MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

by Jeffrey S. Librett

Despite global economic meltdown and its complex deleterious effects on certain areas in higher education and within the society at large, the past year has thankfully been an excellent one for the Department of German and Scandinavian at the University of Oregon. (I mention highlights here, many of which are detailed in individual articles below.) Our undergraduate enrollments continue to be amongst the strongest in the country, our students continue to exhibit the enlivening enthusiasm and intelligence they traditionally display, and our faculty remains as productive in their research as they are devoted to their teaching. German Club, German Table, the German Language-Immersion Retreat, the Study-Abroad program, the undergraduate Teaching Practicum, and a German Film Series took place again this past year, and we will maintain these extracurricular and curricular enhancements as we move forward. Our graduate program is growing, especially on the Ph.D. level, and our linkages with other departments, both across the University of Oregon and across the United States and in Germany, continue to thrive and develop. Our second Special Issue of the open-access electronic journal, Konturen (http://konturen.uoregon.edu), entitled “Between Nature and Culture: After the Continental-Analytic Divide,” recently went live, and the third Special Issue, “Borderlines in/of Psychoanalysis,” should be online by early summer 2010. Finally, we continue to receive the crucial support of our alumni, whose contributions we deeply appreciate.

On the faculty, Susan Anderson, Alexander Mathäss had overlapping (and well-deserved) sabbatical leaves, while Ellen Rees was in Norway on an extended research leave. Thus, we were temporarily a bit short-handed, especially in Fall 2009. But the addition of Visiting Professor of Scandinavian David Gantt Gurley enabled us to continue to nurture student interest in Nordic languages and cultures, and the remaining faculty admirably filled in until the return of Alexander Mathäss and Susan Anderson this Winter, which we all greeted with a sigh of relief. Continued on following page.
moved to Florence, Oregon with some friends in the 1970's attempting to change my lifestyle and reevaluate my values. I lived in cabins with outhouses, listened to the stories of the loggers, fishermen/women, and cannery workers. You could buy a building on Bay Street in Florence for $20,000.

In the 1990's I went back to school to take computer classes and brush up on my office skills. I moved to Eugene and began working for the Bank of America as an auditor. My accounts were car dealerships in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and Northern California. It was a great experience, but I tired of living out of a suitcase 3-4 days a week.

I was hired at the UO in 2004 in the Romance Languages Department as their Graduate Secretary and Finance Tech. It is a wonderful department and gave me a great basis of knowledge for the Office Manager position with the Ger/Scan Dpt. I literally ‘jumped into’ this position 3 weeks before the Fall term, 2008 began.

Thanks so much to Jeffrey for all his patience and to Susan for the hours she spent (and continues to spend) helping Jeffrey and me get up to speed. Thank you GTFs and faculty for all your kindness and support. I know I am following in the footsteps of two excellent and well-loved managers, Kenny and Marcia, whose shoes are hard to fill, but I’ll try my best.

When not working I like to spend time with friends, playing ping-pong (when I can find a table), swimming, sewing, and taking road trips.

Disillusioned with L.A., the government, and life in general, I

English, and Romance Languages, as well as the Program in Comparative Literature, the Oregon Humanities Center and the College of Arts and Sciences). In the Fall of 2009, we held a two-day conference to commemorate the 20-year anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, called “Up Against the Wall” (again with support of various units within the University, as well as the Federal Republic of Germany itself, who sent the Cultural Attaché from the Consulate to attend). For the coming academic year, we are planning: a further international conference, on the topic of “Absolute Art: Abstraction and Figure in Music and Painting” (organized by Professor Kenneth S. Calhoon); and a Graduate Student Conference on “Cultures of/in Migration in Post-World War II German-Language Contexts.”

Finally, we suffered several very sad losses this year, amongst beloved alumni and friends of the department, who have also been generous donors. Barbara Nicholls, the wife of Emeritus Professor Roger Nicholls (who had passed away in 2007), suddenly fell ill and passed away in February 2009. We were all then further shocked and saddened to hear that Philip Hansen died suddenly in August 2009. Then, as we were looking forward to a visit with him, Dr. Joseph Kanter passed away early in 2010. We will sorely miss these devoted members of our community, and our hearts go out in hopes of consolation to their families and friends in mourning.

