

GERMANICS

Autumn 2006 Newsletter

and receptions, "Wine and Wisdom." We feature once again the Germanics faculty, with updates on their current research and teaching. Finally, Rosemarie Anderson brings us up to date on the many fund-raising and outreach activities of the Germanics Advisory Board. The Board and the faculty, staff and students in the Department want to thank the individuals, foundations and companies whose donations have made it possible for Germanics to continue offering one of the nation's finest undergraduate and graduate programs.

Looking ahead, we will once again have several international visitors in the Department this year. Our Max Kade Distinguished Visiting Professor in spring quarter 2007 will be Professor Andreas Krass from the Universität Frankfurt, who will be offering a graduate seminar on the topic "Queer Reading." In spring Dr. Hansjörg Bay, from the



Letter from the Acting Chair

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

We are very happy to bring you another edition of our semi-annual Germanics newsletter. I hope you will enjoy previewing the new look for our website, designed by our own Stephanie Welch. We are absolutely delighted with Stephanie's work, and we look forward to the new site being fully operational in January. We also highlight the increasing success of our community outreach efforts, with two major events in the fall—one hosting Washington governor Christine Gregoire!—as well as our established series of "Connections and Contexts" lectures at the Frye Museum and our roving series of informal talks

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Letter from the Acting Chair, cont.

Universität Erfurt, will come to the Department as a Feodor-Lynen Fellow, sponsored by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. A fellow Kafka-scholar, Dr. Bay is coming to Seattle for a calendar year to work together with Rick Gray and make some progress toward writing his *Habilitation*. Finally, Dr. Klaus Vieweg, a philosopher from the Universität Jena, will once again be in residence at UW this spring to complete his three-year research collaboration with Rick Gray, funded by a grant from the TransCoop program of the Humboldt Foundation.

Mark your calendars! May 18-20, 2007 the Department is sponsoring an international conference on the theme: "Inventions of the Imagination: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Imaginary Since Romanticism." The conference committee has assembled a stellar line-up of participants from North America, Germany, Italy, and Great Britain, and this is sure to be a memorable scholarly event. The conference has received generous sponsorship from the Simpson Center for the Humanities, the UW Center for

Western European Studies, the College of Arts and Sciences, several academic units, the Max Kade Foundation, and, last but not least, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. The conference represents the culmination of the collaborative research project between Rick Gray and Klaus Vieweg.

In closing, I want to say a word of thanks to Professor Sabine Wilke who has done such a spectacular job as Germanics Department Chair over the last five years. I'm happy to say that Sabine has agreed to serve another term as chair; however, during the current academic year she is enjoying a well-earned sabbatical (beginning a new research project on environmental literary criticism), before returning as chair in autumn of 2007. In the interim, I am "acting" in her stead, and finding her shoes—despite my very large feet—rather difficult to fill.

Rick Gray,
Acting Chair



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Professor Sabine Wilke

Rosemarie Anderson, cont.

The Austrian National Day was celebrated on October 26 in conjunction with the exhibit "Wieder Frei" at Suzallo Library at the University. Professor Sabine Wilke, faculty and staff of the Department of Germanics agreed to host the exhibit and reception, which featured remarks by Austrian Consul Bernhard Faustenhammer and Professor Harry Ritter of Western Washington University. The event was attended by more than 50 members of the local Austrian and German communities.

The busy Autumn quarter also saw another in the Board's series of "Wine and Wisdom" events, this time at Emmanuel's Inc., a rug and upholstery cleaning and repair business with deep connections to Seattle's German community. The event served as a kick-off for Emmanuel's 100th anniversary year in Seattle. Owner Thea Sand donated a lovely rug as a door prize and also led guests on a generous tour of Emmanuel's facilities. The evening also featured remarks by Kyle Galler, an official at the Council of the EU responsible for the Council of Economic and Finance Ministers

and the Eurogroup, who is a visiting EU scholar at UW's Jackson School this academic year. He discussed economic policy and prospects in the EU.

