



# UW GERMANICS

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear friends:

The academic year 2008-2009 is off to a strong start. I say this despite the gloomy situation with our economy which is projected to have a very negative effect on public institutions of higher education. Given that the lion's share of our department budget comes from the state government, we will be looking to step up fundraising efforts to increase our independence from the financial situation of the state of Washington.

We continue to seek contributions in the form of endowments to support our undergraduate students who wish to study abroad but who frequently lack the means to pay

for it, our graduate students who would benefit greatly from more fellowship support during the dissertation phase, and our award-winning faculty members in need of critical support for their research. In general, the assessment of the health of the unit is positive. We

continue to be a very effective team. We have full classes and we teach motivated and excellent students. We continue to host exchange students and foreign visitors; faculty and graduate students publish their research in national and international venues; they get invited to lecture at other universities in the US and abroad—all very healthy signs of a well-functioning, highly ranked and highly effective Germanics department.

In this issue you will be able to read more in detail about faculty research projects. Following the tradition of featuring recent book projects in our semi-annual newsletters, you will learn in this Autumn 2008 issue about Rick Gray's new book on economics and literature. Moreover, we will profile of our newest faculty member, Dr. Klaus Brandl, an applied linguist and foreign language pedagogue who joins us in support of the administration of the language program, and our visitor from Münster, Professor Martina Wagner-Egelhaaf. We also feature two of Stephanie Welch's delightful posters advertising upcoming Germanics courses.

We continue our popular "Connections and Contexts" lecture series with the Frye Museum, and the Germanics Advisory Board is again hosting "Wine & Wisdom" events in local business venues. We are very thankful for contin-

ued strong support for our efforts within the university as well as from the community. We couldn't do it without all of you friends and alumni! You will see in this issue that we are worthy of your support!

Warm holiday greetings,

*Sabine*

### Upcoming Events:

Thursday, February 19

**Connections and Contexts** at the Frye Art Museum: Professor Jane Brown, "From Strauss to Strauss: the Beginnings of Modernism in Opera" 6:30 p.m., 704 Terry Avenue.

Thursday, February 26

Wine and Wisdom at the German House.

Thursday, April 2

**Connections and Contexts** at the Frye Art Museum: Affiliate Professor Heidi Rauscher Tilghman, "Beyond von Stuck: Munich's Role in the Emergence of Europe's Literary Modernism"

Watch for our monthly news update of details of additional events.



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**WINTER QTR 2009**

**GERMAN 293:  
Germany in Transit: Strangers at Home and Foreigners Abroad**

This course will explore contemporary German culture with an emphasis on literature and film by writers and filmmakers who offer various perspectives on migration, "multiculturalism," and national identity. The last two decades have witnessed an increasing interest in and production of migrant literature. The German debate on "multiculturalism" is current and controversial. We will be discussing the implications of "multiculturalism," and whether that is an appropriate term? Through the reading of (autobiographical) essays, short stories, and selections from novels, we will discuss how contemporary writers of both German as well as diverse ethnic backgrounds suggest alternative histories and identities to the German mainstream. How do they inform ongoing debates about citizenship, immigration and German identity? We will be looking at a range of recent cultural production by Yoko Tawada, Emine Özdamar, W.G. Sebald, Vladimir Kaminer, and other relevant literary, filmic, and musical texts. **All material and discussions will be in English.**

TTh 1:30-3:50, DEN 311  
5 credits, VLPA/I&S, sln: 13824  
Instructor: Sabina Pasic

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graduate students who would benefit greatly from more fellowship support during the dissertation phase, and our award-winning faculty members in need of critical support for their research. In general, the assessment of the health of the unit is positive. We

## GERMANICS FACULTY UPDATES 2008

**Eric Ames** was recently promoted to associate professor. His book, *Carl Hagenbeck's Empire of Entertainments* (University of Washington Press), will appear this month. His previously published essay on Wild West shows in Wilhelmine Germany was recently reprinted in *Human Zoos: From the Hottentot Venus to Reality Shows* (2008). Currently, he is preparing a book manuscript on Werner Herzog and issues of documentary filmmaking. His latest course offerings have included a graduate seminar on Herzog and an undergraduate course on film and opera, which was co-taught with Jane Brown. On 1 August 2008, Eric, his wife Veronika, and their son Isaac, all celebrated the birth of another baby boy, Max.

