Germany and Exile

A GRADUATE CONFERENCE

On February 18-19, 2011, the Department of German and Scandinavian held its first Graduate Student Conference on the topic “Germany and Exile: Post World War II Migrations of Culture, Art and Thought.” The graduate students of the Department of German and Scandinavian planned the conference with the help of students from the Comparative Literature program. The idea first developed in 2009 when current Ph.D. and M.A. students tossed around the idea of hosting their own conference. Almost all of the students had participated in other conferences before and were curious about organizing their own – a practical experience that should not be underestimated. Together Clemens Ackermann, Jacob Barco, Chet Lisiecki, Judith Lechner, Josiah Simon and Maria Weiße formed an organizing committee and met frequently over the last year to sort out the details.

Department head Jeffrey Librett and Susan Anderson helped tremendously in writing a proposal for funding sponsored by the College of Arts and Science. With this proposal, along with a “to-do list” and a guide on how to organize a conference, the committee had a step-by-step description for which tasks to consider while organizing. The preparations, from writing the “call for papers” to organizing a room and inviting a keynote speaker, took almost a year.

Professor Michael Allan from the Comparative Literature program gave the opening presentation Friday evening with the provocative title “Fundamentally German? Reflections on Multiculturalism in a Provincial Europe,” raising questions that concerned the current debates about – as suggested by current chancellor Angela Merkel – the supposed failure of a multicultural society in Germany and in Europe overall.

Saturday’s main event in Gerlinger Alumni Lounge consisted of eight presentations, including the keynote speech by Professor Jules Simon from the University of Texas at El Paso, who presented a talk titled “Hannah Arendt: Exiled from German Philosophy to Sprachdenken and a Vita Activa.”

In the first panel, which was hosted by Ph.D. candidate in Comparative Literature Chet Lisiecki, current M.A. student Maria Weiße explored the concept of “Heimat” in German writer Walter Kempowski’s writings. The second speaker, Kathrin Seidl-Gómez, a Ph.D. candidate from Vanderbilt University, introduced the audience to Ernesto Volkening’s work as essayist and literary critic during his exile in Colombia.

The second panel, hosted by Ph.D. student in German Jacob Barco, included Judith Lechner, a Ph.D. student in German, who presented her work on the expatriate Turkish writer Emine Sevgi Özdamar.

What’s Inside

Germany and Exile.................................1
National Danish Team........................2
Message from Susan Anderson..........2
Message from Barbara West.............3
Jörg Foth.........................................3
Undergraduate News........................4
Adjunct Instructors.............................6
Scandinavian Day...............................7
Graduate News.................................9
Faculty Research..............................10
Conference.................................11
Continued

and her idea of language transformation and identity (de)construction. Antonella Cassia, Ph.D. candidate at the University of Arizona, shared her research on German travel literature and the representation of contemporary Saudi-Arabia in blogs written by German expatriates. In the last panel, Josiah Simon, Ph.D. candidate in German, introduced Katy McNally, an M.A. student at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, who gave a talk about Maxim Biller and his description of the exile experience in selected short stories as well as his use of self-irony as a form of rebellion. Elisabeth Weber, Ph.D. candidate at Vanderbilt University, presented her work on Elisabeth Lang-gässer’s concept of German identity between the experience of being a “forbidden” writer during the Third Reich and her work in the FRG after the war. Nicholas Reynolds, Ph.D. student at the department of German and Scandinavian, provided the audience with an insight into the struggles of philosopher Herbert Marcuse, who fled Germany during the Third Reich only to experience further political hardship as a Marxist during the McCarthy era in the United States of America. All of the talks provided fascinating insights into different forms of exile, expatriate experiences, and the methods by which various writers, thinkers and philosophers dealt with their fate of being away from their “home” country and “Heimat.” Questions raised during the conference concerned the problem of the possibility of a stable identity linked to a nationality or a certain language and language use. Is it still possible in times of globalization and the digital age to hold on to such concepts, or do concepts of hybridity replace the notion of a stable self? Further, what role does language play in this context? Most of the writers and thinkers discussed not only had to leave their former “home” country behind but also could not pursue their profession in their native tongue.

MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM DEPARTMENT HEAD

by Susan Anderson

Welcome! Velkommen! Wilkommen!
The Department of German and Scandinavian hosted two conferences this year. The first, “Germany and Exile - Post-World War II Migrations of Culture, Art & Thought,” took place in February, expertly organized by our graduate students. The second, “Abstraction and Materiality in the Arts, Literature, and Music,” was in April. Kenneth Calhoon coordinated the fascinating talks by scholars from the UO and across the US. In addition, Harriet Bagdade, Ben Lode, Mikko Hoglund, and Lona Murphy organized in February the first Scandinavian Day, at which students heard presentations and participated in dances, songs, and games from the Nordic countries. You can learn more about these and other events in the following pages.

We are excited about two new assistant professors joining our department in the fall: Gant Gurley (UC-Berkeley), a specialist in Scandinavian Studies, who has been teaching here as Visiting Assistant Professor for the past two years, and Katharina Loew (U Chicago), an expert in German cinema, who will have a joint appointment in German and in Cinema Studies. We are also happy to welcome Lona Murphy and to welcome back Camilla Mortensen, both instructors of Danish this year.

The graduate students in German have been actively publishing scholarly articles, presenting at conferences, and helping with our faculty searches and recruitment of new graduate students. We also had a record number of German majors during the last academic year, over 80. You can learn what some of them have been up to in this newsletter.

Our hearts go out to Helmut Plant for the loss of Carol Hamrick Plant, who died on March 13. Carol hosted for years an annual departmental New Year’s celebration and welcomed untold numbers of graduate students and majors who stopped by the Plants’ home on their way to hikes, retreats, or other activities that Helmut organized.

Helmut led an immersion weekend retreat in Spring 2010 and did so again this spring, much to the delight of our students.

I am happy to announce that Jeffrey Librett will be starting his second term as Department Head after his sabbatical ends this summer. We all look forward to having him back.

Please feel free to visit the department and let us know what you are doing.

The National Danish Gymnastics Team took Eugene/Junction City by storm when they visited back in November 2010. The gymnasts, 14 men and 14 women, donated their time as unpaid ambassadors for their country to travel the world and share the Danish tradition (more than 100 years in the field). Vestas, the Danish company leading the way in wind energy, has sponsored the team for the past three years (www.vestas.com). Some of the team members visited the UO campus and the Dance department, where they shared their skills with students, faculty, and interested members of the community. The grand performance was held at Junction City High School, and attendance was so great that the actual performance was delayed in order to bring in more seating. It was truly a fantastic experience!

For more information about the team, go to www.ndpt.dk.
(Provided by Lona L. Murphy of Danish/Scandinavian Program)
A MESSAGE FROM BARBARA VER WEST

2010-2011 has been a great year for the department in many ways. We added Ger 311, 312 & 313 and Scan 340 (Gantt Gurley) to our Summer 2010 schedule, and they were a great success. We’ll add most of them again to this summer’s offerings; Gurley will offer Scan 354 (Norse Mythology) instead of the 340 this summer. Scan 315 (Nordic Cinema) will also be taught in the summer by one of our Scandinavian instructors during the second session as to not conflict with Gurley’s course and the German Cinema course we offer in summer. Enrollments in summer session are a major part of our annual budget, so the added courses mean more income and opportunities for the department.

In 2010 we were able to replace three of the four dated, ailing computers and printer in the main GTF office, much to the GTFs’ relief. We also replaced the two office computers with updated versions that can handle all of the storage for our electronic files and course flyers/promotion. Three members of the tenured faculty had funding to replace their computers at little or no expense to them personally, thanks to CAS’s new equipment program. This program will continue so that every tenured faculty member is able to update his/her computer every three to four years without a huge financial burden.

We were very pleased with the outcome of the conference, “Abstraction and Materiality in the Arts, Literature & Music,” on April 14-15 in Gerlinger Lounge. We also sponsored the German Graduate Conference in February 2011, titled, “Germany and Exile: Post-World War II Migrations of Culture, Art and Thought.” The grad conference was a great success, and the grad students had many compliments on their fantastic job of organizing the conference.

