than one way to skin a cat,” and second, “Each class needs an individual teaching approach.” Hahn successfully incorporated these guidelines while acting as second-year pedagogy adviser. “One time a graduate student came unannounced to observe my class,” he recalls. “Afterward he approached me, calling his experience an enlightening moment.”

In his active years at the university, Hahn served several times on the library committee and was responsible for ordering new German books and other materials. It took him several years of hard work to convince the library to order all the new German publications. Without his dedicated work, the library’s collection of German books would be poor indeed.

Upon retirement, Walther and Caecilia Hahn fulfilled their lifelong dream: they started to travel the world, and as a result they have set foot on every continent. Among many other places, their journeys brought them to Australia and New Zealand; Asia; Africa; and Antarctica, where the Hahns got to join in and march with the penguins; and South America, a place he describes as “incredibly fascinating.”

“Ever since our retirement we have been auditing courses and lectures at the UO to our heart’s content,” he says. “Most of the time we listen to the experts of other fields in which we have been interested for many years: geography, geology, history, cultural studies. And we have become friends with many professors to whom we listened. Most of the time our auditing has helped us to a better understanding of the numerous countries in which we have traveled.”

Meet the GTFs

All our graduate teaching fellows, whether they are from Germany, Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, or the United States, contribute to our vibrant academic and teaching environment. They instruct at all levels of language competency, assist with discussion groups, write insightful and engaging papers, present their research at national and international conferences, and support each other in their pursuit of advanced degrees.

To learn more about our GTFs, please visit the departmental webpage: http://uoregon.edu/~gerscan/.
GETTING AWAY
By Karen Fackler

Getting away, seeing new places, and making new friends; isn’t that what most of us think of at one point or another when we are taking a foreign language? Well, this summer I had the perfect opportunity to do just that. Through a new exchange program developed by the Department of Germanic Languages and Literature, the UO, and AHA International, in connection with the Carl Duisburg Centrum (CDC) in Germany, I had the chance to spend the summer abroad. This is an experience I would recommend to anyone considering an exchange program. With programs designed for every level of German ability, there is sure to be a fit for everyone.

The brand-new program is just waiting for people to take advantage of it. With the immense experience that the CDC can bring to the table from years of training foreign students to AHA’s reputable history, these two groups team up to make sure everyone has a rewarding experience. Every consideration is included—from transportation within your city, meals, and books to tons of optional free-time programs covering a broad range of interests. This means your trip is hassle- and worry-free. For example, not only was I met at the airport, but the next day a personal representative from the CDC also met me at my host family’s house and personally showed me around town, being sure to take me the route I would need to know to get back and forth to school and the local spots of interest. We were having so much fun she even bought me lunch!

I could go on and on about what a perfect match my host family was, the small class sizes, and excellent teachers who made every class day new and different, but there’s just too much to say. Be sure to ask about getting in on this exchange program and experience it for yourself!

CELEBRATING OUR UNDERGRADUATES

Years of hard work have paid off for many of our undergraduates who completed their academic work and are now off to put into practice what they have learned.

Nairobi Russ left for the big city of Seattle, where she is currently working for an insurance company. Lisa Miller has decided to take a break from school and will travel though Europe for a while. Alexis Karlsont-Martini, one of our student office workers, wants to continue applying her clerical skills in a job she has not yet landed.

Nick Schulte will continue at Oregon with a degree in education. Michelle Rowen is on her way to the East Coast, where she will attend graduate school in music. We will miss the cinematic expertise of Frank Pokorny. For several years he helped lead our undergraduate cinema classes.

Joel Young worked in our office until December 2004 and recently finished his journalism and German degrees. He then went to Cologne as an IE3 intern with Cox Photography to combine his skills and gain experience internationally. Joel currently works as a writer and photographer in Spokane, Washington.

