Chair’s Welcome

As I look back at my first year as department chair, the academic year 2011-2012 strikes me as a period of significant departures, judicious transformations, and stimulating new beginnings. We started the year facing the untimely passing of our dear friend and colleague Dean James McLeod. Jim joined the faculty in 1974 as an assistant professor of German and will be remembered for his many vital contributions to the department and to Washington University. In his role as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, he taught thousands of undergraduates that their life as students does not end at the seminar door. He inspired us to take time amid our busy schedules to have a good conversation, to reach out to each other, to make and sustain contact, to allow different stories to intersect with and support each other. His generosity and kindness will be sorely missed. (Please visit http://german.wustl.edu/articles/458 to read about how individual faculty members remember their remarkable friend and colleague).

In early Fall 2011, we also learned that Professor Stephan Schindler, after more than twenty years of teaching at Washington University, decided to assume a new position at the University of South Florida. We thank him for his tremendous service, his leadership, and his intellectual contributions to the culture of the department, and we wish him all the best in his new role as chair of the Department of World Languages at USF. May Florida’s sun make him as content as Fortuna’s final return to the Bundesliga.

When assuming the role of chair in Summer 2011, my agenda was to strengthen the vibrancy of intellectual life in the department, to intensify and expand the department’s curriculum and teaching mission, to help ensure that German Studies—in spite of considerable doomsday talk in the larger profession—will remain a strong player in the field of higher education, and to pursue a certain updating of our departmental spaces. I am proud to report that we made progress in all of these areas during my first year as chair. We began the year with an overhaul of our department lounge, creating new spaces for collegial encounters, intellectual exchanges, and more informal get-togethers. We added a new series of workshops by visiting scholars to our schedule under the leadership of the Lecture Committee. We continued to phase in a robust new graduate curriculum while at the same time seeking to add innovative class modules to our undergraduate course offerings. And last, but not least, we spent considerable time preparing our graduate students not only for successful careers in academia, but for becoming confident advocates of foreign language and culture education and of excellence in humanistic research.

Throughout the year, our graduate program enjoyed numerous successes. Eight students defended their dissertations (p. 6) and a good number of these found excellent positions. Melissa Olson was awarded a prestigious fellowship from the Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies; Magdalen Stanley received the Bridging GAPS Award for Professional Development; and Ervin Malakaj and Faruk Pasic each received Fulbright grants to carry out research in Germany. Sarah Hillenbrand and Corey Twitchell received the Dean’s Award for Teaching Excellence, whereas Anne Jost-Fritz, Anna Leeper, and Shane Peterson were presented with a newly established departmental teaching award. As a chair, I am continually thankful to the energy, vision, and presence of our graduate students; and to our faculty whose mentoring efforts assist our students to be successful in the short and long run.

(continued on page 2)
Our general calendar was as busy as ever. In fall and spring, in addition to our regular lecture series, we inaugurated a new manuscript workshop series. Our Max Kade Writer, Ilija Trojanow, and our Max Kade Critic, Volker Weidermann, participated among others in our series of Friday Colloquia. In February, the graduate students organized their annual graduate symposium, entitled “Emotion, Affekt, Gefühl: Imagining Feeling in the German Context” (p. 6). Our visiting Volkswagen postdoc, Franziska Bomski organized an international workshop in February 2012 dedicated to the issue, “What is Left? Political Tendencies in German Literature after 1989” (p. 4). The end of March brought “Distant Readings, Descriptive Turns,” our Biennial Symposium on German Language and Culture, this time organized by Matt Erlin and Lynne Tatlock (p. 3). In April, we hosted our annual German Day for over 800 high school students and their teachers (p. 7). And, finally, in May, a cohort of former graduate students organized “New Perspectives on the Profession: Developments and Careers in German Studies” (p. 3).

The following pages will detail some of the amazing research, teaching, and service carried out by department faculty during the academic year 2011-2012. Their work and dedication to the department’s mission is tremendous and has made my task of navigating the department’s course comparably easy and fun. While we celebrate Egon Schwarz’s 90th birthday this year and wish him all the best for many years to come, we also seek to recruit a new faculty member and thus move confidently into the future. Many thanks to all of you who contacted us during this past year. We love to hear from you as you keep us updated about your itineraries, be they professional or private. We especially thank those of you who have made a gift to our program.

Excerpts from:
“The German Department Mourns James E. McLeod”

Egon Schwarz: “Without memory we would not have a past. Without a past we would not be human. Jim McLeod’s death is a great loss not only for his family and the university but also particularly for the German Department where he began his career...”