It was great to work with Susan Anderson this year as Interim Department Head, and I look forward to working with Jeffrey Librett again when he returns. Thanks again for being such a great department to work with and for!

JÖRG FOTH

German filmmaker Jörg Foth visited campus on October 12-13 as part of a lecture tour across the U.S. and Canada organized by the DEFA (Deutsche Film Aktiengesellschaft) Film Library (of East German film) at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Mr. Foth’s presentation, “East German Cinema: Stories and Styles,” which he gave to students of the Postwar Germany class and other students and faculty from across campus, stimulated a lively discussion about life in East Germany. The following day, Mr. Foth led a roundtable discussion on international filmmaking with students and faculty from Cinema Studies and German. He showed clips from some of his films, including the avant-garde Letztes aus der DaDaeR (1990).

Jörg Foth studied directing from 1972 – 77 in Potsdam at the Hochschule für Film und Fernsehen. He collaborated on a number of films, but he received permission to produce only a few of his own films. In 1982 he helped found a committee to foster the next generation of GDR filmmakers and was elected chair of the committee. The members submitted a manifesto of their ideas to reform filmmaking in the GDR, but they were unable to present it publicly. Since unification Mr. Foth has continued his filmmaking, including documentary and television films. He also directs theater productions. He enjoyed very much his visit to Eugene and delighted the Postwar Germany students by adding a personal dimension to their study of East German culture.
I first found interest in the German language and culture in high school, where I studied it for four years under an energetic and engaging teacher. The more I learned about Germany and the more comfortable I became with the language, the more I wanted to continue my studies and expand my knowledge. When I came to the University of Oregon, I wasn’t completely sure of my major and remained undeclared for two years while still furthering my studies in German. Finally I realized that I wanted to pursue a career in what I was obviously already immersed and interested in. Studying German has gone much farther than merely learning another language for me; it has helped me to better understand another culture, opened my mind to new ways of thinking and perspectives, and expanded my knowledge of the world and humankind in general. I think this bridging of the culture gap is what is so unique to language majors and why we continue to study German.

Once I graduate, I plan to go to Germany through whatever means necessary, whether that be for an internship, job or life experience, and I look forward to what lies ahead of me.

European adventures possible. I love feeling my horizons expanding and my knowledge of myself, and of the world around me, constantly growing.

My career goals are still not quite clear. I am certain, however, that whatever I end up doing, it will have something to do at least with German, if not with both my foreign languages. I love the idea of teaching languages at either the high school or college level, or perhaps going to Germany and teaching English or Spanish there.

My love for German began with the lullabies and nursery rhymes my mother taught me when I was tiny. Since then, it has become the connection to my family in Germany as well as a key to understanding my own cultural identity. It was natural to begin studying German at the university, although I did not initially intend to major in it. I simply wanted to fill in the huge gaps in my knowledge, especially of German grammar.

I am now a junior at the Robert D. Clark Honors College at the UO, pursuing majors in German, Spanish, and Comparative Literature. At the moment, I am studying abroad in Oviedo, Spain, until the end of May, and then I will be in Germany until September. I am so incredibly grateful for my German scholarship for helping make these fantastic European adventures possible. I love feeling my horizons expanding and my knowledge of myself, and of the world around me, constantly growing.

My career goals are still not quite clear. I am certain, however, that whatever I end up doing, it will have something to do at least with German, if not with both my foreign languages. I love the idea of teaching languages at either the high school or college level, or perhaps going to Germany and teaching English or Spanish there.

I have a tendency to move around a bit. I’m not the most erratic but I never really stuck around in a town enough to feel like I fit in until I got to Banks, a tiny little farming community near Portland. The high school offered only Spanish, but not being a big fan of sports, I decided to motivate myself to pursue a dream I had had since I was a child observing Germans in movies: I wanted to learn the language. The first step I took was a self-teaching guide from Barnes & Noble, which led to essentially any form of flash cards, books, or book and tape/CD offerings I could find. My professors at Portland Community College asked me if I had grown up in Germany, though I had yet to take
the opportunity to go there. The elegance and strength of the language in music and poetry is my main interest. I have been studying literature at the University of Oregon for a couple years now, and my favorite part of my major thus far would have to be reading and examining plays and works from authors who are extremely well known in some realms but with whom I was completely unfamiliar. I hope to pursue my studies of German literature indefinitely, with the ultimate goal of a Ph.D. and a position in a German department somewhere that, if I can help it, will involve many poetry discussions. Outside of German, I like to play music and work on writings of my own. I have been a bassist for over five years, and I have been drawing for as long as I can remember. Another goal of mine is to get to Germany shortly after I graduate so that I can truly experience what Germany has to offer and use what I’ve been studying for the last several years.