“A MESSAGE FROM BARBARA VER WEST” continued

Under the aegis of the interdepartmental German Studies Committee, a number of exciting events—two international conferences and several invited speakers—have taken place since our last Newsletter. In Spring 2009, in collaboration with the Oregon Bach Festival and with support from the School of Music and the Department of English, we held a Colloquium on “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” in music, theater, and film. Likewise in Spring 2009, we held a two-day conference on “Borderlines in Psychoanalysis, Borderlines of Psychoanalysis” (with support from the Departments of Philosophy,

I am honored and thrilled to be a part of the German and Scandinavian Department! This is a vibrant department with stellar faculty, bright, engaging grad students, involved emeritus faculty, and very active alumni. Everyone has been so welcoming, sharing and helpful; I could not have made it without all your support.

I was raised in Glendale, California, a suburb of Los Angeles between Burbank and Pasadena. My family moved to Glendale from Parchment, Michigan and I was born about a year later. I was the youngest of 4 children (3 girls and 1 boy). My father took a position as a sales manager for Foremost-McKesson and my mother began teaching mentally challenged kids at Pacoima Elementary when I began school. It was a great time to be a kid. Nobody’s door was ever locked, we played outside until dark, and we didn’t wear bike helmets.

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In Memoriam

Dr. Joseph Kanter

Dr. Joseph Kanter, an alumnus of this Department, passed away in February at the age of 89 as the result of a stroke, leaving a gift of a significant sum to the Department of German and Scandinavian in Honor of the late Professor Astrid M. Williams, a former Chair, whom he held in high esteem. He also recently purchased Memorial Bricks at the University of Oregon in honor of his late wife Phyllis and her sister Jean. Dr. Kanter received a B.A. from the University of Oregon in German Language and Literature in 1943, and a D.M.D. from the University of Oregon School of Dentistry in 1949. Dr. Kanter was born in Salt Lake City, but soon afterwards his family moved to the West Coast. He was the son of Eastern European Jewish immigrants. His father, who worked as a furniture salesman, came to this country from the Ukraine (Odessa), and his mother from Poland. After growing up in Los Angeles, Joseph Kanter began college at UCLA, then, after living for a year with his father in Portland, Oregon, was drawn to the University of Oregon, whose smaller size and friendly atmosphere he found more congenial than the larger and more impersonal UCLA. While at the U of O, he met his future wife Phyllis (the daughter of a logger from Coos County) one day under a tree near Deady Hall, a spot that he visited again recently when visiting the University. He studied German during World War II under Astrid M. Williams, then Chair of the Department, whose guidance he deeply appreciated and never forgot. After graduating from college in 1943, Dr. Kanter went to Naval Officer Candidate School in South Bend, Indiana at the University of Notre Dame, and served then for the Navy on a cargo ship in the Pacific Theater until the end of World War II. After the War he went to Dental School on the GI Bill. Dr. Kanter began his career with a practice in Springfield, Oregon, where his son David was born, then moved his family in search of greater opportunities to the San Francisco Bay Area, where he spent the remainder of his career and retired life, living for most of this time in El Cerrito. Dr. Kanter worked as a dentist in private practice for over fifty years, and also taught at the University of the Pacific Dental School in San Francisco, as well as at the University of California Dental School in San Francisco. Over the years, the Kanter family returned to Southwestern Oregon each summer to visit Phyllis’s family, and to enjoy the rivers and forests near the coast. In addition to his work and family, Dr. Kanter enjoyed playing golf, as well as collecting and fixing clocks, of which he possessed as many as one hundred at any given point. He was also a great lover of dogs, adopting three in succession in his later years. Dr. Kanter is survived by his son David, who is a retired Spanish teacher and flight instructor in the Bay Area, and David’s wife Jennifer, who are taking good care of Dr. Kanter’s last dog, a cocker spaniel. Dr. Kanter’s generous gift will be used to establish the Astrid M. William-Joseph Kanter Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. This Fellowship will provide crucial support to our Ph.D. candidates for many years to come, enhancing the success of our students and the attractiveness of our Department on a national level. We are very grateful for Dr. Kanter’s gift, and saddened by his passing.
Barbara Nicholls died in February 2009, only a few weeks after she had been diagnosed with metastasized pancreatic cancer. An enthusiastic supporter of the German program, Barbara participated in the intellectual and social life of the program for decades, hosting receptions at her home for visiting scholars and writers, faculty, and students. She also taught English for seven years at the UO and served for another nine years as an academic adviser to UO athletes. Barbara held a BA in English from the University of California at Berkeley. After graduation she worked as a research assistant for Dr. Timothy Leary at the Kaiser Psychiatric Clinic and helped him edit his book, *Interpersonal Diagnosis of Personality*. After marrying Roger Nicholls in 1955 she completed an MA degree in Psychiatric Social Work at the University of Chicago, while Roger taught German there. She and Roger moved to Eugene in 1964, when Roger began teaching in the German and Comparative Literature programs at the UO. Since arriving in Eugene Barbara served in the court of a Slug Queen, carried the Olympic torch, supported Sponsors, a non-profit agency that provides re-entry services for ex-offenders, participated actively in civic and arts affairs, and traveled widely with Roger. A celebration of her life took place in March 2009 in the Robinson Theatre on campus.