Jim Poag: “When he came to Washington University a few years after I did, Jim McLeod became an extremely important member of the German department...”

Paul Michael Lützeler: “I met Jim when I was a visiting assistant professor at Indiana University in 1972/73 and when he was an instructor there. What he was best known for at the time was his humor and his good spirits, and I remember him in groups in which he often had a funny story to tell--yet never at the cost of other people...”

Gerhild Williams: “Jim was about as perfect a person I have ever known, and each one of us who was privileged to be his friend and colleague became a little bit more perfect in his company...”

Lynne Tatlock: “As I have come to understand ever more clearly during the last decade, we owe much of what we have become here at Washington University to the vision and resolve of our beloved colleague and friend Jim McLeod...”

Erin McGlothlin: “When I try to explain to outsiders to Washington University what Jim’s role here was, I say simply that he was the beating heart of this university...”

(Continued at: http://german.wustl.edu/articles/458)
On May 18-19, 2012 a cohort of alumni came together for an international colloquium entitled, New Perspectives on the Profession: Developments and Careers in German Studies. The program may be found on our website. Our thanks to Jenneke Oosterhoff for this photo.

Some Upcoming Events...

Feb. 22, 2013
Friday Colloquium with Zafer Senocak

March 22, 2013
Friday Colloquium with Dirk von Petersdorff

April 1, 2013
Lecture: Jennifer Redmann
(Franklin & Marshall College)

April 5-6, 2013
“Reading Minds Through Narrative.” Organized by Christian Schneider, Volkswagen Postdoc

April 18, 2013
Lecture: Yasmin Yildiz (Univ. IL-Urbana-Champaign)

June 6-8, 2013
Marbach Seminar/Weekend Workshop

For more information, see our website’s Events page.

Biennial Symposium on German Literature & Culture

From March 29 to March 31, 2012, the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at Washington University hosted its 21st biennial symposium on German literature and culture. This year’s event was entitled DISTANT READINGS/DESCRIPTIVE TURNS: TOPOLOGIES OF GERMAN CULTURE IN THE LONG NINETEENTH CENTURY. Building on recent approaches to literary and cultural criticism developed by Franco Moretti, Bruno Latour, and others working under the rubric “new sociologies of culture,” fourteen German and North American scholars gave presentations that sought to generate fresh insights into cultural history by adopting and adapting the empirical methods of the natural and social sciences. Through presentations on topics ranging from the computer-assisted analysis of nineteenth-century German literature, to the reception of German books in America, to the evolving relationship between fiction and non-fiction in nineteenth-century German journals, participants addressed the question of what can be gained (and what might be lost) when we move away from intricate rhetorical analyses of individual texts and turn our attention instead toward large bodies of data, making use of analytical techniques borrowed from such disciplines as statistics, computational science, quantitative history, and the emerging field of digital humanities.

As an age of industrialization and the development of mass markets, the nineteenth century offered fertile terrain for such approaches. The roughly 150 years between 1789 and 1918 were characterized by an unprecedented boom in newspaper, magazine, and book production, fostered by breakthroughs in printing technology that made reading material, fiction and non-fiction, available to a wider range of consumers than ever before. Precisely this abundance of textual material, however, has long presented scholars with a challenge: how to read it all. No individual scholar can ever acquire knowledge of more than a tiny percentage of the total number of novels and stories that were actually published in the period. New digital technologies cannot significantly accelerate human reading processes per se, but they do give us the power to search and analyze a much greater percentage of this vast corpus of texts. The assembly and management of large databases enable both the testing and re-articulation of hypotheses as well as recovery and discovery of patterns and trends. The decision to organize the conference was thus partly inspired by the new availability of historical materials in the digital age. Google Books’ ongoing project of digitizing libraries, to name the most prominent undertaking, allows scholars access to the broad spectrum of German texts as never before and thus pushes us not to limit our understanding of literary production, circulation of texts, and reading to what contemporary presses and the academy of the twentieth century have deemed canonical.

The symposium helped to demonstrate the potential that resides in new technologies and the increased access to materials, not only to open up entirely new areas of inquiry but also to offer a fresh perspective on some of the most venerable topics of literary studies, from genre to the nature of literary realism. The presentations also generated a fruitful discussion about what a shift to more empirical and quantitative analyses might mean for our teaching mission and our professional self-understanding as humanists.

