



# UW GERMANICS

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## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Dear friends and colleagues:

Those of you who receive monthly updates via our electronic newsletter know that I have returned to the chairship from a year-long sabbatical. I had a wonderful time staying home, reading books on environmental criticism (more about that in my faculty blurb) and doing some traveling to attend conferences and read papers. While returning to the job from such a long break is always a shock, it also has its rewards in that I get to see everyone more often and work with the new students. We really do have a fabulous program and it is a sheer pleasure and privilege to be associated with this unit. The acting chair from last year, Rick Gray, is now enjoying his well-deserved sabbatical and just returned from a visit to Germany pursuing research on a new project in Marbach. Thank you, Rick, for standing in for me last year and postponing your sabbatical.

Otherwise, everyone is

teaching this year and you will be able to read about their research updates in this newsletter. Manfred Bansleben retired before the summer. But if you think that that means that he is now staying home attending to his house and garden you are mistaken! He is back teaching part-time and, with some help from students and colleagues, continues in his role as language coordinator. Hellmut Ammerlahn will retire next spring and also plans to return for part-time teaching. We are just having too much fun doing what we love to do.

Eric Ames is in Berlin this fall where he is leading a student group from our Comparative History of Ideas program. They will all return to UW at the end of the year with movies that they made in Berlin and I cannot wait to see them! We are planning to feature some of these works in an event next year, so stay tuned (if you are not yet receiving monthly electronic updates and would like to join the Germanics mailing list, write me an email and I will make sure your name is added). Richard Block will be teaching in Münster in the spring of 2008 in the context of our student and faculty exchange program

with the university there, a program that brought us Detlef Kremer for part of fall quarter (please see the interview with him in this newsletter). Several books penned by our faculty have come out recently or are in the making and we are starting a series that will feature one recent publication per newsletter in depth. This fall we are starting with Jane Brown's career book "The Persistence of Allegory." Applications for our popular "Spring in Vienna" program are out. This year we are opening the program to all students who wish to learn German regardless of prior knowledge.

In this newsletter you will also find a calendar of events and outreach activities such as the Frye Art Museum's public lecture series "Connections and Contexts" and the "Wine & Wisdom" gatherings. The Germanics Board continues to be actively engaged in building community awareness and making sure the Department has the necessary financial means to succeed in its mission. Many thanks to our volunteers and donors. With best wishes for the holiday season I send fond greetings,

Sabine Wilke  
wilke@u.washington.edu



The Department of Germanics congratulates the Seattle region's new Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany, **Petra Walker** (l), shown here discussing Germanics Board activities with Board Chair Rosemarie Anderson in the Lowenfeld Library.

## FACULTY UPDATES



### Eric Ames

Eric Ames is in Berlin fall 2007, leading a foreign-study program, which is co-sponsored by Germanics and Comparative History of Ideas (CHID). The topic of this year's program is "Cinema / City / Memory," and it gives students the

opportunity to create their own "Berlin films." In spring 2008, Eric will be teaching a graduate seminar on the films of Werner Herzog, and co-teaching with Jane Brown a new course on film and opera. Eric's book on the consummate German showman, Carl Hagenbeck, will be published in 2009 by the University of Washington Press.

### Hellmut Ammerlahn



Hellmut Ammerlahn read a paper at the international conference "Inventions of the Imagination," superbly organized by

Rick Gray and three colleagues from other UW departments. Its title: "The Mephistophelian, the Therapeutic, and the Playfully Creative Imagination in Goethe's Later Oeuvre." During his last sabbatical quarter and after his retirement from full-time teaching at the end of the 2007-08 academic year, he will continue his research on Goethe and on the North-

European literary art tale ("Kunstmärchen").

### Charles Barrack and Joe Voyles

Voyles and Barrack are working with the editor of *Slavica* in completing the editing process on their book on Proto-Indo-European and the earliest attested Indo-European languages.

### Diana Behler

My work recently has dealt with Friedrich Nietzsche, one essay on "Nietzsche in America" published in



*Friedrich Nietzsche-Zwischen Musik, Philosophie und Resentiment*, an-

other a review article on the book *Nietzsche and the German Tradition*, and an essay on "Feminist Receptions of the Philosophical Style of Friedrich Nietzsche" to appear shortly in *Schriften aus dem Kolleg Friedrich Nietzsche*. I am now editing my English translation of Ernst Behler's book *Unendliche Perfektibilität* dealing with European romantic authors who embraced an optimistic vision of an ever progressing betterment of humankind.