Taken together, we have started the year by reaching out to more than 400 members of the German speaking community. We celebrated significant events in German and Austrian history and recognized contributions by a local Small Business Enterprise to the area. We look forward to building on this good start throughout the Winter and Spring. I encourage you to review the calendar of events planned for the rest of the year and to join us as often as you can.

We appreciate you support!

Rosemarie Anderson



Austrian Consul Bernhard Faustenhammer speaking at the Austrian National Day Celebration in Suzzallo Library, October 26, 2006.

DAY OF GERMAN UNITY CELEBRATION

The 2006-07 academic year got off to a rousing start with a celebration of the Day of German Unity at the University of Washington campus on October 3, 2006. German Consul Rolf Schütte, who is housed at the German Consulate in San Francisco, graciously offered to move this annual event, which generally takes place in the San Francisco Bay Area, to Seattle this year.

The recognition Consul Schütte thereby granted the Department, the University, the city of Seattle, and Washington State was generously rewarded: in attendance at the event were Washington State Governor Christine Gregoire and her husband Mike. Governor Gregoire gave a brief talk about the significance of German immigration to Washington State, and, on a more personal note, she commented that her husband had studied the German language at UW, and that their French surname actually derives from the Alsatian region where French and German heritages intermingle.



German Consul Rolf Schütte and Washington Governor Christine Gregoire at the Day of German Unity reception in Kane Hall.

The formal program also included a performance of Schubert Lieder by soprano Ute Freund, accompanied by Sandra Bleiweiss. The overflow crowd of 300 guests also joined Ute in singing the German and American National Anthems. Members of the Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra also performed for guests at the beginning of the program and during the reception that followed.

The program and reception were made possible through the generous support of local sponsors: Scandinavian Airlines; Boehm's Chocolates; Chateau St. Michelle Winery; Steve Metzler
cont. pg. 4



Ute Pust performs the German and American National Anthems while Consul Rolf Schütte looks on from the podium.

October 3, cont.

Classical Wines; and Summit Law Group. All these sponsors, as well as the German Consulate, deserve our heartfelt thanks, as do the four volunteers who organized the entire event: Malte Kluetz of Uniquely Northwest, a member of the Germanics Advisory Board and chair of the organizing committee; Manfred Bolender, President of the German Heritage Society; Petra Walker of John L. Scott Realty and also a member of the Germanics Advisory Board; and the Germanics Department's own Heidi Rauscher Tilghman.

INTRODUCING GERMANICS' NEW LOOK

The Department of Germanics will greet 2007 with a new and invigorated online presence. The renovated website will feature improved navigation and site organization, engaging interactive features, and comprehensive information for prospective students and members of the online community. A limited Beta launch in November provided a sneak peek at the new look, which appropriately combines the familiar sights of the University of Washington campus with a touch of European style.

The department's website will be fully operational by January 2007, with additional features to be added in the following months. Graphic elements from the new site are featured throughout the newsletter.



Stephanie Welch



Letter from Rosemarie Anderson, Advisory Board Chair



As I am writing this letter, our region has set several records. Seattle recorded the most rain ever experienced during any month of the year – and we had the lowest temperature for the same day ever recorded. (Of course these records apply to the time since these measures were recorded).

The Department of Germanics Advisory Board began the year with a retreat during which each committee developed a work plan applying the mission, goals, expectations and responsibilities developed the previous year. Our goal for the academic year 2006/2007 is to develop and apply measurements to record progress toward our missions in Fundraising and Outreach Activities. We plan to establish challenging goals and measures, and all of us are committed to achieve and, hopefully, exceed these goals.

Leading us in these efforts are the chairs of our four committees:

Petra Hauser-Walker for Community Development; Christine Newcomb for Educational Outreach, Jeff Ouimet for Development, and Sarah Nugent for Alumni Relations.