By all accounts, the conference was a resounding success, and the volume that it will generate, which is scheduled to appear with Camden House Press in 2013, promises to have a substantial impact on the shape of German Studies in years to come. — Matt Erlin
Alumni News

Jasmin Fallahi (M.A., 1995) “After around six years of working in the Department for Rights and Permissions of the publishing house Klett-Cotta, I changed my professional career and moved to Switzerland. Since 2008 I now work in the International Office of the University of Bern. I am in charge of the "Welcome Center." The Welcome Center provides informational and consulting service (on mobility issues) for international researchers and new employees of the university. The Welcome Center is also part of the Euraxess network, which is perhaps an interesting tool for Washington University researchers who are interested in moving to Europe:

Europe: http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/

Switzerland: http://www.euraxess.ch/”

Visiting Scholars 2011/12

Ilija Trojanow (Vienna)
Max Kade Writer

Gerhard Lauer (Göttingen)
Distinguished Visiting Professor

Franziska Bomski (Freiburg)
Volkswagen Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow

Tatiana Vaizer (Moscow)
Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Ilija Trojanow, author of Der Weltensammler (2006), served as our Max Kade Writer for Spring 2012. Volker Weidermann, our Max Kade Critic for Spring 2012, is a literary critic for Frankfurter Allgemeinen Sonntagszeitung. Both participated in our Friday Colloquium series and together they team-taught our annual course on contemporary German literature.

Volker Weidermann (Berlin)
Max Kade Critic

Gerhard Lauer gave a talk in conjunction with the department’s 2012 Biennial Symposium, “Distant Reading, Descriptive Turns.” He also taught a course on Kafka.

Franziska Bomski (Freiburg)

Franziska Bomski organized the “What's Left?” colloquium (see below). She also taught a course on East German literature.

“What's Left?” Colloquium on East German Perspectives

On February 24-25, 2012, Volkswagen Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow Franziska Bomski organized the workshop, “What’s Left? Political Perspectives in German Literature and Film after 1989.” The speakers included faculty (Paul Michael Lützeler, Jennifer Kapczynski, Lutz Koepnick) and graduate students (Petra Watzke) from the German Department at Washington University, as well as international guests from Freiburg University (Andrea Albrecht, Alexandra Skowronska) and the Literaturarchiv Marbach (Thomas Schmidt). The keynote speech was given by the German writer and professed marxist Dietmar Dath who defended his vision of a productive reassessment of the so-called left literary and philosophical traditions he sees in the works of Ronald M. Schernikau and the in many respects highly controversial Peter Hacks. The following day, scholarly case studies of literary texts (e.g. Irina Liebmann, Steffen Mensching) and films (e.g. the GDR-“Indianerfilme,” “Das Leben der Anderen”) further explored the central topics of the workshop: In which way did and do German literature and film refer to the political sphere before and after 1989? Do they support or undermine the political left-right dichotomy? What kind of symbolic capital is attributed to a left position? While the participants unanimously agreed that Karl Heinz Bohrer had clearly been wrong to declare the end of a littérature engagée after 1989, another question could not be answered so easily and still awaits a broader scholarly examination: Are the labels “right” and “left” still applicable today or have they lost their analytical value and need to be replaced by more detailed and hence more accurate descriptions of the political spectrum? — Franziska Bomski

Dietmar Dath, Keynote Speaker

Franziska Bomski, Freiburg; Colloquium Organizer

Dr. Thomas Schmidt, Literaturarchiv Marbach

Tatiana Vaizer, a Fulbright Scholar from the Russian State University for the Humanities, researched the work of Jürgen Habermas and Gaston Bachelard.
The department has a new website!

To kick off our new website, we asked recent undergraduate alumni, John Witty and Katherine Kerschen, to provide video messages to prospective students. See what they had to say at: http://german.wustl.edu/undergraduate.

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Undergraduate Activities and DPA

Delta Phi Alpha Honor Society had another terrific year, with nineteen inductees and a number of very successful events. Besides a series of popular study breaks, a few notables include: Currywurst Abend, where students made Currywurst and learned about study abroad and internship experiences in Germany; dinner at Pi and a trip to Edison theater to see As You Like It; and St. Nikolaus’s Tag, where students celebrated the holiday with star-making, poetry, and authentic St. Nikolaus and Krampus.