**Charles Barrack** continues to serve as Honors Advisor and will serve as Acting Undergraduate Advisor until January 2010. He has also compiled a data base for examining certain phonological aspects of Gothic as revealed by scribal practices in the main manuscripts of Gothic and has used it in a study to resolve certain controversies concerning Sievers' Law. In preparation for a Departmental presentation he gave in November on the grammatical terminology used in German and English, he did research on the influence of Latin and Greek grammarians as well as on the Romantic strains revealed in Jakob Grimm's contribution to that terminology.

**Diana Behler** gave a public lecture at the Frye Art Museum as part of the German-

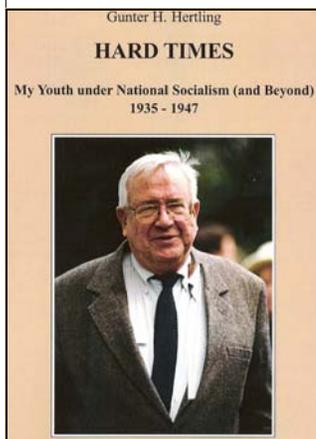
ics-Frye collaborative series "Connections and Contexts." The lecture, entitled "The Lure of the Orient in the German Romantic Imagination," corresponded with the Frye's exhibition "Napoleon on the Nile: Soldiers, Artists, and the Rediscovery of Egypt" (through January 4, 2009). The autumn quarter also saw Diana teaching an unusually large graduate-level course in Comparative Literature and Germanics focusing on the works of Friedrich Nietzsche, Sigmund Freud, Thomas Mann, Arthur Schnitzler, Henrik Ibsen, and George Bernard Shaw. Next quarter, she will teach an entirely new course cross-listed with the Center for West European Studies on European Enlightenment.

**Richard Block** is on sabbatical this year, working on his latest book project, "Echoes of Queer Messianism. Or, Taking a Break from Sexuality," which focuses on narratives from around 1800. He recently delivered a paper at the German Studies Association Conference entitled "Textual Narcissism in Kleist's 'Über das Marionettentheater'." A longer version of that paper is expected to appear in a volume about narcissism and the eighteenth century. Last spring he taught as an exchange professor at the University of Münster, during which time he also delivered lectures at the University of Bonn and the University of Frankfurt am Main.

**Brigitte Prutti:** Recent publications include essays on the links between gender politics and the staging of

power in Grillparzer's *Treuer Diener seines Herrn* in the *Deutsche Vierteljahresschrift für Literaturwissenschaft und Geistesgeschichte* (2007), on the plague narrative in Stifter's *Pechbrenner* novella (*Oxford German Studies* 2008) and on the language of tears in Stifter's *Brigitta* (*Jahrbuch des Adalbert-Stifter-Instituts* 2008; in print). Co-organizer (with Sabine Wilke and Heidi Tilghman) of the 2008 symposium of the *Modern Austrian Literature and Culture Association on Cultures of Performance in Modern Austria* and (with Sabine Wilke) guest editor of a themed volume of *Modern Austrian Literature*. Organizer of a special session on *Literature and Religion* at the 2008 PAMLA meeting; various conference talks planned for PAMLA, MLA, and MALCA meetings later this year.

**Rick Gray** has returned from a year-long sabbatical and is back teaching his general studies course on "Freud and the Literary Imagination." Those interested in the course content can check out the class website at <http://courses.washington.edu/freudlit/>. During his sabbatical Rick spent 2 months at the Deutsches Literaturarchiv in Marbach working with the literary remains of W. G. Sebald. The research has begun to bear fruit in the form of several essays now circulating for possible publication, dealing largely with Sebald's *Die Ringe des Saturn* and *Die Ausgewanderten* (in particular the story "Dr. Henry Selwyn"). Rick also read a paper, entitled "Hey Big Spender! Economics and Aesthetics of Excess in Goethe's Faust II," at the German Studies Association conference in Minneapolis this fall.



Professor Emeritus Gunter Hertling recently published his memoir. See facing page.