As is reported elsewhere in this newsletter, the year started with a successful celebration of the German Unification Day on October 3. The event was hosted by Consul Rolf Schuette and attended by over 300 guests, including Governor Christine Gregoire. A committee of Advisory Board members, Department of Germanics faculty and staff, and Friends of Germanics worked all through the summer to plan the celebration. My personal thank you to these volunteers, to the sponsors and guests who made this celebration possible and a great success. Our sincere appreciation goes to Consul Rolf Schuette, who chose to have the celebration at the University of Washington in Seattle in recognition of the importance of the State's and Region's contributions to German culture and commerce.

Connections and Contexts, cont.

Collapse of East Germany: The Crisis of Leninism and the Revolution of 1989 (Duke University Press, 2006), discusses the role of Leipzig in the revolution, the reasons for its influence before and after 1989, and how Leipzig's distinctive artistic and cultural milieu may have contributed to the transition.



Academy of visual arts, Leipzig

Dr. Bram Dijkstra, University of California, San Diego, Professor Emeritus of Cultural History, Literature Department: *Dangerous Women: Franz Von Stuck and Sexual Politics*. Related Exhibition: *Sin* (on exhibition March 24, 2007–October 7, 2007)

Thursday, May 3, 6:30 pm

(Dystra, cont.) Turn-of-the-century biology and medicine insisted that there was a fundamental conflict between what was held to be the central genetic impulse of the human male toward evolutionary transcendence and an equally central reproductive imperative dominating female existence. The human body was the ultimate battle-ground between these two tendencies. Stuck–like many of the other artists of this period–set out to depict this conflict in many of his paintings, and as one of the best-known European artists of the early twentieth century, he played a major role in the dissemination of these pseudo-scientific theories. This talk will illuminate the symbolism of Stuck's imagery and its lingering influence on contemporary popular culture.

Ticket Information: All programs are free. Tickets are available at the Frye Information Desk one hour before the event is scheduled to begin. No late seating.



**“Wieder frei!”
Celebration of the 50th
Anniversary of Austrian
Independence**



Sabine Wilke, Heidi Tilghman, Claire Rood and Consul Bernhard Faustenhammer at the exhibit: “Wieder frei!” in Suzzallo Library.

The Austrians and Austrophiles among you should not feel left out of Department celebrations! On October 26 Austrian Consul Bernhard Faustenhammer, from the Austrian Consulate General in Los Angeles, was on campus to help us celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Austrian independence following World War Two and the opening of the exhibition *Wieder Frei! Free Again!*. The exhibition contains posters, books, and photographs documenting Austrian postwar political culture, and it is housed until January 5, 2007 in Exhibit Room 102 of Suzzallo Library, on the UW campus. Materials for the exhibition were made available by

The Hoover Institution Archives at Stanford University.

The October 26 opening celebration included a lecture detailing the posters in the exhibition by Professor Harry Ritter from Western Washington University. Following the lecture, guests were invited to a reception in the Petersen Room of Suzzallo Library—complete even with *Schrammelmusik* for the proper atmosphere! We are grateful to the Austrian Consulate, the Austrian National Library, the Austrian-American Council, and the University of Washington Libraries for helping us sponsor this event.

Did you know?

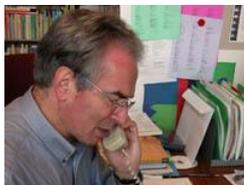


UW Germanics lectures, including Professor Harry Ritter's presentation on October 26, are now being podcast. If you have iTunes, simply click the image (above) on the Germanics' website to subscribe.

FACULTY UPDATES



Eric Ames recently published an essay on Wild West shows and their reception in nineteenth-century Germany. Currently, he is writing a series of essays on aspects of documentary in German film history. He is also teaching two new courses this year: "Exploring Visual Culture," and "Werner Herzog and Documentary Film," both in winter 2007.



Manfred Bansleben was promoted to full professor as of Autumn 2006. He will be retiring from full-time teaching at the end of the 2006-07 academic year, but he will continue at 40% for the next several years.