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Göttingen Study Abroad Program, Summer 2012

With graduate student Ervin Malakaj as their guide, five students in search of knowledge, friendship, and fun embarked for Göttingen last summer to participate in the Goethe Institute’s summer study abroad program. Ervin reports that immediately upon arrival, the GI sponsored a walking tour of the city, which ended with a nice dinner at one of the restaurants in the old part of town. Throughout their stay the GI provides our students with numerous opportunities for fun and learning, not least of which might include excursions to Goslar, Leipzig, and Weimar, as well as a day trip to Berlin. Every year, “the institute organizes a weekly sport club (usually soccer) meeting, a Stammtisch on Fridays, and they have Thursday night reserved for a one-on-one with a German student from the university with whom our students can practice German.” Ervin took the students to dinners and on an excursion to Kassel, a nearby town with natural hot springs, where they went swimming and relaxed. “Göttingen has a wonderful theatre scene (Deutsches Theater, Junges Theater, etc.) and they went to a performance of one of Kleist’s pieces, a dramatist who is often taught in our own German courses.” Ervin reports that the wonderful thing about the GI is also that the students “immediately start interacting with students from all over the world, and they simply love this part. German is often the shared language...which helps them practice with others of their own language level.” Ervin concludes: “Since the courses take place in the summer months, and since the wonderful Victorian villa in which the institute is located has a huge garden in the back, the students often (very often!) organize grill parties together. All the equipment is provided to them by the Institute. This time around five students went and the courses take place all of June and July. Students take a placement test on their arrival day and are placed into their appropriate level. If they wish, students can switch levels if need be. The teachers are very, very nice and, from what I have heard, overall very good at what they are doing.” — Our thanks to Ervin Malakaj for this report

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Undergraduate Honors

Achievement-in-German Prize
Karina Stridh
David Bronson Prize
Hillary J. Conkey
Cecilia L. Hospes Scholarship
Brooke Husic
Study in Göttingen Scholarships
Taylor Docking, Lyndsey Douglas, Brooke Husic, Tianqi Wang, James Westbrook

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New Graduate Students for Fall
This Fall the department welcomed five new graduate students and four new exchange students.

Ph.D. Program
Amy Braun
Benjamin Jeter
Simone Pfleger
Claire Ross
Harrison Todd

Exchange Students
Vanessa Höving
Annekatrin Sommer

Studienstiftler
Wiebke Schuldt
Verena Wirtz

Graduate Program
Page Videos
Our new Graduate Program page features videos of faculty speaking on the topics of mentoring/pedagogy, interdisciplinarity, being a graduate student, and the Max Kade Center: http://german.wustl.edu/graduate

Recent Dissertations
- **Shane Peterson (2012)** “Picturing the Text: Illustrated Editions of Marlitt, Raabe, and Storm In the Age of the Industrial Book (1857-90)”
- **Nancy Twilley (2012)** “Reading Gender in Late Nineteenth-Century German Young Adult Literature”
- **Ruxandra Looft (2012)** “Mobile Ideas and (Im)Mobile Subjects: Women Writers and Women’s Fashion Magazines in Nineteenth-Century Germany and Austria”
- **Victoria Rust (2012)** “Fashioning Women under Totalitarian Regimes: ‘New Women’ of Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia”
- **Patrick Brugh (2012)** “Mediating War in Early Modern German Prose”
- **Melissa Laugallies (2012)** “Magical Objects and Subverted Subjects: Fetishism and the Supernatural in E.T.A. Hoffmann’s Tales”
- **Christopher Bailes (2012)** “Ludwig Wittgenstein and Hermann Broch: The Need for Fiction and Logic in Moral Philosophy”

Annual Graduate Student Symposium
The topic of the twenty-first annual graduate student symposium this past academic year was *Emotion, Affekt, Gefühl: Imagining Feeling in the German Context*. At various graduate student meetings it was decided to change the format of the symposium by opening it up to graduate students from other universities in the Midwest who work on German-related topics in various fields of the Humanities. Along with this, Prof. Koepnick was kind enough to provide additional funds that enabled us to invite a keynote speaker. At the symposium we thus welcomed eight presenters from various universities in Cincinnati, Illinois, and Indiana, who delivered papers not only on German literature, but also on film and music. The symposium started with a keynote address which was delivered by Professor Anna Parkinson of Northwestern University. Prof. Parkinson has worked extensively on affect, especially in Postwar German culture and film. Her thought-provoking keynote address was warmly received. The symposium was organized into three panels with four speakers each. The panels were chaired by WashU graduate students Lisa Haegele, Corey Twitchell, and Faruk Pasic. Four papers were presented by graduate students from our own department. Erika Deal spoke about “Detrimental Education: Learning, Love and Marriage in *Effi Briest*;” the topic of Brooke Shafar’s paper was “The Function of Female Imagination in *Nussknacker und Mauskönig* and *Aus guter Familie: Escaping from and Reconstituting Bourgeois Social Norms*;” Julia Wu addressed “Marriage in *Carsten Curator* and *Das Geheimnis der alten Mamsell: The Importance of Romantic Love and the Choice of Appropriate Partners in Bourgeois Society*;” and Maria Björkman discussed “Gendered yet Transgressive – Reading Desire in Annette von Droste Hülshoff’s ‘Am Turme.’” The successful symposium day ended with an informal get-together at Blueberry Hill.