Sage R. Limpp-Wagner-Beth Maveety Study Abroad Scholarship

I first became interested in German as a language when I was a junior in high school. I was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Sherwood to study in Graz, Austria, for a year. Before this, I had never taken a German course or studied German in school. However, as I arrived in Austria, I was thrust into the German world and culture. Since then, I have studied German at the University of Oregon and just recently returned from studying for six months in Freiburg, Germany, with the OUS Study Abroad Program. I have come to respect and love Germany and its culture because the more I study, the more I realize how interconnected language and culture are and how they shape each other.

I would love to continue this exploration of the relationship between language and culture, specifically German. I am also studying geography and would love to be able to incorporate geography, German culture and language into a career. I would love to work abroad and find a way to better improve my German as well. Being just a sophomore here at University of Oregon, my career plans are continually changing. I would like to explore a career in city planning, possibly abroad, or teaching.

Eryn Block—Leona Kall Scholarship

I spent my junior year of high school in a small village outside of Waldshut, Germany, on an independent exchange, where I attended Hochrheingymnasium and fell in love with the culture and language of southern Germany. After that, I spent one year student-teaching a German class at my high school and decided to take one German literature class when I came to the University of Oregon. I enjoyed the class and the professor’s teaching so much that I decided to become a major, and after three and a half years, I have now finished my German degree. I have especially enjoyed the tight-knit community of German majors and the supportive and involved professors. Being a German major has given me a niche within the larger university and I am happy to have been able to improve my German speaking and reading skills while still in the US. I use my German skills often with my best friend, Laura, from Germany. Since I lived in Germany six years ago, she has visited me in Eugene seven times and we have met up in Hohen Entengan, Germany, Zurich, Switzerland, Paris, France, and Toronto, Canada, and have taken a road trip from Eugene to Chicago and back.

I will finish classes this spring and will write my honors thesis on urban health inequity in Portland, with plans to defend in Fall 2011. After that, I intend to take part in a number of internships before getting a doctoral degree in Public/Global Health. I am particularly interested in health issues of Turkish immigrants in Berlin, Germany. I also plan to apply for a Fulbright grant to write my dissertation on that subject. I want to live and work in many different countries including Germany.

Alumni:

If you would like to share information for the alumni news section of our department newsletter, please send it to:

gerscan@uoregon.edu
**Adjunct Instructors**

**Ben Raymond Lode**

was born and raised in the small town of Varhaug, near the city of Stavanger on the southwest coast of Norway. He attended college at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, where he received a degree in journalism. He also met his wife in Brisbane, and in 2002 they moved to the United States. Ben began his US journalism career at a tiny daily in southwest Michigan. After moving to the Pacific Northwest, he worked for the *Springfield News* until 2007. During this time he also attended graduate school at the University of Oregon, receiving a master’s degree from the Communication and Society Program in the Journalism School. While attending UO, Ben began teaching Norwegian language classes and doing translation, and he discovered a true enjoyment in engaging with students. “I love sharing my language, keeping my own language alive,” he says. Ben finds that students come to his language classes for many reasons. Some have a Nordic heritage while others are interested in the Nordic region and culture. Others find themselves taking Norwegian when other language classes become full, but Ben recognizes that the smaller class sizes allow for more interaction and more opportunities to practice, both vital for foreign language education.

Ben has continued to hone his language teaching skills by attending events and meetings held by the Norwegian Researchers and Teachers Association of North America (NORTANA), which is sponsored by the Norwegian Embassy, as well as summer workshops and seminars held by The Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition (CARLA) at the University of Minnesota.