Barbara started a fundraising drive at the end of 2007 to create an endowed fellowship for graduate students in tribute to Roger, Professor Emeritus of German and former Head of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, who died in August 2007. Barbara's goal was to establish an endowment large enough to provide annual funding for a deserving doctoral student to take a term off from teaching and focus only on writing the dissertation. Within just a few months and through the generosity of current and former faculty, alumni, friends, and her children, Kate Nicholls and Geoff Nicholls, Barbara raised enough to allow the fund to award a $1000 scholarship to an outstanding new graduate student, Catherine Liggett. Barbara continued to work on increasing the endowment. We are grateful to Barbara for her enormous generosity and drive in setting up the Roger Nicholls Memorial Fund and hope that her dream for it will be realized. We are especially thankful to her for her many years of enlivening our departmental functions, supporting students, mentoring newcomers, and adding pizzazz to any event with which she was connected. We sorely miss her wit, vivacity, and charm. Barbara and Roger’s legacy continues through the Roger Nicholls Memorial Fund.
We learned with great sadness that Phil Hansen (BA 1967, JD 1970) died suddenly in August 2009. Phil was an indefatigable supporter of the Department of German and Scandinavian. He and Terri Hansen created three annual scholarships for students of German: the Philip and Teresa Hansen Scholarship for undergraduates (2 per year) and the Philip Hansen Graduate Scholarship (1 per year). This generosity has made an enormous difference in the lives of several outstanding students of German.

Hansen scholars include Travis Campbell and Zachary Tigert, Trish Bronte and Jessica Ruch, A. J. Leavitt and Maitreya, Jeff Graham and Jordan Wooley, Eryn Block and Kerry Marnell, and Josiah Simon. Phil was thrilled to help these students and enjoyed meeting and corresponding with them. He has left a wonderful legacy that will continue to support deserving students.

Phil worked his way through college—delivering pizzas for Tinos, serving meals and washing dishes at the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority house, and laboring summers in the Diamond A (Agripac) cannery. He wished to recognize and assist students who have a love of German and financial need. He became a corporate tax attorney and a CPA, practicing in San Francisco. Phil retired in 1998 and kept busy traveling, walking, hiking, cooking, and acting as the alumni representative for the Class of 1970 to the University of Oregon School of Law. Phil also enjoyed photography and recently completed Italian language courses at the College of Marin.

Phil’s kindness did not end with his scholarships. After learning that there existed no written history of our department, he authored The History of Germanic Languages at Oregon, 1878-2008, a magnificent undertaking that demanded careful research. With Terri as his research assistant Phil made several trips to the UO Knight Library’s and Multnomah County’s archives, scoured the internet, and conducted several interviews with retired faculty from the programs in German and Romance languages. He aimed to write a lively, interesting book, and the result is a fascinating narrative of the personalities and events that have shaped both the UO and our department. (See http://www.uoregon.edu/~gerscan/news/currentnews.htm for information on how to purchase a copy.) This project was so impressive that the Director of the Robert Clark Honors College accepted it as fulfilling the requirements for an honors thesis, which Phil had been unable to finish before graduating because of the demands of the 1967 champion track team, of which he was a member. Phil was a marvelous booster of our program and also contributed his writing and research talents to penning a column on alumni for last year’s Newsletter.