## UPDATES, CONT.

Professor Emeritus **Gunter Hertling** recently published a memoir entitled *Hard Times: My Youth under National Socialism (and Beyond) 1935-1947* (Haag and Herchen, 2008). In it, he recalls the historical and personal events that affected his formative years psychologically and emotionally.

**Sabine Wilke** continues to write and lecture about the German colonial imagination with an essay on masochism in the *Newsletter of the Center for Research Libraries* in Chicago and an article on mythical

images of others in early German contact narratives in *Pacific Coast Philology*. She is part of an international and interdisciplinary research group funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft to explore postcolonial perspectives in German Studies. Position papers from core members of the group were delivered at last year's "Deutscher Germanistentag" in Marburg and then published in the online journal *literaturkritik.de*. She also presented one of the forum addresses on the academe in the global age at the 2007 PAMLA meeting in Bellingham and gave a lecture on

Bierstadt's images of the American West in our Frye lecture series in May 2008. She was invited to give the plenary address at this year's East European German Studies meeting at the University of Vilnius and will give a lunch talk at PAMLA 2008 in Pomona. Another set of papers on eco-criticism will appear this year. She is currently continuing her work on images of the American West and expanding her interest to other spaces such as popular nature and the tropics.



## Martina Wagner-Egelhaaf: "Cool as a Cucumber"

The Germanics Department had the pleasure of hosting Professor Martina Wagner-Egelhaaf from Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster as a Visiting Professor during the autumn 2008 quarter. Though her scholarly interests are diverse and her publication credits many, she elected to teach a graduate seminar related to her current research into Uwe Johnson. Wagner-Egelhaaf is presently writing a chapter about Johnson's novel *Jabrestage* for an introductory book to the work of this 20th century German novelist. The graduate students who attended this course profited tremendously from her enthusiasm and expertise.

Prof. Wagner-Egelhaaf is no stranger to the University of Washington. She last taught in the department during a visit in 2004 and was pleased to return. Through her course on Johnson, graduate students were able to work with a text seldom taught in Seattle. For many, it was their first time reading

Johnson. "I'll definitely be returning to this text again. It was a terrific introduction to a truly rich novel and the class was so great," remarked one graduate student from her seminar. Wagner-Egelhaaf regularly returns to this work herself. She has taught *Jabrestage* twice in Germany, once in Bochum, where she first worked as a professor between the years of 1995-1998, and a second time in Münster, where she has taught since 1998.

The four-volume novel recounts a year in the lives of Gesine, a German émigré to New York and her ten-year-old daughter, Marie. It is a fascinating book with a narrative that shifts between 1960s New York and 1930s Germany. I asked Prof. Wagner-Egelhaaf what the book was about for her: "It's about how to live with the memory of German history. It's a novel on how to live with the past in the present and the future as well." She told me

that although the book was written throughout the 1970s and 80s, it offers a perspective which "can help us to understand our present time."

For Wagner-Egelhaaf, reading *Jabrestage* is always a fresh experience as her perspective changes: "Every time I develop a different reading. Every ten years my reading is new." I asked her if teaching the novel in America offered her a new vantage point from which to understand the text. "Yes!" When she had taught the novel in the past, she did not have the opportunity to work with such a small group of advanced students, much less advanced students who speak colloquial English. Although the novel is written in German, there are many English idioms that have been translated directly to German since part of the book is set in New York. "I didn't know 'kuhl wie eine Gurke' was an expression in English! American students offered a different perspective!"

*Visiting Professor Martina Wagner-Egelhaaf listens to questions during her public lecture in the Rey Library. Gold cloth covers moving boxes in the background (see "Dies und Das," page 5).*

## Faculty Publications: Rick Gray's *Money Matters*

Professor Rick Gray's newest book, *Money Matters*, was published last month with the University of Washington Press. Germanics Ph.D. student Tim Coombs worked as Rick's research assistant in the later stages of the book project. He recently discussed the completed project with Rick:

*Money Matters* was originally envisioned as part of Rick's earlier book on physiognomic thought, *About Face* (Wayne State University Press, 2004). Each was eventually spun off from this more wide-ranging project as an independent book. The theoretical connection underlying this book and his last, he told me, is that, while the sciences and disciplines of physiognomy and economics emerged in the 18th century, they were eventually legitimized based on their ability to define themselves as distinct semiotic systems. *Money Matters* investigates the extent to which the development of cultural interests and economic practices (understood even today as not only separate but even diametrically opposed enterprises) are dialectically entwined.