When he isn’t busy exposing his students to Norwegian language and culture, Ben is helping to take care of his first child. He also enjoys the outdoors, and he loves doing any activities that keep him moving, up to and including mowing the lawn. He very much appreciates and enjoys teaching his native language and watching his students learn about his homeland, and he says that “we can always accommodate more.”

**Harriet Ljungkvist Bagdade**

grew up in Alingsås, a small town close to Göteborg on the west coast of Sweden. With degrees in sociology and business from the University of Göteborg, Harriet’s professional life started out in Preventive Health Care in Sweden. To further this path, she later went to Seattle to pursue graduate studies at the School for Public Health and Community Medicine at the University of Washington. Her career plans changed when she married an American man and immigrated to the US. Through various employments in different cities (Seattle, Chicago, and now Eugene) she has been active in the Scandinavian community and always enjoyed teaching Swedish.

Harriet has been a part-time instructor for about six years with the Department of German and Scandinavian and at the World Languages Academy at the University of Oregon. She finds the unique pedagogy pertaining to language teaching very interesting and important, and she regards herself fortunate to be able to work in this field. Discussions with other language teachers in languages as varied as Swahili, Portuguese, and Hindi have proven stimulating and helpful. Additionally, to have even a small impact on the lives of students feels to her as a great honor, responsibility and joy.

The annual conferences for Swedish Teachers at North American Universities, organized by the Swedish Embassy and the Swedish Institute have been invaluable for Harriet. These are opportunities to stay abreast on recent developments in the Swedish society and language, as well as times to learn about new teaching tools.

Over the years, Harriet has continuously nurtured her interest in business. She worked at the Swedish Trade Council in Chicago and in the northwest wine industry. Currently, her company, HLBdesign, makes toolbelts for hairdressers and has a licensing agreement with Paul Mitchell.
Students of the Nordic languages at the University of Oregon gathered for a day of language immersion, fun and cultural exchange. On February 19, roughly 40 students in all six Danish, Swedish, Norwegian and Finnish language classes got together in the Many Nations Longhouse on campus for a fun-filled Scandinavian Day.

The event was spearheaded by Harriet Bagdade, Lona L. Murphy and Ben Raymond Lode, and the goal of the event was twofold: to manifest the strong bonds between our Nordic countries and to ensure the students experienced a sense of community.

After brief introductions, the program started with presentations on each country by students, some of whom had spent a year abroad in Scandinavia and had pictures and interesting stories to tell. Presentations were followed by folk dancing to live music by David Elliker Vågsberg on fiddle and nyckelharpa.

After lunch, which consisted of some highly sought after Danish æbleskiver, Norwegian brown cheese, Swedish crackers and hot dogs and other assorted items, they continued with traditional fun and games and singing.

Melissa Nauslar is in her second year of Swedish at the U of O, and she was one of the attendees at Scandinavian Day. “It was interesting to experience similarities and differences within the Scandinavian cultures as well as seeing the students in the Scandinavian community,” Nauslar said.

**Opportunities and Challenges**

For the last two years, the Department of German and Scandinavian, together with the World Languages Academy at the University of Oregon, have been able to offer both first and second year simultaneously in Norwegian and in Swedish, and we have seen good enrollment in all classes.

Students have expressed not only the traditional heritage reasons for taking these languages, but also a strong interest in the social and political
Norwegian in, as a TA here at the UO,” she said. While Swedish and Norwegian have experienced steady enrollment over the last few years, the Danish program has dwindled and currently there is only a small class with two students. With the hire of Dr. Gan/Gurley as tenure-track professor dedicated to Scandinavia within the Department of German and Scandinavian, the hope is that the Danish language program can be revived and continue to thrive here at the university alongside Finnish, Swedish and Norwegian.

A sign of interest in Danish is the strong enrollment in this spring’s Introduction to Danish Culture and Language, which Camilla Mortensen is teaching to help prepare students of Architecture and other majors to study at the Danish International Studies Center in Copenhagen. As the Scandinavian Day came to a close, the students were asked to comment on the day and there seemed to be a consensus that this be made an annual event.