Phil and Terri delighted us with their visits each year. Phil’s death is a tremendous loss for all who knew him and for our department and university in general. We will always remember him with gratitude and fondness. His memory will remain alive through his scholarships, his book, and in our hearts.

In Memoriam

Philip Hansen (March 30, 1926-February 4, 2009)
Undergraduate Scholarships and News

Grant Barba–Beth Maveety Study-Abroad Scholarship

I began studying German in the fall of 2007 in my first year at the University of Oregon. At the recommendation of my first-year German teacher I decided to spend the last half of my freshman year in an intensive language program in Tübingen, Germany. Here I truly fell in love with the German language and culture—I traveled extensively, made new friends and fully immersed myself in German. I consider this time in Tübingen to be one of the happiest times of my life. I continued my study of German at Oregon, but decided that in order to achieve and maintain the level of German I desired, I would have to continue my studies in Germany, which led me to apply to spend my junior year abroad.

Now I am happily back in Tübingen, studying both German and Political Science. While I do not yet know where my studies will lead me, I plan on keeping German in my life, perhaps in international politics or business. I have learned so much abroad and attribute a great deal of my personal development to my time spent in Europe. Upon entering college I could never have guessed the extent to which German would influence me, but I am so thankful that it has led me where it has, and look forward to what lies ahead.

Eryn Block–Philip and Teresa Hansen Scholarship

When I was sixteen years old, I felt it was time to broaden my horizons and spend a year in Germany. Before that, I had never been outside the US, but after the exhilarating experience I had there, I caught the travel bug. After studying at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana last term, I am now in Burkina Faso, West Africa. There I took part in an African dance and drumming workshop for one month and am doing an internship working at an orphanage, four schools where I teach dance, and at the Burkinabe Red Cross where I am creating a database for all employee information. When I return to the US this spring, my junior year, I will continue my two majors, International Studies (with a focus on Diplomacy, International Relations and Africa) and German.

Next year, I plan on applying for a grant from the DAAD to finish and publish my thesis for the Clarks Honors College in Germany and hopefully use my proficiency in German when I join the field of diplomacy, since German is one of the official and most widely used languages of the European Union. Speaking German and exploring the world are two of my passions and I am so grateful for the opportunity to continue my studies with the German Department at the University of Oregon.

Kerry Marnell–Philip and Teresa Hansen Scholarship

I chose to learn German because my brother assured me it was the “coolest” foreign language offered at Roseburg High, and that decision has definitely affected my life. My
high school German teachers, Linda Bahr and Klay Taylor, were truly excited about the language and culture, and they encouraged me greatly. I traveled with them for four weeks on a cultural exchange program to Lüneburg, Germany. As a high school senior I received a Congress-Bundestag scholarship to attend high school in Germany, and lived for a year with the Familie Kuhlmann on an asparagus farm in Kalkriese, Niedersachsen. After initial frustration, I woke up one day and realized “Ich kann Deutsch!” My experiences during the exchange year motivated me to major in German at the University of Oregon. I spent my junior year studying at the Université de Fribourg in Switzerland, where I improved my French, and destroyed my High German with “Schwiizerdütsch.” I will spend next year as a teaching assistant in English classrooms in Innsbruck, Austria, before pursuing a master’s degree in either teaching or professional translating/interpreting. Ultimately I plan to become a German teacher, in hopes that German will remain the coolest foreign language in high school.

German Department. I am grateful not only for the financial aid, but for the opportunity to be a part of a department that encourages its students and offers so much.

Jessica Ruch—Peace Corps in the Ukraine

German is part of my family heritage and since birth I’ve had small bits of German influence here and there. My mother made apfelkuchen and we attempted to sound out the Max und Moritz story from a young age. My family heritage influenced my decision to begin learning German in High School and a two week GAP exchange in Mainburg, Germany inspired me to begin studying German at the University of Oregon. My year abroad in Heidelberg, Germany only strengthened my interest in international cultures and language and after graduating from the UO with a double major in German and International Studies I knew I wanted to pursue a career in International Development and was thrilled to be part of the Peace Corps to begin new adventures in Ukraine.