### Richard Block

I spent the summer in Italy researching my next project which considers why sexuality becomes the essence of all secrets and thus character in the 19th and 20th centuries. I am also interested in how same-sex attraction becomes both the embodiment of that transformation of thought but also its undoing. I will be



delivering a paper at the MLA in December on Heine's "Florentine Nights" as the censored chapter in Goethe's "Italian Journey."

### Rick Gray

I'm on leave for the year, and spent 7 weeks this fall at the Literaturarchiv Marbach, working on a new project on the contemporary author W. G. Sebald—whose Nachlass and library are in the archive in Marbach. While in Germany I gave a lecture at a conference in Jena entitled "Kritische Parabase: Schlegel, Nietzsche und die kulturkritische Philologie, oder Wie man mit dem Hammer philologiert." The conference was entitled "Transzendentalpoesie oder Dichtkunst mit Begriffen - Friedrich Schlegel und Friedrich Nietzsche," sponsored by the Institute for Philosophy, Universität Jena, and Kolleg Friedrich Nietzsche, Weimar. I also lectured at the Uni Münster (Germanistisches Institut) on "Ökonomische Romantik: Währungsnationalismus bei Johann Gottlieb Fichte und Adam Müller." My book manuscript, *Money Matters: Economics and the German Cultural Imagination, 1770-1850*, was accepted for publication with the UW Press, and an edited book from the conference 2 years ago in Weimar, in collaboration with Klaus Vieweg, just appeared. Its title: *Hegel und Nietzsche: Eine literarisch-philosophische Begegnung* (Weimar: Bauhaus-Universität, 2007). Otherwise, I'm just enjoying my time off and looking forward to getting started on a new project.

### Steffi Guenther

My research and teaching interests include 19th and 20th

Podcasts of Germanics' Lecture Series and Readings are available at <http://depts.washington.edu/umgerman/community/podcasts.html>

## FACULTY UPDATES

century German literature and cultural studies, women writers, and women and gender studies. I also have a great interest in literature pedagogy.

In Spring Quarter I taught a seminar on Turn-of-the-Century Literature in Berlin, Munich and Vienna, in which we studied the literary development of this period in its historic, societal and aesthetic context, as reflected in the prose, drama and lyrics of Arno Holz, Johannes Schlaf,



Robert Musil, Arthur Schnitzler, Lou Andreas-Salome and Margarete Böhme.

The seminar relates to my book which was recently published by Bouvier Verlag (Bonn, Germany) under the title *Weiblichkeitsentwürfe des Fin de Siècle. Berliner Autorinnen: Alice Berend, Margarete Böhme, Clara Viebig*. Berend, Böhme and Viebig were early 20th century women writers in Berlin, whose once very popular, witty and critical novels I aim to bring to the attention of a contemporary audience. My book discusses how they perceived and presented the role of the woman in Berlin at the turn of the century. At this time I'm writing an article on pedagogical aspects of Bernhard Schlink's novel *Der Vorleser*.

### Brigitte Prutti

Brigitte Prutti continues to work on the 19th century Austrian dramatist Franz Grillparzer and a monograph of *Grill-*

*parzer-Lektüren* as well as other 19th and 20th century Austrian writers these days. Her most recent Grillparzer-essay, published by the *Deutsche Vierteljahresschrift für Literaturwissenschaft und Geistesgeschichte*, examines the conservative political vision of a lesser-known restoration play. She gave talks on the rhetoric of authorship and genealogy in Grillparzer's oeuvre at the German Studies Meeting in San Diego and on the theme of seduction and queer plotting in Grillparzer and Stifter at the MALCA conference in Edmonton this spring. An essay on Stifter and the plague will appear in *Oxford German Studies* (presumably 2008). Inspired by contemporary movie culture, she organized a panel on "Femininity, Power, and the Pearls: Queens in the German Cultural Imagination" for this year's PAMLA meeting at Western Washington Uni-



versity. Together with her colleagues Sabine Wilke and Heidi Tilghman, she is one of the three co-organizers of the 2008 MALCA conference on "Cultures of Performance in Modern Austria" to take place here at the University of Washington. At the Germanics department she continues to serve as graduate advisor this year and she enjoys teaching literature courses at different levels.