Carl Wisecaver received a Fulbright Teaching Scholarship for Austria, where he is currently teaching business English. He and his wife Elizabeth greatly enjoy the Austrian countryside and plan on spending at least another three years there.

Karen Fackler graduated on the dean’s list and is now working for a federal credit union while considering pursuing a master’s degree in political science. Sara Boettcher and Eric Mullendore both graduated cum laude in winter. Eric spent the past eight months in Prague teaching English and is currently on a Fulbright Teaching Scholarship in Linz, Austria. Upon his return he plans to attend graduate school for international relations.

Eric Anderson graduated cum laude with a German major and business administration minor and will be going to Mali, Africa, to spend the next twenty-seven months doing small enterprise development with the Peace Corps. He hopes to work in community and economic development with nonprofit organizations in the future.

Eric Boes is working for the Montana Conservation Corps. Daniel Richmond, cum laude, received a Fulbright teaching award for Austria; however, he decided to continue immediately with graduate studies in philosophy at SUNY-Stony Brook.

David Whitton graduated magna cum laude. Anja Brahmer not only graduated summa cum laude, but also with the highest GPA in the entire College of Arts and Sciences. Cortnie Shupe received the Presidential and Bowerman scholarships, and the Dorothy Jane and William Joseph Green Foreign Language Scholarship. For this year she was awarded a full German Academic Exchange Service Scholarship and a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Germany. Most recently she was chosen to be among the Oregon Six, one of the highest awards bestowed at the UO.

Congratulations and good luck to all our undergraduates!
**Recent Events**

**“The Mendelssohns: Judaism in German Music; Music in German Jewry”**

By Jeffrey Librett

In spring 2005, the German Studies Committee (David Luebke, director; Jeffrey S. Librett, department liaison) organized its second annual event in collaboration with the Oregon Bach Festival. This year’s event explored the Mendelssohn Family, above all Felix Mendelssohn, in a musical-historical context. This topic was particularly appropriate to this year’s Oregon Bach Festival, which included the American Uraufführung of Felix Mendelssohn’s unfinished opera, “The Uncle from Boston.” It began with a live performance on May 19 by students and faculty members of the School of Music, and a brief overview of the work by festival executives George Evano and Royce Saltzman.

Many thanks to Charles Turley, especially, for providing the impetus behind this performance evening as well as lending his voice to the proceedings.

The following day, the discursive component of the symposium consisted of two parts. In the first part, R. Larry Todd and Jeffrey Sposato, two internationally renowned experts on Felix and Fanny Mendelssohn in musical and social history, discussed with interested faculty members their current biographically and musicologically oriented work. In the afternoon, these two scholars were joined by Michael Marissen, a prominent specialist in the religious politics of Baroque music, to present three lectures intended for a more general public. While Todd explored echoes of Bach in the music of Felix Mendelssohn (who, as is well known, rediscovered Bach at a time when he was largely forgotten or marginalized), Sposato discussed the question of Felix’s relationship to his family’s Jewish heritage—a heritage Felix largely attempted to leave behind—and Marissen examined the anti-Jewish implications of various Baroque passion settings. The symposium provided, for all involved, a stimulating day of reflection on the manifold relationships between music and the politics of religion in the period of the Enlightenment and Romanticism. In addition, it brought together students of musicology and German Studies in a way that helped us all to reflect on the specific character, virtues, and limitations of our various fields. In spring 2006, the German Studies Committee will continue its collaboration with the Bach festival, this time concerning a topic within the modernist period. These events not only further scholarly research, but also enable us to reach out in crucial ways into the broader community in and around Eugene.

Recent Events continued on following page
Wilkinson Delivers Talk
By Michael Stern

On May 9, we had the pleasure of hearing Lynn Wilkinson deliver a talk. A professor of French, Scandinavian, comparative literature, and women’s studies at the University of Texas at Austin, she is the author of the monograph *Dream of an Absolute Language: Swedenborg in French Literature, 1830–1870*. Wilkinson has also penned numerous articles that range across the disciplines. Her current project involves a study of women writing drama in the late nineteenth century.