Thea Samson—Departmental Scholarship 2009

I started at the UO wanting to study medicine, but was soon drawn to the German department and switched majors promptly. My decision was due the role Germany and the German language had played in my life due to my Rotary International Exchange. Now, after two years, I am even more enthusiastic about building connections within the German community in Eugene, continuing to take German culture and language courses, and in being involved with the German department at the UO. My education and experience have greatly influenced my current extracurriculars, interests and career goals.

This spring term I have the unique chance to study abroad at the Pedagogic University in Ludwigsburg, Germany. I am looking forward to visiting Germany again, this time with greater language competency and a stronger academic understanding of German culture. The last two years I have had several teaching opportunities and although I cannot say exactly how I will use German in my future, I am confident it will include teaching either German language or culture. My travel and study endeavors have been made possible partially to the scholarship I received from the German Department. I am grateful not only for the financial aid, but for the opportunity to be a part of a department that encourages its students and offers so much.
Amanda Jorgenson
Amanda is currently in her last term of the German M.A. program at the University of Oregon. Her areas of interest range from Modern and Existential literature to literature from the turbulent 1960s Student Movement. Amanda's thesis research focused heavily on themes of alienation and self-discovery in Uwe Timm's *Heißer Sommer*, which takes place in the midst of the West German student revolution of 1968. She had the opportunity to present some of her research at a conference at University of Massachusetts at Amherst titled, “Falling Walls, Changing Borders”, in February 2010.

Jacob Barto
Jacob is currently completing his MA in German and in the fall will begin the PhD program. His research has mainly centered on cinema as a space in which politics and philosophy intersect, although his interests are quickly growing to include theories of history and modernity. In May he will present a talk at the University of Washington on adaptation entitled “Demystification through Adaptation: Benjamin’s Concepts of Allegory and *Märchen* in *Deutschland, bleiche Mutter*.”

Clemens Ackermann
Inspired by Thomas Mann’s work *Doktor Faustus*, Clemens is now focusing his research on the Modern. The primal elements of this research are intertextuality in Modern works and the individual/subjectivity in the Modern. Clemens is also continuing his research on the drama of the Goethezeit. He is currently analyzing the forms and functions of external stage directions in Goethe’s *Faust I*.

Felix Rhein
Felix is currently interested in forms of identity construction and identity narratives in the context of minority representation in multicultural settings. His current research is based on writers such as Talal Asad, Judith Butler, Charles Taylor and Anthony K. Appiah but also includes Nietzsche as a source of inspiration for the above mentioned discourse. His most recent research was concerned with a speech by the Turkish Prime Minister and the issue of assimilation in relation to forms of identity construction in the liberal state.

Josiah Simon
In May of 2009 Josiah presented the paper “Biographie als Form: Die Überreste des Historikers in Rosenzweigs Leben und Werk” at the International Rosenzweig Congress in Paris. In the past year he also translated an essay by Wolfdietrich Schmied-Kowarzik, the former president and co-founder of the Rosenzweig Society, entitled “Philosophy of Revelation. Remarks on Schelling, Jaspers and Rosenzweig” which will appear later this year in a Festschrift for Leonard H. Ehrlich. In March of 2010 Josiah presented the paper “Der kritische Sammler: Ein Berührungspunkt zwischen Nietzsche and Benjamin” at the 18th Annual Interdisciplinary German Studies Conference at the University of Berkeley. He will begin writing his dissertation this coming Fall on the early Rosenzweig and philosophy of history.

Rob Mottram
Rob is finishing up his first year in the Ph.D. program. His interests continue to expand, but focus primarily on 19th century literature and philosophy. Currently he is pursuing the productive interweaving of Novalis and Nietzsche.

Catherine Liggett
Catherine just completed a Master’s thesis, “Herr Mikrokosmus: Faust as Astrologer,” exploring the historical status of astrology through several versions of the Faust myth from the sixteenth-through twentieth-centuries. Her main research interests include the history and philosophy of science and the “occult,” German idealist philosophy, and aesthetic theory. In her life outside of departmental activities, she manages a dance studio, hosts and DJs weekly dances, teaches dance and DJ workshops, goes out Argentine tango dancing, does freelance translation work, tutors German, and cooks delicious vegan edibles.
In spring and fall of 2009, our series of annual German Studies Committee conferences continued. We maintained the theme of “border”-analyses that has guided recent conferences, specifying it more narrowly in psychological categories, then in political ones. The conference in spring 2009 focused on the legacy of the Austrian-Jewish inventor of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud, and focused on “Borderlines in Psychoanalysis, Borderlines of Psychoanalysis.” At the center of the debate was the psychoanalytic concept of the 
borderline personality disorder, a concept that developed out of earlier attempts to define the limits between “neurosis” and “psychosis,” terms that represent in turn the early twentieth century nosological form of the older opposition between “reason” and “madness.” Several prominent psychoanalysts and literary-philosophical scholars presented fascinating papers on this topic, and on its implications for psychoanalysis in general—the problematic but powerfully significant Freudian legacy—in our own day.