— Petra Watzke and Angineh Djavoghazaryans
German Day 2012

The topic of the 35th annual German Day was 100 Jahre deutscher film, and we’re happy to report that the turnout was tremendous! Twenty-three high schools from Missouri and Illinois attended, bringing over 800 students to campus for our largest German Day in years. The students’ enthusiasm for the topic was obvious. We’d like to note that O’Fallon Township took first prize in the skit category with its video entry: NOSFERA-WHO? Check out this terrific skit on our website at: http://german.wustl.edu/media/german-day-2012-winner

German Day 2013 Topic: “Märchen”

With the recent movie Snow White and the Huntsman and the popular series Grimm and Once Upon a Time for inspiration, we’re expecting that next year’s topic of “Märchen” will draw quite a crowd!

Faculty Updates

Matt Erlin. Thanks to a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities, I was able to spend the past academic year completing the manuscript for my current book, Necessary Luxuries: German Literature and the World of Goods 1770-1815. The book explores how the emergence of a modern consumer culture in Germany around 1800 helped to shape contemporary ideas about the novel as well as the value of the fine arts more generally. A much needed break from the writing process was provided by attendance at a number of conferences and workshops. At some, such as the German Studies Association conference, I presented material related to the book project. At others, such as the conference on Networks and Network Analysis in the Humanities at UCLA, I presented work-in-progress from a new project in digital humanities, one that investigates the possibility of using tools developed in the fields of computer science and natural language processing for the interpretation and analysis of cultural artifacts. Working together with members of Washington University’s Humanities Digital Workshop, I have been employing a statistical technique known as “probabilistic topic modeling” to identify clusters of similar works in a corpus of 154 novels written between 1731 and 1864. The aim is to determine whether these clusters reinforce or challenge the scholarly consensus regarding eighteenth- and nineteenth-century literary history. This project also served as the basis of my contribution to the 21st Biennial Symposium on German Literature and Culture, which I organized together with Lynne Tatlock and which took place on campus in April 2012. This year’s symposium was entitled “Distant Readings / Descriptive Turns: Topologies of German Culture in the Long Nineteenth Century,” and it brought together fourteen accomplished scholars from the United States and Germany to discuss the impact of new computing technologies on the field of German Studies and on the humanities more broadly. Being on leave meant that I took a break from my duties as Director of Graduate Studies, but I did continue to serve as chair of the committee responsible for implementing the new Arts & Sciences undergraduate curriculum, which is now in place for the class matriculating in Fall 2012.

Jennifer Kapczynski. In September 2011, I received the GSA/DAAD Article Prize for Best Article in Literary and Cultural Studies in the German Studies Review in 2009-2010, for my essay “Postwar Ghosts: Heimatfilm and the Specter of Male Violence.” That essay stems from my current book project, Leading Men, which explores the reconstruction of masculinity in 1950s German cinema. In Spring 2012, I drew upon my previous research for my monograph The German Patient, about the uses of medical metaphor in postwar German culture, when I collaborated with colleague Erin McGlothlin to give the Holocaust Memorial Lecture at the Washington University School of Medicine on the subject of “Representing Medicine in and After the Holocaust.” I also delivered talks at Washington University and Bard College on a side project, concerning the representation of surveillance in Wende cinema. I then spent the summer completing the manuscript for the anthology A New History of German Cinema, which appeared with Camden House in September 2012. Co-edited with Michael Richardson of Ithaca College, the volume brings together over eighty essays that together offer a kaleidoscopic view of key events and moments in the hundred-year history of German film. In addition to teaching two of my favorite core courses for the major during the 2011-2012 academic year – “Intermediate German” and “German Literature and the Modern Era” – I designed a new 400-level seminar, “Writing at the Margins, Framing the Center,” about minority voices in contemporary German literature. I also continued to serve as the departmental representative for all things study abroad, directing both the Göttingen and Tübingen programs. In Spring 2011, I was honored to be recognized by the Graduate Student Senate with its special recognition for excellence in mentoring.
Faculty Updates

Lutz Koepnick. Though administrative tasks took center stage during the academic year 2011-2012, I sought to move three separate book projects substantially forward: On Slowness: Toward an Aesthetic of the Contemporary, a project exploring different strategies of deceleration in various media of twentieth and twenty-first century artistic practice, in particular in photography, film, installation and new media art, and prose fiction; Notes on the Long Take: Toward a Wondrous Spectator, a book investigating the representation of time and duration in international art cinema and video art today; and Berlin School Glossary: An ABC of the New Wave in German Cinema, a volume co-edited with three colleagues at the University of Missouri. While these three projects are quite different in nature and design, what they share is the attempt to develop new perspectives on what it means to be contemporary and engage with the velocity of the present.