Wilkinson’s presentation, “Autonomy and Failure: Ibsen, Bourdieu, and the Invention of the Intellectual,” was well received by an enthusiastic crowd. In it, she approached Henrik Ibsen’s drama *Rosmersholm* (1886) from a new angle. Availing herself of the late French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu’s *The Rules of Art: Genesis and Structure of the Literary Field* (1992), Wilkinson shed a different light upon *Rosmersholm* while using Ibsen’s play to raise new questions about Bourdieu’s theory. The issue raised by this uncommon comparison proved to be conversant with our own moment in time, for Wilkinson interrogated Ibsen’s depiction of two intellectuals, who both swam against the stream and drowned in it, through an exploration of the place and function of an intellectual in society. She asked if it was possible for an intellectual to stand against the currents of his or her time. In an age where the university, the center of public intellectual activity, is often criticized for having a political bias, her talk was timely indeed.

The crowd, which included University of Oregon faculty members, students, and members of the community, kept Wilkinson on the podium as they offered a wide array of questions and comments for her to field. She fielded them well, thereby providing us with the counterpoint to her thesis, an intellectual success. The department cosponsored the event along with the Oregon Humanities Center, the Comparative Literature Program, and the Friends of Scandinavian Studies.

Tawada and Takase Perform Diagonal
By Erin Rokita

There were almost no free seats left last spring in Gerlinger Hall’s alumni lounge when performance artists Yoko Tawada and Aki Takase visited campus to present Diagonal, a performance that playfully and innovatively combined music with poetry in Japanese, German, English, and Chinese. Tawada and Takase began working together five years ago after being introduced to each other through a journalist in Germany, where both performers currently live—Tawada in Hamburg and Takase in Berlin. Their work together began as an experiment to create unique combinations of words and sounds. It is a project that has been extremely successful.

Tawada was born in Tokyo in 1960 and studied literature at Waseda University and at the University of Hamburg, where she has lived since 1982 and worked as a poet, essayist, novelist, and performance artist. Tawada has received many awards for her works, including the Gunzo Prize for New Writers in 1991 for her short story “Missing Heels,” the prestigious Japanese Akutagawa Prize in 1993 for “The Bridegroom Was a Dog,” the Albert-von-Chamisso-Prize in 1996 for her contributions as a foreign writer to German culture and, most recently, in March 2005 she was awarded the Goethe-Medaille for her continued promotion of German language studies and international cultural awareness. Tawada is currently working on *Was ändert der Regen an unserem Leben?*—a book to be published by Konkursbuchverlag this year.

Jazz pianist and composer Takase was born in Osaka in 1948 and raised in Tokyo, moving to Berlin in 1987. She began taking piano lessons at the age of three and later pursued music studies at Tohogakuen Music University. In 1981 her musical talent brought her to Germany, where she performed at the Berlin Jazz Festival. Since 1988 she has performed piano duos with Alex Chadippenbach, toured with David Murray and Rudi Mahall, founded a septet, and worked as a solo performer. From 1997 to 2002 she was a guest professor at the Musikhochschule in Berlin. She has won many awards including most recently an award for her “St. Louis Blues,” which was performed in collaboration with the W. C. Handy Project.

Working together has been an enriching and exciting project for both Tawada and Takase as they explore ways to creatively fuse music with poetry and text. *Diagonal* is one such creative endeavor, where they not only join words with piano tunes but also with such sounds as clapping, rhythmically rubbing dried French bread against a cheese grater, and bouncing Ping-Pong balls on piano chords. Tawada’s surreal texts playfully merge multiple languages, experiment with the way language sounds, and wonderfully complement Takase’s contemporary music. Tawada describes their work as “ein Suchen ohne Konzept, ohne Ziel, ohne einen Weg, den es schon gibt, weil wir haben kein Vorbild, wir suchen einfach” (from an interview with Erin Rokita). The duo anticipates expanding their performance oeuvre, and perhaps we will be lucky enough to see them return to campus as their ideas develop.