Meredith Solberg, a senior at the U of O, is one of the students who has returned to the U of O after spending last year at the University of Oslo. Solberg is currently a teaching assistant in the Norwegian language classes on campus, a direct result of her language studies at the U of O. “I ultimately decided to become a Duck because of the Norwegian language program offered through the UO. Studying Norwegian here for two years before moving to Oslo last year helped me to create a strong foundation to build upon. It has been very rewarding to take my developed language proficiency and apply it in the same environment that I initially learned systems of the Nordic countries and popular music, film, and design of the region.

We have also seen an increase in students who elect to take advantage of the UO study-abroad program and have been gratified when these students return, happy to share their experiences and excitement.

Bennett Hubbard and Anna Green, from Swed 202, share their knowledge of Sweden.

Harriet Bagdade instructs students in traditional folk dance while David Elliker-Vågsberg plays the traditional Hardanger fiddle.
~Clemens Ackermann~
Clemens Ackermann is currently in his last term of the Masters program at the University of Oregon. His thesis research focuses mainly on intertextuality as cultural memory and the question of how intertextual references create realms of memory. To this end he is analyzing the incorporation of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Immanuel Kant in the chapters “Zerfall der Werte” in Hermann Broch’s work Die Schlafwanlder. After completing the Master of Arts degree, Clemens will continue his academic career by beginning a PhD program.

~Judith Heidi Lechner~
Judith Heidi Lechner is currently a Ph.D. student at the University of Oregon. She graduated from Phillips-Universität Marburg in 2006 and from the University of Missouri with her master’s degree in 2009. Lechner joined the program at UO in fall 2009. Currently she is finishing up her last year of coursework and preparing for her comprehensive exams, which she will take in Fall 2011. Lechner's areas of interest include multiculturality in Germany, post-colonial criticism, and the connection between language and identity, a concept she is working on in the context of the Turkish writer Emine Sevgi Özdamar’s short story collection Mutterzunge. She also presented on that topic at the recent graduate conference in February hosted by the German and Scandinavian department. Lechner was an active member of the organization committee responsible for the conference. She presented a paper titled “Border Crossing – Transformations of Language and Corporality in Emine Sevgi Özdamar’s Mutterzunge” at Wayne State University in Detroit in April.

~Rob Mottram~
Rob Mottram’s interests are far-reaching, but mostly reside in the 19th century. His specific areas of investigation are Romanticism, Poetic Realism and the thought of Nietzsche. He is currently working on a paper on caves and their relationship to subjectivity in Novalis’s Heinrich von Ofterdingen and Nietzsche’s Also Sprach Zarathustra. He is also working on a Derridean interpretation of Novalis’s Hymnen an die Nacht. Rob endeavors to incorporate a multiplicity of discourses and media in his work, such as painting and film. “Wille willing,” he will begin working on a dissertation exploring “The Romantic Abyss” over the summer.

~Nicholas Reynolds~
Nicholas Reynolds has returned to the University of Oregon from a year of teaching at the Ludwigswburg University of Education, where he taught American Literature and was in charge of their Language Support Centre. He has published an article in Radical Philosophy Review titled “Family, Inner Life, and the Amusement Industry.” He continues to improvise boldly with the course of his education, as well as with his life.

~Josiah Simon~
This past year Josiah Simon completed his comprehensive exams and successfully defended his dissertation prospectus. While continuing to teach German language courses, he has begun working on his dissertation, which analyzes and critiques Franz Rosenzweig’s philosophy of history and his concept of narration in his early work on Hegel’s philosophy of the state. Simon was awarded the Astrid M. Williams dissertation fellowship for the summer of 2012.

~Alexis Smith~
Alexis Smith returns to the University of Oregon as a PhD student after completing her Master's in 2008. She is taking courses part-time while teaching German language and literature/culture classes at Western Oregon University in Monmouth. This spring she is teaching a new course, GL/HUM 344: When Words Meet Music, which is an investigation on the effects of words and music, the intentions behind the music, and how it has been presented in German culture from around 1600-1990s. Her research is currently focused on the collaborations between German writers and composers, music as language, and translation studies. She looks forward to broadening her research interests within the context of her coursework.