To work on issues of slowness has not meant for me to stay put and live a quiet life of the mind. Throughout the academic year, I have presented papers at conventions in Seattle and Louisville, have delivered lectures at events in Tübingen, Cologne, and Chicago, and have participated in conferences at the University of Leeds and at Cornell University. I also had wonderful opportunities to share some of my work in St. Louis, be it at the “Distant Reading” symposium at Washington University, in the context of a special exhibition of contemporary photography at the St. Louis Art Museum, or in my role as a fellow of the Creative Research Institute in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts. Various trips to New York added to my travel schedule, carried out in my role as member of the Executive Council of the Modern Language Association.

I was very pleased to see three graduate students complete their dissertations under my supervision in the course of the year (Anne Popiel, Victoria Rust, and Chris Boehm). While the academic job market might not look all too encouraging these days, I wish these new doctors of philosophy the best of all luck in their pursuit of future careers. One of the greatest pleasures of the year was in teaching my seminar on Aesthetic Negativity: Adorno, Benjamin, and Kracauer on Literature, Art, and Media in Fall 2011. A host of excellent and very diverse students transformed this course into a true intellectual adventure—into one of those unique experiences that make our lives as academics so special and energizing.

Paul Michael Luetzeler. As far as teaching is concerned I liked the new course on Goethe’s and Schiller’s decade of friendship between 1795 and 1805, the year of Schiller’s death. This was a graduate seminar taught in German for a group of 12 students. We dealt with the works that Goethe wrote and discussed at the time, beginning with Goethe’s Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre and ending with Schiller’s Wilhelm Tell. Dramas, epics, ballads, essays, letters: all of it was written in the spirit of a new cooperation between the two writers. It is the time when both were finding their ways back to the poetic genres after their excursions into the sciences (Goethe) and history, as well as philosophy (Schiller).

My most important publication was the book Hermann Broch und die Moderne that came out with Fink in Munich in 2011. It has received a number of positive reviews, and it even sold well which makes the author and the publisher happy.

New Website for GEGENWARTSLITERATUR: Ein germanistisches Jahrbuch (A German Studies Yearbook)

The Jahrbuch has a new website! Check it out at: http://pages.wustl.edu/jahrbuch.

Stay in Touch!
Send us your update:
Do you have an update regarding your professional life that you’d like to share with the department and fellow alumni? If so, please contact the Chair, Lutz Koepnick.

Commencement:
Our annual luncheon celebrating Commencement will be held this year on Friday, May 17, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. in the department lounge. We’d be delighted if you dropped in to say hello!
Instructors’ Day

Continuing the tradition of support for the American Association of Teachers of German, the department has co-sponsored at least one “Instructors’ Day” event per year. Missouri and Illinois German instructors from all levels are invited together to discuss cultural topics of service for German-language classrooms as well as curricular and professional matters. Past topics have included regionalism; soccer; 100 years of film (in honor of Babelsberg film studios); GAPP programs; politics, monetary policies and economic performance (and why all of this matters to students and teachers of German); and promoting and expanding German programs.

“This event is another way that the department collaborates with instructors at all educational levels to strengthen the field as a whole,” said Eva Russo, who has co-organized the workshop for the last 4 years. “It is another opportunity to gather together a committed group of professionals to share knowledge and experience in an effort to continually reinvigorate motivation and refresh teaching strategies. The topic of next year’s event, planning for which is well underway, is ‘German Means Business,’ following the model established by the Maryland/DC Metro chapter of the AATG.”

Faculty Updates

(Lützeler continued)

The edition (proceedings of the 20th St. Louis Symposium on German Literature) Die Ethik der Literatur. Deutsche Autoren der Gegenwart should be mentioned, a volume that I co-edited with Jennifer Kapczynski. The FAZ reviewed it very positively in its Feuilleton. I published an essay in Merkur on the difference between the French and the German literary discourse on Europe and an article on the motif of the angel in Heinrich von Kleist’s works in DIE ZEIT on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Kleist’s death in 1811.