The Eugene performance was sponsored by the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies and the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. Cosponsors included the Office of Academic Affairs, the Oregon Humanities Center, the Yamada Language Center, the Asian Studies Program,
Outings in beautiful Oregon, always attract including summer hikes and winter cross-country skiing, always attract a healthy number of people. There is an e-mail list for people who want to hear about upcoming outings and receive a trip report with pictures afterwards. For an example, visit http://uoregon.edu/~hplant/HIKES/ProxyFalls&D.Wright9.X.04/Pages/Image13.html.

3. Finally, we have the annual German language retreat, for which students may earn academic credit. This is mainly for undergraduates who want to experience total language immersion during an overnight stay at a rustic lodge. I employ the stick and carrot approach, with the carrot being fun folk dancing Friday night and a German sing-along Saturday afternoon (the stick: speak English and you get a no pass . . . leider!). For pictures of the German language retreat in April 2005, visit http://uoregon.edu/~hplant/RETREATS/Ger.Lang.Retr.22.-23.April2005.

During the 2005–6 school year, there will also be a small German language retreat (enrollment limit: twelve) south of Yachats that will last two nights, February 3–5, 2006. The regular, big retreat (enrollment limit: thirty-six) will again be at the Girl Scout lodge near Jasper for one night, April 28–29, 2006.

**The German Outreach Program**

The German department’s outreach program continues into its fourth successful year this winter. Heidi Walz will give a weekend seminar for the program, introducing various teaching styles and techniques to participating German majors. The program is supported by the generosity of the Goethe Institute. For a full-length article please refer to the online version of this newsletter.

---

**Upcoming Events**

The Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures has already planned a series of interesting lectures for this academic year. For a detailed and updated schedule of events, please click on our departmental webpage: http://uoregon.edu/~gerscan/news.html.

### Fall 2006

**November 8:** Ellen Rees, “The Transgendered Body in Contemporary Norwegian Documentary Cinema”

**November 16:** Kenneth Calhoon, “Sovereign Innocence: Schiller’s ‘Spaziergang’ and the Naive Spectator”

**December 2:** Jeffrey Librett, “Orientalist Metaphysics in Schopenhauer”

### Winter 2006

**February 20:** Elke Heckner, “Narrating the Nation Post-9/11: Spiegelman and Libeskind on Trauma and Memory”

Also in **February:** a lecture by Christine Ingebritsen, University of Washington

In **March:** Ellen Rees, “The Rhetorical Turn in Peer Gynt”

### Spring 2006

**Lectures** (dates to be announced): Helmut Schneider, University of Bonn; James Steakley, University of Wisconsin, Madison

**Symposium:** German Studies–Oregon Bach Festival
PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A GIFT TO
Germanic Languages and Literatures

Contributions of any size make a real difference. Here are five ways to give support:

1. $50 finances school materials and books
2. $100 could help with a visiting lecture
3. $500 contributes to a study-abroad experience
4. $1,000 helps fund a stipend-scholarship
5. $5,000 would help support an even better stipend-scholarship

Your contribution enhances educational opportunities for our students or research and instructional resources for our faculty. Please consider giving to one of our three established endowments: German Undergraduate Endowment, German Graduate Endowment, or the Departmental Gift Fund.

Checks can be made out to the UO Foundation, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, and mailed to the UO Foundation, PO Box 3346, Eugene OR 97403. Please indicate on the check for which fund it is intended. If you have questions or would like more information about any of our programs, please feel free to contact Susan Anderson at (541) 346-4056 (susana@uoregon.edu) or Heidi Shuler, director of development for humanities, at (541) 346-0044 (hshuler@cas.uoregon.edu).