Hellmut Ammerlahn's new research project deals with selected European literary art tales („Kunstmärchen“) from Goethe to Angela Carter. He will explore their artistic structures, historical transformations, psychological implications, cross-disciplinary expansion, and their authors' self-reflections and cultural critiques. In regard to the fifty-year long scholarly debate about the genre of Goethe's *Lehrjahre*, Hellmut presents his own conclusions, published in *German Life and Letters*. The article is entitled: "The Marriage of Artist Novel and Bildungsroman. *Goethe's Wilhelm Meister*: A Paradigm in Disguise" (January 2006). In addition to teaching large lecture classes in Comparative Literature, he took great pleasure in his Germanics seminar this fall quarter, for which our new crop of enthusiastic graduate students independently organized additional discussion sessions.

CONNECTIONS AND CONTEXTS 2007



The Department of Germanics, in conjunction with the Frye Art Museum and the Simpson Center for the Humanities, is pleased to continue its lecture series "Connections and Contexts: Evenings on German Art and Culture." This year, the series features three speakers:

(1) Dr. Richard Block, University of Washington, Department of Germanics: *The Loss of the Berlin Salon Culture*. Related Exhibition: *Spectatorship and Desire: Loss (on exhibition through March 4, 2007)*

Thursday, January 25, 6:30 pm

After 1945 it was all too clear that the remarkable history of German-Jewish assimilation had ended. What was unclear was whether a dialogue between German and Jews had ever really existed. To answer that question one needs to examine the remarkable moment around 1800 when Jewish salons attracted Germany's most

celebrated writers and artists and German Jews seemed to become an essential partner in the development of German culture. But one also needs to question why that moment was so short, ending, as Hannah Arendt claims, by 1820.

(2) Dr. Steven Pfaff, University of Washington Department of Sociology: *Leipzig and the East German Revolution*. Related Exhibition: *Life After Death: New Leipzig Painting from the Rubell Family Collection* (on exhibition February 17, 2007–June 3, 2007)

Thursday, March 1, 6:30 pm

The Leipzig that nurtured artist Neo Rauch has been widely hailed as the "cradle" of the rebellion against communism that led to the German Democratic Republic's "Wende" in 1989-1990. Dr. Pfaff, author of *Exit-Voice Dynamics and the of*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 24:

Public Lecture, 4:30 p.m. in ART, Room 31

Niklaus Largier, UC Berkeley

"Theaters of arousal: The animation of the senses and the phenomenology of rhetorical effects"

January 25:

Connections and Contexts at the Frye, 6:30 p.m.

Richard Block, University of Washington:

"The Loss of Berlin Salon Culture"

February 23:

Public Lecture/Reading, 1:30 p.m. in Denny Hall 308

Swiss Authors Martin Dean and Daniel Zahno

March 1:

Connections and Contexts at the Frye, 6:30 p.m.

Steven Pfaff, University of Washington:

"Leipzig and the East German Revolution"

March 6:

Wine and Wisdom, 5:30 p.m.

LUWA Distribution Center, Tukwila

March 7:

Public Lecture, 1:30 p.m. in Denny Hall 308

Peter Fenves, Northwestern University

"In Search of a Critique of Violence"

April (t.b.a.):

Wine and Wisdom at George's Wine Shop, Bellevue

May 3:

Connections and Contexts at the Frye, 6:30 p.m.

Bram Dijkstra, UC San Diego

"Dangerous Women: Franz von Stuck and Sexual Politics"

May 18-20:

International Conference, Simpson Center

"Inventions of the Imagination: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Imaginary Since Romanticism."

May 25:

Public Lecture, 1:30 in Denny Hall 308

Deniz Göktürk, UC Berkeley: "Sound Bridges: Transnational Mobility as Ironic Melodrama."

June 9:

Department Graduation, Delta Phi Alpha Initiation

Simpson Center, 10:00 a.m.



Charles Barrack and Joe Voyles are currently completing a book entitled: *An Introduction to Proto-Indo-European and the Early Indo-European Languages*, which has been accepted for publication.