In regard to lectures and symposia, I co-organized an international and interdisciplinary symposium on the topic of “Hermann Broch und die Romantik” at the Siemens-Stiftung in Munich. My own contribution there was the opening lecture on “Hermann Brochs ‘Pasenow oder die Romantik’ und Carl Schmitts ‘Politische Romantik’. I furthermore gave a lecture during an international symposium on Heinrich von Kleist at Europa Universität Frankfurt/Oder on metaphysical expectations as articulated by Kleist’s heroes. Of particular interest to me was the participation in the ALEG convention in Guadalajara in Mexico with colleagues from all over Latin America. There I was in charge of a series of sessions on literature and economic reality.

Finally I directed the Max Kade Center for Contemporary German Literature in its 27th year with its fundraising and other activities (special collection, inviting three summer fellows to work in the collection, inviting the critic and author to teach the graduate seminar, and editing the yearbook “Gegenwartsliteratur” with a focus on Herta Mueller in 2011).

Outside of the Department I helped Dean Whil in organizing the postdoc exchange with the Volkswagen Foundation: two WU postdocs were sent to Germany, and three German post docs came to WU, one of them (Franziska Bomski) in the German Department.

Erin McGlothlin. In 2011-2012, I continued my work on the literature of the Holocaust, teaching a graduate seminar in Holocaust Representation and developing the conceptual framework for my new book project on the representation of Holocaust perpetrators in fictional, biographical and autobiographical discourse. As a part of this project I researched and wrote an article entitled “On Viewing the Perpetrators in Claude Lanzmann’s Shoah.” I expanded my engagement with the subject of Holocaust film, presenting papers on the topic at a conference entitled The Holocaust On Screen in the 21st Century at the Universität Paderborn and at the German Studies Association Conference. With Professor Jennifer Kapczynski, I was also invited to give the annual Holocaust Memorial Lecture at the Washington University School of Medicine, where we gave a presentation entitled “Representations of Medicine During and After the Holocaust.”

I also continued my work as the Director of Research and Grants at the Center for the Humanities, where I instituted a new Graduate Student Fellowship, expanded the number of faculty seminars and reading groups supported by the Center, and extended the Faculty Fellowship program to the full academic year. I also completed my second year as a residential Faculty Fellow for the Rubelmann/Umrah/South Forty House Residential College.

(continued on next page)
Alumni News

Richard C. Helt (Ph.D. 1972) Prof. Emeritus of German, North Arizona University, completed his doctorate on Georg Kaiser in 1972 (Doktorvater: David Bronsen), and taught for thirty-two years at Wichita State, Tennessee, Rice, Arizona, and Northern Arizona. He is the author or co-author of several scholarly books (Kaiser, German Cinema, and Hermann Hesse), as well as textbooks for beginning and intermediate German language instruction. After retirement in 2002, he volunteered until 2008 in the German program at Davis High School (CA), assisting in a very successful program that offers five levels of German language (with German AP and Honors courses), and he also helped coordinate the school's German American Partnership exchange program with a German Gymnasium in the Saarland. An avid cyclist and backpacker, he has completed more than twenty-five multi-day backpacking trips in the Grand Canyon, as well as several bicycle century races in Germany and the U. S., most recently the California Sierra Century in June 2012.

Faculty Updates

Eva Russo. In the past academic year, I taught both beginning and advanced language classes, enjoying discussions of fairy tales, job interviews and apartment searches with talented first-year students and tackling Schnitzler's Fraulein Else and Goethe's Urfaust with fearless fifth-semester students. I contributed to the department’s pedagogy initiative inside and outside the classroom with my two graduate courses as well as the training of weekly meetings. Together with our innovative graduate student instructors, I sampled the benefits of more online course materials via ILrn in first-year German courses. Finishing my two-year term as vice-president of the Missouri chapter of the AATG, I assumed the position of president as of June 1st and am presently preparing for several workshops and support initiatives together with my colleagues, focusing on the incorporation of new, and the support of existing, language programs, the compatibility of the National Standards and Common Core and OPI training. 2012 also saw the conclusion of my five-year term with the Advanced Placement German Language and Culture Development Committee. I will greatly miss the team with whom I sought manageable materials and crafted clear questions for the AP exam as well as the opportunity that this committee provided to meet and work with talented and dedicated high-school German teachers around the country. In addition to speaking to several groups of AP Instructors, I also had the opportunity to address incoming freshmen at the start of the academic year in a Faculty Spotlight talk, to organize a panel on the National Standards and Common European Framework for the ACTFL Conference in November and to share my enthusiasm for Backwards Design at the Southeast Conference on Foreign Languages, Literatures and Films, the proceedings of which are to be published by Brown Walker Press.

Lynne Tatlock. 2011-2012 presented me with the continued (and exhilarating) challenge of straddling two units at Washington University: German and Comparative Literature, which I have directed since August 2010. I have found that knowledge of both units has enabled me to think more creatively about each and I have loved the deep satisfaction of having the opportunity to “fix things” in consultation with colleagues.