In Fall 2009 the German Studies Committee turned its attention to a borderline topic as “concretely” anchored in the real as one could like, namely the question of actual walls around cities and nations, in their historical and contemporary dimensions. We were commemorating, of course, the 20 year anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall. Professors David Luebke and Jeffrey Librett, the conference organizers, took an international approach to this topic, and invited speakers to address questions of the economic, political, and identity-related aspects of such real walls. To be sure, there were several talks about the Berlin Wall, and the literature and film generated on both sides of that divide, but there were also contributions on the Great Wall of China, the division constituted by Alsace, and the walls between Israel and Palestine and between the US and Mexico. With the support of the Federal Republic of Germany and representation from the Consul in San Francisco, the conference was well-attended, informative, and thought-provoking.

The collaboration of the German Studies Committee with the Oregon Bach Festival continued in late February 2009 with a colloquium on “A Midsummer Night’s Dream: Elaborations as Music, on Stage, and in Film.” This event prepared the way for the production of Felix Mendelssohn’s version of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” in the Oregon Bach Festival in early summer. Lectures by our own Professor Kenneth S. Calhoon, by Professor Marshall Brown from the University of Washington, and by participants in the Oregon Shakespeare Festival production of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” enabled us to mix academic approaches to music and film with dramaturgical and choreographic perspectives.

In April 2010, our GSC/OBF collaboration extended itself with a return visit by David Yearsley (Cornell University), who lectured on “What is a Sängerin? – Anna Magdalena Bach, Coffee and Musical Women in Enlightened Leipzig,” then performed an organ recital at Beall Hall.

In addition to these programs, in 2010 we had the good fortune of hearing Professor Thomas Schestag present invited lectures first on “Proust and Vermeer” and then on “Showing the Way (Hölderlin and Hebel).” Professor Schestag’s meticulous, creative, and philosophically informed readings of poetic and visual texts provided an exemplary instance of humanities scholarship for all in attendance, which included German students and faculty as well as people from Comparative Literature, Art History, and English.

Finally, in May 2010, we will have a visit from Professor Sabine Kebir, scholar, author, and journalist, who will speak on gender and theater, as well as on multiculturalism in today’s Germany, with particular reference to Muslims in Germany.
**Recent Faculty Research**

**Susan Anderson** gave a talk in June at the University of Bern on images of the beach in German and Austrian texts at the conference “Twixt Land and Sea: The Beach in Literature, Film, and Cultural Theory.” She published an essay on German cultural notions of water in a volume of interdisciplinary scholarship on ideas of water and a journal article on translation and meaning in the German writing of contemporary author Yoko Tawada. She also taught a special seminar for freshmen on metaphors of disease in German and American literature and film. She spent several weeks in the summer and fall conducting research at the Deutsches Literaturarchiv in Marbach.

**Ken Calhoon** delivered a paper in March at a conference sponsored by the Technical University at Dresden. The paper, “Die Judenbuche und die Narbe des Odysseus,” is forthcoming in a volume whose title is also that of the conference: *Magie der Geschichten: Schreiben, Forschen und Reisen in der zweiten Hälfte des 19. Jahrhunderts.* Another essay, “Das Gift und der Blick der Liebe,” has just appeared in the volume “Es träbt mein Auge sich in Glück und Licht”: Über den Blick in der Literatur. In addition to his ongoing book-project entitled Affecting Grace, he is at work on an essay on Werner Herzog’s *Nosferatu.*