Richard Block delivered two conference papers this fall: the first in September at the German Studies Association entitled, "'I'll love you forever, Wilhelm': Echoes of Queer Messianism in Goethe's 'Werther,'" and the second before the Modern Language Association in December entitled "Scribbles from Italy: Cy Twombly's 'Goethe in Italy'." The latter is also the basis for an article that will appear in a collection, "Enlightened Eye: Goethe and Seeing," ed. by Eve Moore and Patricia Simpson.



Diana Behler continues editorial work on the 354 page manuscript *Infinite Perfectibility: European Romanticism and the French Revolution*, a translation of the German book *Unendliche Perfektibilität. Europäische Romantik und Französische Revolution* (Schöningh, 1989) by Ernst Behler.



Jane Brown has been in Tuebingen since March on a Humboldt Preis working on a book called "Goethe and the Modern Subject," about Goethe's contribution to the emergence of depth psychology in the 19th century. She has given talks in Muenster, Bonn, Tuebingen, Zurich. Her book, "The Persistence of Allegory: European Drama and Neoclassicism from Shakespeare to Wagner," just appeared with the University of Pennsylvania Press.

Rick Gray (picture on page 1) postponed his approved leave for the 2006-07 academic year in order to step in as Acting Chair of the Department while Sabine Wilke is on sabbatical. When not tending to administrative matters, Rick is working to complete the concluding chapter (dealing with Part Two of Goethe's *Faust*) of his book manuscript, *Money Matters: Economics and the German Cultural Imagination, 1770-1850*. A volume of essays, edited with philosopher Klaus Vieweg from the Universität Jena, with the title *Hegel und Nietzsche: Eine literarisch-philosophische Begegnung*, will appear with the university press of the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar in 2007. In November Rick was invited to Rutgers University as this year's Rodig Lecturer, where he delivered a lecture on Chamisso's *Peter Schlemihls wundersame Geschichte* and held a workshop on the sociology of the Other in Kafka's short story "Der Nachbar." He is looking forward to finding time for his next research project, an investigation of the fictional writings by the German émigré writer W. G. Sebald.



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Brigitte Prutti published an essay on border fiction in Ingeborg Bachmann and Terézia Mora in the *Weimarer Beiträge* earlier this year, another essay on questions of masculinity and the gendered iconography of power in Sealsfield and Grillparzer is currently in print. She gave talks relating to a larger book project on Grillparzer at the Modern Austrian Literature conference this April and at the meeting of the German Studies Association in the fall for which she also put together the panel. In conjunction with Sabine Wilke and Heidi Tilghman she serves as co-organizer of the MALCA conference on the subject of *Cultures of Performance*, which will be hosted by UW Germanics in the spring of 2008.



Stephanie Günther joined the UW Department of Germanics in Autumn Quarter 2006 as Lecturer, following graduate work in German and English studies, psychology and education at Vanderbilt University, and at the University of Regensburg in Germany. Stephanie's research interests include 19th- and 20th-century German literature and cultural studies, women writers, and women and gender studies. In her M.A. work, she studied Martin Walser's perception of modern America. A recent TV documentary, produced jointly by the Bavarian State TV and the University of Regensburg, features an extensive interview that Stephanie prepared and conducted with the novelist. Stephanie's Ph.D. studies at Regensburg, supported by the Hanns-Seidel Foundation, focused on the work of Alice Berend, Margarete Boehme, and Clara Viebig – early 20th century women writers in Berlin. Currently, Stephanie is finalizing a forthcoming book relating the novelists' gender conceptions to the development of the Women's Movement and to the emergence of Berlin as a cosmopolitan city.



Sabine Wilke is on sabbatical this year. She is finishing up her project on German representations of the Pacific Islands with a few lectures (at Thomson Rivers University in Kamloops, UC Irvine, the annual meeting of the Pacific, Ancient, and Modern Language Association, the University of Edinburgh, and the University of Hawaii). Together with a colleague from anthropology, she is editing a special issue of the *Journal of Pacific History* on "Colonial Encounters: Germans in the Pacific Islands" before transitioning into her new project on ecology and literature. She is discovering that most colonial narratives are nature writing and is very excited about applying her expertise on colonial and postcolonial issues to eco-criticism.

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