(McGlothlin continued)

I was very honored to be asked by the late Dean of The College of Arts and Sciences and Vice Chancellor for Students Jim McLeod to give the Faculty Address at the 2011 Arts and Sciences Recognition Ceremony and by Chancellor Mark Wrighton to give the Faculty Address at the 2011 First-Year Convocation Ceremony. After co-organizing (with Emma Kafalenos) the 2011 Narrative Conference, I was elected to the Executive Committee of the International Society for the Study of Narrative. During 2011-2012, I served as the Chair of the departmental Lecture Committee, the interim Director of Undergraduate Studies, and the Co-Editor (with Jennifer Kapczynski) of the Book Review section of Gegenwartsliteratur. I was a Convener of the Arts and Sciences Affirmative Action Monitoring Committee and I served on the First Year Reading Program Steering Committee, the Off-Campus Housing Architect Selection Committee and Advisory Group, and the Holocaust Memorial Lecture Committee. I continued to serve as a German Major Advisor and Four-Year Advisor as well.
Gerhild Williams. I have been very busy attending to both sides of my appointment, as an administrator and faculty member. For this newsletter I am reviewing parts of the latter. I was on sabbatical leave Fall 2011 which I spent partly at the Herzog August Bibliothek at Wolfenbüttel completing a study on the novel and newspapers in seventeenth century Germany. While in Europe, I participated in a grant development meeting devoted to early modern cosmopolitanism at the University of Stockholm. At the tri-annual conference Tending to Early Modern Women, I delivered a keynote address. I continue to share in the supervision and advising of graduate students on their theses, several of which have been completed in Spring 2012. My role as faculty advisor to Delta Phi Alpha has been enjoyable and successful, in large part thanks to Julia Wu’s energetic and imaginative help and support. Committee work keeps me engaged inside and outside of the University. Two essays appeared, “Gathering Information – Constructing Order: Johannes Praetorius’ (1630-1680) Architecture of Knowledge,” in Flemming Schock (ed.): Polychistory und Buntschriftstellerei. Populäre Wissensformen und Wissenskultur in der Frühen Neuzeit (= Frühe Neuzeit, Bd. 169), Berlin 2012, and “Romancing the News: History and Romance in Eberhard Happl’s ‘Deß Teutschen Carls’ (1690) and ‘Deß Engelländischen Eduards’ (1691),” in Mara R. Wade, ed.: Gender Matters: Discourses of Violence in Early Modern Literature and the Arts. Rodopi.

(Tatlock continued)

I don’t recall a year that saw more completed Ph.D.s in our department. I myself served on 7 committees from August to August—by no means all of them. It was gratifying to see years of work come to fruition though the pace was crazy this past April, as, I believe, we all would agree.

Work with Matt Erlin on the 21st St. Louis Symposium, “Distant Readings/ Descriptive Turns: Topologies of German Culture in the Long Nineteenth Century,” March 29-31, 2012, was one of the great pleasures of the past year. Matt’s interest in topic modeling, networks, and other kinds of datasets and visualizations of data inspired the focus of the symposium and, among other things, pushed me to expand the research I had done for my forthcoming book German Writing, American Reading: Women and the Import of Fiction, 1866-1917 to include, among other things, topic modeling. We are currently editing an anthology of essays that emerged from the symposium that will appear, we hope, in late 2013.

My term on the Executive Council of the Modern Languages Associations concluded with the national meeting in Seattle, but I found myself committed to another MLA project in support of reinvigorated language, literature, and culture programs, namely, the MLA Language Consultancy, which was reborn in May 2012 as the Steering Committee for New Structures for Languages in Higher Education. Work with this group has forced me to think again how the pieces of our profession fit together, how departments can be brought to function best (and inclusively), and what curricula best serve the needs of our students and institutions of higher learning in the twenty-first century.


Alumni News

Helene Endres (MA 2001) Helene Endres has co-founded “ProQuote Medien e.V.”, a professional association for the advancement of women in media and now functions as one of the board members. The aim of the association is to support female professionals in journalism by demanding a quota of at least 30% for the executive jobs in editorial departments—on all levels of the hierarchy. At present only 2% of all editor-in-chiefs of the over 360 German daily and weekly newspapers are women. "This is not only a slap in the face to all well educated and highly intelligent female journalists out there—but also to all female readers. Germany’s public opinion deserves more than to be lead by the ever same middle-aged, white, west-German male", says Endres. For more information visit www.proquote.de
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