**Jeffrey S. Librett** has recently published two articles: “From the Sacrifice of the Letter to the Voice of Testimony: Giorgio Agamben’s Fulfillment of Metaphysics,” in *Diacritics* Special Issue on “Taking Exception with the Exception,” 37.2-3 (Summer-Fall 2007): 11-33; and “‘With these Repulsive Things Indissolubly Bound’: Franz Kafka as Primal Scene,” in *American Imago: Psychoanalysis and the Human Sciences* 64.4 (Winter 2007): 513-533. He has also recently given invited lectures on various aspects of psychoanalysis, and has edited and introduced the first two Special Issues of *Konturen.* His book manuscript in progress is entitled *Orientalist Metaphysics: Typology and Panic in Modern German Letters.*

**Alexander Mathás** is the editor of a collection of essays that explore the centrality of self-reflection for the literary outpouring of creativity in late eighteenth and nineteenth-century German literature, philosophy, and aesthetics. The volume, entitled *The Self as Muse: Narcissism and Creativity in the German Imagination 1750-1830,* has been accepted for publication with Bucknell University press and is scheduled to appear in 2010. In April 2009 he presented a lecture on “Narcissism and the Sublime” at the annual German Studies Symposium, entitled Borders in Psychoanalysis, Borders of Psychoanalysis.


In January **Ellen Reese** got started as a research fellow at the University of Oslo in the Department of Linguistics and Scandinavian Studies. She has a grant to work on a book about representations of cabins in Norwegian literature. During the year she has been working on extending her expertise back into the eighteenth century, when the simple cabin first appears as an important...
trope. Reese presented papers at the SASS conference in Madison, WI (on Henrik Ibsen’s *When We Dead Awaken*) and the NordLit conference in Stockholm, Sweden (on Erlend Loe’s *Volvo lastebiler*), and gave a plenary address on Knut Hamsun’s *Wanderer Trilogy* at Hamsun 2009: Transgression, Worlding and Remediation in Oslo. She has also presented her preliminary findings on the cabin trope at three venues: a workshop for the Comparative History of Nordic Literary Cultures hosted by Brigham Young University, a seminar in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies of Culture at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, and a presentation to the department at the University of Oslo. She had one refereed article in *Norsk litterær årbok*, and a couple of book reviews published. She feels that she has won most of her battles against Norwegian bureaucracy this year, and is now in possession of both a work permit and a driver’s license (which she assures you is no small feat!).

In November, **Matthias Vogel** co-chaired a panel on TA coordination at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) conference in San Diego, where he also gave a presentation on testing standards in a multi-section German program. In fall, he was elected vice-president of the Oregon Association of Teachers of German (OATG) and in April, he was one of the panelists for the first OATG Mini-Conference in Portland, where he presented on the Zertifikat Deutsch exams in Oregon.

**VISITING PROFESSOR OF SCANDINAVIAN**

**Gantt Gurley**

Gantt Gurley is from a small Cajun community in Opelousas, Louisiana. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in 2007. Before coming to Oregon he lectured at the University of California’s Scandinavian Department and was a Harry Starr Fellow in Judaica at the Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard University. His forthcoming book *Meïr Aaron Goldschmidt and the Poetics of Prose* examines one of Denmark’s greatest nationalistic writers as first and foremost a Jewish artist, exploring his relationship to the Hebrew Bible and later Rabbinical traditions such as the Talmud and the Midrash as a form of poetics. He is currently working on two future publications. The first is a study of the Wandering Jew legend in Long Romanticism, from Goethe and Schiller to Andersen and Hawthorne. His research and teaching interests include ancient and medieval song culture, biblical narrative, the birth of the novel, Romanticism, Old Norse literature, the lyrical mode, Hans Christian Andersen, and notions of religiosity in the Danish Golden Age.

He has recently given two lectures: The first was at the Association for Jewish Studies, where he gave a paper for a panel entitled “In the Skin of a Jew: H.C. Andersen’s masterpiece *Ahusveras*.” The second, entitled “Meïr Aaron Goldschmidt and the Birth of Jewish Realism,” was at Harvard University’s Center for Jewish Studies. In April 2010 he gave a paper at the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies called “Goldschmidt and the Golem.”

Away from the university life, Gantt enjoys gardening and cooking, African football, and 7th grade French homework. He is an avid road racer and time trialist and has really enjoyed the beautiful setting of Eugene and the surrounding landscapes. This summer he looks forward to seeing more of Oregon.