Rick writes: "[The book's] aim is to investigate the extent to which in those formative years of German cultural, political, and economic his-

tory from the mid-eighteenth to the mid-nineteenth century—in which not only capitalist economic models and industrial modernism took hold, but in which, not coincidentally, the idealist aesthetics of autonomy were also formulated and solidified—economic thought has a seldom recognized influence on the cultural regime. The object of the chapters that follow is to demonstrate

the extent to which economics does not simply 'infect' the high-cultural domains of German-speaking Europe, but also the degree to which the landmark

documents of this high German culture—in particular literature and philosophy—are complicit with and participate in the establishment and solidification of modern economic paradigms" (pg. 4).

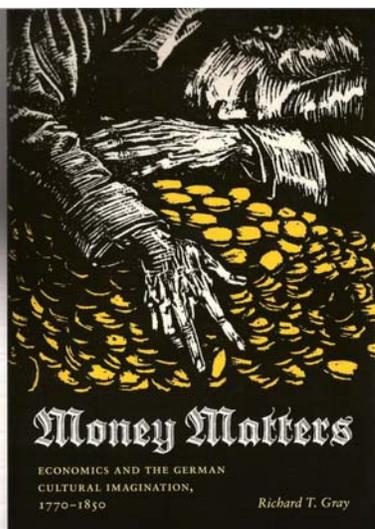
Rick situates his discussion of German literature and philosophy within the nascent field in American literary and cultural studies known as "New Economic Criticism." He uses case studies to demonstrate that economics' and aesthetics' influence on each other was mutually determinant and attributable to what he calls the "economic unconscious." For Rick, neither field can be understood

as autonomous (which was a preoccupation of enlightenment/post-enlightenment thinking, especially Kant's.) There was a productive comingling and confluence of thought on display. The creation of modern economic paradigms, above all the discussion of value, exchange and meaning, are all implicated in this discursive intersection of politics, economics, and intellectual culture.

"Methodologically," explains Rick, "my examinations and interpretation operate—this constitutes, I believe, their principal virtue—by attempting to establish a productive dialectic that allows me to move back and forth between detailed readings of literary, philosophical, and economic texts, on the one hand, and overriding speculative historical hypotheses, on the other. In the best-case scenario, these broad hypotheses shape but do not over-determine the individual readings, while these readings in turn enrich and problematize the general hypotheses" (pg. 17).

The project was supported by the American Council of Learned Societies, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and the UW College of Arts and Sciences through the Lockwood Foundation.

Tim Coombs



## KLAUS BRANDL JOINS GERMANICS

Klaus Brandl officially joined the Department of Germanics with a 50% appointment this academic year. For Klaus, who has taught graduate courses for the Department for many years, the new appointment feels a bit like returning home.

Klaus has worked for more than 15 years with different language departments, different languages and cultures; he has been part of many language projects funded locally and federally. He currently is developing a first-year language textbook for Bengali, entitled *e par bangle o oar bangle: Bangla across borders*. This project is funded by a US Department of Education IRS Grant and is cur-

rently in its second grant cycle. His methods book, *Communicative Language Teaching in Action: Putting Principles to Work* (Pearson Prentice Hall) was published in 2008. He was also pleased to hear that his article entitled “Strong and Weak Students’ Preferences of Feedback Options in Computer Assisted Language Learning” that he published in 1995 in the *Modern Language Journal* was selected by an independent panel and will be reprinted as part of a collection of works in “Computer Assisted Language Learning: Critical Concepts in Linguistics.” The compendium will be published by Routledge and is scheduled for release in 2009.

Now Klaus brings his exper-

tise in language pedagogy, second language acquisition and language learning and technology to the Department of Germanics. He and Professor Emeritus Manfred Bansleben coordinate the language program and mentor the teaching assistants jointly. While Manfred’s emphasis is the second to fourth year language courses, Klaus primarily focuses on the first year, the methods courses for the teaching assistants and, last but not least, the program’s computer-aided language teaching module “Moodle” – Klaus’ “Steckenpferd.” Welcome to the Department!