~Maria Weisse~
Maria Weisse holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in German literature and musicology from Humboldt-University in Berlin, Germany. She is primarily interested in contemporary (post-World War II) German literature, especially political and historical transformations and their influences on literature. She formerly worked on unofficial literature from former East Berlin and changes caused by the falling of the Berlin Wall in 1989. She helped with the preparation of an exhibition about that literature, and the catalog for the exhibit includes her own work. In 2009-2010 she taught a seminar about Walter Kempowski and organized two conferences at the beginning and the end of the seminar. The talks given at those conferences were published by Kempowski-Archiv Rostock in March 2011. For her Master’s degree, she is analyzing Uwe Johnson’s Jahrestage and the presence of “1968” in his work.
Faculty Research and News

**Susan Anderson**

Susan Anderson participated in a Fulbright-University of Tübingen and Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts faculty seminar for two weeks in late June-early July 2010 to network with faculty in the state of Baden-Württemberg and with faculty in German from across the US about current study-abroad programs for undergraduates and future exchanges with faculty and graduate students. Her article “Unification and Difference in German Post-Wall Cinema” appeared in the anthology Beyond Political Correctness: Remapping German Sensibilities in the 21st Century, edited by Christine Anton and Frank Pilipp.

**Martin Klebes**


**Jeffrey S. Librett**

Jeffrey S. Librett is on sabbatical leave for the academic year 2010-11. He edited the new Special Issue of Konturen, “Borderlines in Psychoanalysis, Borderlines of Psychoanalysis” (available at http://konturens.uoregon.edu) in the fall of 2010. He gave invited lectures this academic year at the Duke Workshop in German-Jewish Studies (March 20, 2011) and at a conference on “Literature and the Public Sphere” at Cornell University (April 29-30, 2011). The first concerns Freud’s response to the Orientalist discourse in Moses and Monotheism, while the second concerns the debate between Kant and Herder on the philosophy of history. Both lectures stem from Librett’s book manuscript in preparation, Orientalist Metaphysics: Typology and Panic in Modern German Letters, a manuscript he is working to finish during the current sabbatical leave.

**Dawn Marlan**

Dawn Marlan’s most recent publication is a review of a book by Paula Fox entitled News From Around the World. The review appeared on April 17th in The Oregonian. She has also published a story translated by Raul Bravo Aduna as “Sin Palabras” (“Speechless”) in Quadrivio, 3 November 2010. She is currently working on a collection of personal essays entitled Home, Bittersweet Home: Essays on Domesticity, Strangeness, and the So-Called Feminine Arts. She has also begun a new novel, provisionally entitled Doublespeak. She will have a website soon; it will include a literature blog.

**Alexander Mathäus**

Alexander Mathäus edited a collection of essays titled The Self as Muse: Narcissism and Creativity in the German Imagination 1750-1830. The volume examines various aspects of narcissism and their significance for the outpouring of creativity in texts by Schiller, Goethe, Kleist, Hamann, Hippeder, Schubart, and Hoffmann, among others. The collection appeared in May 2011 with Bucknell UP. In October 2010, Mathäus gave a presentation on German painter, scientist, and philosopher Carl Gustav Carus (1789-1869) at the annual meeting of the German Studies Association in Oakland. The presentation is connected to a book project on humanism on which he is currently working. He also had the opportunity to teach a graduate course on this topic in Fall 2010.

**Dorothee Ostmeier**

Dorothee Ostmeier received a joint fellowship from the Fulbright Commission, U-Tübingen, and the Württemberg Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts to participate in a faculty seminar in Baden-Württemberg in Summer 2010 for the review of the University of Oregon’s exchange programs with Baden-Württemberg. Her recent publications include an article titled “Magic Realities Reconsidered: Contemporary Cinderellas” in Mosaic 42 (December 2009). She was a guest editor of a collection of essays in The Brecht Yearbook (2010), in which she also wrote an introduction. Recent conferences she has attended include the annual meeting of The International Brecht Society at the MLA in Los Angeles, where she organized and participated on a panel called “Epic and Ethics in the Brechtian Mode,” a first time collaboration between the MLA’s 20th-Century German Literature Division and The International Brecht Society. Her service to the department has included chairing a successful joint search for Assistant Professor in German Cinema Studies (2010/2011).
Faculty and Research News cont’d