### Sabine Wilke

In the summer of 2007 my new book on colonialism and masochism finally appeared

which marked the end of my decade-long preoccupation with issues that have to do with the German colonial imagination, particularly as it relates to Africa and the Pacific. A related project is the edition (in collaboration with a colleague from Anthropology) of a special issue of the "Journal of Pacific History" on "Narrating Colonial Encounters: Germany and the Pacific Islands." A paper on indigenous laughter and its representations sent me around the world to Canada, Scotland, and Hawaii. And my first two essays on eco-critical topics appeared as the result of my new preoccupation with environmental topics at the borderline of colonial studies. My new hero is Alexander von Humboldt who, I believe, is at the forefront of ecological thinking. Other topics that I want to write on this year are the emergence of the modern landscape aesthetics, the German tradition of nature philosophy, and German ecotourism.



Our popular **Spring in Vienna Program** is now open to all students wishing to learn German, regardless of prior knowledge. Contact Stephanie Welch (206-543-4580) for information.



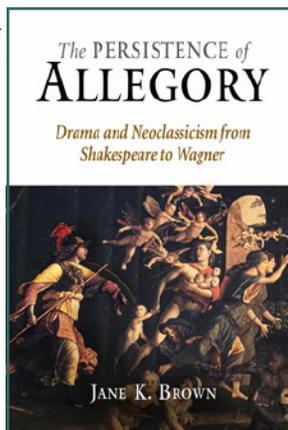
Rick Gray and Eric Ames congratulating graduates at the Department's commencement celebration, June 9, 2007.

## Twenty Years and Two Languages Later: Jane K. Brown's New Publication "The Persistence of Allegory"

Since the mid-1980s, UW Germanics professor Jane K. Brown has been working on a comparative and holistic history of the European stage. Her work culminated this year in the publication of *The Persistence of Allegory* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007). The work discusses a wide range of genres, including tragedy, comedy, opera, ballet, school drama, and masque, and works by writers from all over Western Europe. Jane and I discussed her project and her interest in theater, particularly opera.

As part of her work on this topic, Jane found it necessary to learn Spanish and Dutch. She pointed out that only about twelve to twenty of Calderón's approximately 300 dramas are available in translation. Another important writer, the Dutch playwright Vondel, is also little-known in the Anglophone world and again there are few translations available—perhaps 3 or 4 plays from about 35. So Jane gathered Spanish and Dutch language textbooks and taught herself these lan-

guages up to a good reading level. She mentioned that her children, one a Dutch speaker and one a Spanish speaker, were of great help to her at this stage. Jane commented on the great flexibility and expressiveness of the 17th-century Dutch language: "You read Vondel and you say: this is Milton."



*The Persistence of Allegory* is Jane's reaction to, in her words, the "narrow definition of neoclassicism"

that has been current in literary criticism, and was also inspired by her work on Goethe's *Faust*. She argues that allegory and neoclassical mimesis worked with and enhanced each other from the 16th to the 19th centuries. Rather than jumping quickly from the strictly allegorical dramas of the Middle Ages to completely mimetic, psychologically realistic dramas, allegory continued to play a part in Western European theater throughout this period of time alongside, or even simultaneously with, neoclassically-inspired works.

Opera and ballet, for example, were both born in the Renaissance from the revival of interest in Greek tragedy. But their neoclassical origin did not prevent them from being used to present allegorical works: "Dance actually enters the dramatic tradition together with allegory...[and the] Barberinis' operas in Rome included many on saints' lives and moralities with titles like *La vita humana*."

Jane describes the relationship between allegory and neoclassicism as fruitful and revitalizing rather than tense and competitive, as has been the prevailing view. Jane, an avid operagoer, found seeing works in performance of great value while researching: "It made me realize that even strictly neoclassical texts were conceived as seen on stage."

Congratulations to Professor Brown on her new book. We also owe you thanks for securing group tickets to the Seattle Opera's recent performance of Gluck's *Iphigenia in Tauris*!

Interview and article by Elizabeth Standal

*In Spring 2007,  
Germanics graduated  
15 seniors and one  
Master's student.  
Among those were five  
Delta Phi Alpha and  
two Phi Beta Kappa  
inductees.*

## GRADUATION AND HONORS 2006-07

On June 9, the Department of Germanics honored its Delta Phi Alpha and Phi Beta Kappa inductees and celebrated the graduation of 15 undergraduates and 1 graduate student.