*Elisabeth Cnobloch*



## DIES UND DAS...

On October 7, 2008, the Germanics Department and the German Consul General, Rolf Schuette, co-hosted an event highlighting the value of teaching German language teaching in secondary schools and colleges. The event featured a visit by the Goethe Institute’s German Bus. Washington State Superintendent of Schools Terry Bergeson was the featured speaker.

The Department of Germanics recently completed the initial stages of a University-mandated **program review**. All departments and programs at the University are reviewed every ten-years following procedures established by the Graduate School’s Academic Programs office. The review committee was chaired by UW Classics professor Jim Clauss. Other members were Profes-

sor Cynthia Steele, chair of Comparative Literature, Professor Scott Noegel, chair of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Benjamin Bennett, professor of German at the University of Virginia, and Sabine Hake, professor of German at the University of Texas at Austin. The committee convened for a site visit on November 17 and 18. Its written report will be presented to the Graduate School Council later in the academic year. Review documentation will be available on the Academic Program’s website (<http://www.grad.washington.edu/Acad/index.htm>).

In September 2009, all departments housed in Denny Hall, the oldest building on the current UW campus, will be moving into temporary quarters in Condon Hall, the University’s former law school building. The move makes way for **Denny’s long-planned reno-**

**vation**, funded by UW’s “Restoring the Core” capital improvement project. Denny Hall was originally constructed in 1895 to house all university activities, including the library, an auditorium and even a carpentry shop. The entire interior was rebuilt in 1956; the original wood floor and roof system was replaced with a steel and concrete system and the auditorium wing was reconfigured to accommodate faculty and administrative offices on three levels, including the new mezzanine. While it will maintain the mezzanine level, other aspects of the original building will be resurrected in the 2009-11 reconstruction. The building will once again host skylights and an open central stair; the building will also be brought up to current code and accessibility will be vastly improved.



*The German Bus, a traveling language program sponsored by the Goethe Institute, visited UW on October 7, 2008 as part of an event sponsored by Germanics and the German Consulate in San Francisco.*

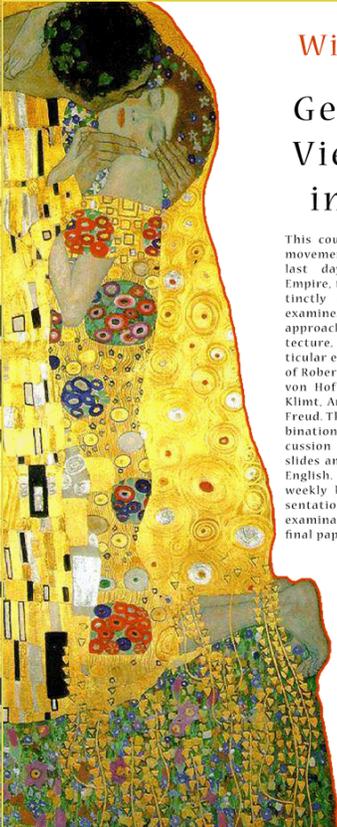
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The Department of Germanics thanks those foundations and individuals who have generously supported programming in 2008!

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Winter 2009

### German 351: Vienna 1900 in English

This course focuses on the modernist movement that erupted in Vienna in the last days of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, from 1890 to 1914. This is a distinctly interdisciplinary course that examines the struggle to find new approaches in literature, music, architecture, painting, and philosophy. Particular emphasis is placed on the works of Robert Musil, Arthur Schnitzler, Hugo von Hofmannsthal, Adolf Loos, Gustav Klimt, Arnold Schoenberg and Sigmund Freud. The course is conducted as a combination of lecture and small group discussion supported by videos, films, slides and music. Class is conducted in English. Assignments include a semi-weekly blog-commentary, a class presentation, a mid-term and a final examination. To receive 'W' credit, a final paper may be written in lieu of the final examination.

HSTED 490B, CHD 498C

TTh 9:30-10:50, Den 216  
5 credits, VLPA/I&S,  
sln: 13853  
Instructor: Heidi Tilghman  
Department of Germanics  
340-C Denny Hall