**Helmut Plant**

For several years, Helmut Plant has been helping many students in the first- and second-year German language classes to navigate through the rough shoals of German grammar with the help of numerous handouts. He has now decided to offer a one-credit course in fall (GER 199 German Grammar Overview) on Wednesday nights from 6-7:50pm (to avoid conflicts with daytime German language classes). He has also written his own text, *German Grammar Overview*, which hopefully allows the reader to see the big picture of German grammar and how it relates systematically to English, with occasional observations about the Romance languages. For more information, contact Helmut Plant at 541-344-0748 or hplant@uoregon.edu

**Michael Stern**

Michael Stern is currently working on his book, *The Singing Socrates*, which is a comparative analysis of the philosophies of Søren Kierkegaard and Friedrich Nietzsche as seen through the lens of each thinker’s appropriation of the figure of Socrates. He has also published an article titled “The Face as a Fingerprint: Mediation, Silence, and the Question of Identity in Ingmar Bergman’s Persona” (*Konturen* III, 2010). Stern is also running an African Film Series in the Spring.

**Kenneth Calhoun**

Kenneth Calhoun recently completed a book manuscript entitled *Affecting Grace: Theater and Subject from Shakespeare to Kleist*. He also recently completed an essay on “Werner Herzog’s View of Delft; or, Nosferatu and the Still Life,” which is to appear in *A Companion to the Films of Werner Herzog* (Blackwell 2012). He will be on sabbatical fall and winter of academic year 2011-12. He has been invited to speak at a conference called Heinrich von Kleist’s Invisible Theater, to be held at the University of Chicago in December. His talk (and subsequent article) will address Kleist’s “Die Heilige Cäcilie oder Die Gewalt der Musik.” He also anticipates that during his sabbatical he will initiate work on a new project on Brecht and Freud’s theory of jokes.

Conference:

**Abstraction and Materiality in the Arts, Literature and Music**

On April 14th and 15th Professor Kenneth Calhoun hosted a conference entitled “Abstraction and Materiality in the Arts, Literature and Music”—one in a series of annual conferences sponsored by the University of Oregon’s German Studies Committee. Previous topics have included philosophy’s “continental divide” and the “borderlines in and of psychoanalysis.” These symposia generate issues of the e-journal Konturen (http://konturen.uoregon.edu/), which is “dedicated to the analysis of borders, framing determinations, and related figures of delimitation.” In his introductory remarks, Calhoun stated (tongue in cheek) that he interpreted “German Studies” to encompass any object, text or problem that Walter Benjamin might plausibly have contemplated, and indeed the presentations, while teetering on the fulcrum of European High Modernism, ventured into the post-modern while also often slipping back into the orbit of Romanticism. Papers ranged across material from Romantic painters and poets to the work of Cy Twombly, though the preponderance of the discussion fell on early twentieth-century movements (Expressionism, Cubism) and their corresponding theorizations (Worringer, Einstein). One paper, by Princeton art historian Brigit Doherty, dealt with the work of László Moholy-Nagy, who literally “phoned in” his enamel “tele-paintings,” and in the one presentation with a musical focus, Oregon musicologist Jack Boss gave a technically as well as hermeneutically probing analysis of the vertically and horizontally symmetrical interval complex in Schoenberg’s *Moses and Aaron*. 
Please Consider Making a Gift to German and Scandinavian

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

1) $100 can finance school materials and books
2) $500 can help with a visiting lecture
3) $1000 contributes to a study abroad experience
4) $5000 helps fund a generous stipend-scholarship
5) $10,000 can establish a new named fund for specific programs or scholarships – a great way to honor an important person in your life.

There are also a variety of current funds established in the department that support specific academic activities and scholarships. If you would like to specify your gift for a certain purpose, please contact Denise Sorom, development officer for the humanities at (541) 346-3903 or dsorom@cas.uoregon.edu or Jeffrey Librett, Department Head, at jlibrett@uoregon.edu or (541) 346-0649.

Checks can be made out to UO Foundation, German and Scandinavian and mailed to University of Oregon Foundation, 1720 E. 13th Avenue, Suite 410, Eugene, OR 97403-1905.