Delta Phi Alpha Inductees:  
Elisabeth Cnobloch, Claire Marschall, Sarina Roscigno, Rachel Schlechty, and Zachary Takasawa.

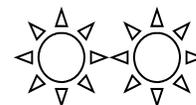
Phi Beta Kappa Inductees:  
Christine Lindell and Leanne Rolling.

Graduating Class of 2006-07:  
Thomas Appleby, Amelia Buden, Charles Conard, Rachel Freeman, Stefan Gillette, Nafiseh Haghgoo, Brandon Hawkins, Claire Marshall, Brynn Partridge, Ian Porter, Austin Smith, Alicia Sorenson,

Anthony Van Winkle, Naomi Vaughan, Celine Waldmann  
and

Sunny Parrott, Master of Arts  
in Germanics.

Congratulations to all!!!



## A VISIT WITH PROFESSOR DETLEF KREMER

This fall the Germanics department had the pleasure to have Prof. Dr. Detlef Kremer as a guest professor from the University of Münster as part of the ongoing exchange program between our department and the Institut für Germanistik. Professor Kremer's research interests include aesthetics, literature of the Enlightenment, Classicism, Romanticism, the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century as well as film and media theory. A list of his publications up to 2003 is available online at: [http://www.uni-muenster.de/DeutschePhilologie2/Kremer/Frameset\\_Kremer.htm](http://www.uni-muenster.de/DeutschePhilologie2/Kremer/Frameset_Kremer.htm).

His broad expertise was incorporated in an engaging graduate course designed for UW graduate students with the title "Spatial Structure of Literature: From German Romanticism to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century." Through writings from

authors such as Eichendorff, Novalis, Tieck, as well as Kafka and Thomas Mann, we discussed, topoi which Foucault called heterotopias such as the labyrinth, windows or stairs.

Professor Kremer also held a well-received lecture based on his current research entitled "Photography and Text: Notes Regarding Thomas Bernhard and W.G. Sebald" as part of the department's Friday lecture series. The lecture was followed by the traditional refreshments and a lively discussion.

Later Professor Kremer shared his thoughts on the differences between the German and the US university systems with an emphasis on the changes that are currently taking place in Germany. He is ambivalent about these changes. On the one hand, he sees how a large number of students profit from BA/MA system because it pro-

vides more concrete support and guidance. However, the approximately 20 percent of the student body enrolled in Germanics who want to go on to positions in academics and research suffer under the *Verschulung* of the new university system. Professor Kremer also expressed his skepticism of the claim that the introduction of the BA system would create better opportunities for students of the humanities in the job market.

In parting Professor Kremer mentioned how enjoyable it was to work with a comparatively small group of students here at our department.

*Interview and article by  
Elisabeth Cnobloch*



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efforts to promote the  
study and enjoyment of  
Germanic cultures  
locally, nationally and  
internationally.*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### **December 6: Connections and Contexts Lecture**

Janelle Taylor: "The Visual Science Fictions of Patricia Piccinini"  
Frye Art Museum, 6:30 p.m.

### **February 21: Connections and Contexts Lecture**

Susan P. Casteras: "Reframing the Nineteenth Century: Collecting Art at the Frye"  
Frye Museum, 6:30 p.m.

### **February 29: UW World Languages Day**

### **March 13: Department lecture**

Gabrielle Brandstetter  
Rey Library, 6:00 p.m.

### **April 24-27: Modern Austrian Literature and Culture Association Conference**

Ethnic Cultural Center/Simpson Center for the Humanities. For program details, see  
[http://depts.washington.edu/uwch/projects\\_malca0708.htm](http://depts.washington.edu/uwch/projects_malca0708.htm).

### **April 26: Concert:**

"Viennese Classics with Stanley Ritchie"  
Brechemin Auditorium (Music Building), 8:00 p.m.

### **May 15: Connections and Contexts Lecture**

Sabine Wilke: "Albert Bierstadt and the Western Landscape: Sublime Nature in Distress"  
Frye Museum, 6:30 p.m.

### **June 14: Departmental Graduation**

Simpson Center for the Humanities  
10:00 a.m.

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