Dear Colleagues,

It is my privilege to greet you as Interim Chair of German this year. John Smith is living the dream in Berlin on a well-deserved sabbatical, so I will update you on the further adventures and accomplishments of the UCI German Department and its graduate and undergraduate programs in this, our annual newsletter. I will also be around to regale you personally with news from our department at the annual UCI German MLA Cash Bar--from 7:00 to 8:15 pm, on Saturday, January 8th, 2011, Room 408B, at the Los Angeles Convention Center. I hope to see many/most of you at the LA MLA.

We continue to prosper in spite of California’s seismic budget gyrations and we have welcomed four new graduate students to our distinguished group this year as well as the co-editorship of the AATG journal *Die Unterrichtspraxis* (see Glenn Levine’s entry). *Berliner Beiträge zur neueren Literatur- und Kulturgeschichte*, which is also co-edited in our department, is expanding its catalogue.

We maintain our close connections with affiliated programs such as Critical Theory, Comparative Literature, History, Feminist Studies, European Studies, and Philosophy with six active German faculty and some very active emeriti, including internationally celebrated author Ruth Klüger, Dean Meredith Lee, Executive Vice Chancellor William Lillyman, prolific research professor Herbert Lehnert, and long-time Goethe Yearbook editor Thomas P. Saine. Please check our website for program information, events, and contact information: http://www.humanities.uci.edu/german/

We are currently in discussions with colleagues at UC Riverside and UC San Diego regarding the possibility of a larger, merged Ph.D. program that would offer an even wider range of scholarly expertise and a new unique curriculum that responds to the changing academy and focuses on training graduate students for positions in that academy. The program would be based on the UCI campus but would bring colleagues and graduate students from all three institutions together for seminars, conferences, and meetings, with students housed on all three campuses. We anticipate exciting deliberations on the shape of the new curriculum and we hope to begin full collaboration in Fall 2011, even if bureaucracy lags slightly behind.

So please come to the MLA and to our MLA Cash Bar. We have now had recent MLA Conventions in San Diego and in Los Angeles and I think it is time they split the difference and bring the MLA to Irvine. We have good weather, illustrious modern language scholars, and we are 10 minutes from the beach. January is still whale-watching season, for those tempted to linger after the convention winds down.

Sincerely,
Gail Hart
DEPARTMENT NEWS

Fall 2010 German Welcome Week Reception
We are pleased to share that all of our affiliated faculty have chosen to continue their ties to our department for 2010-11:
- Edward Dimendberg, Associate Professor of Film & Media Studies
- Alexander Gelley, Professor of Comparative Literature
- Robert Moeller, Professor of History
- Jane Newman, Professor of Comparative Literature
- Annette Schlichter, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature
- Gabriele Schwab, Chancellor’s Professor of English and Comparative Literature
- Martin Schwab, Professor of Philosophy
- Ulrike Strasser, Associate Professor of History

FACULTY NEWS

Anke Biendarra is happy to report that her book manuscript Germans Going Global is now in its last stage and has been submitted to a publisher. Anke also published a book chapter, “Autorschaft 2.0: Mediale Selbstinszenierungen im Internet” (Globalisierung und Gegenwartsliteratur. Konstellationen – Konzepte – Perspektiven. Eds. Wilhelm Amann, Georg Mein, and Rolf Parr. Synchron 2010). Another book chapter entitled “Transnational Traumas: Terézia Mora’s Alle Tage” is forthcoming in New Writers of the Twentieth-First Century, edited by Lyn Marven and Stuart Taberner (Camden House). Anke also took a first foray into filmic analysis with her article “Ghostly Business: Place, Space, and Gender in Christian Petzold’s Yella,” which will come out in a special issue of Seminar on Globalization and the New Economy. Anke followed invitations to present papers at the Center for West European Studies at the University of Washington and at San Diego State University, where she spoke about cultural memory practices in united Germany. In Spring 2011, she will take part in a conference on narration and poetics in the 21st centuries at the Free University Berlin. And, in other news, Anke is pleased that she is no longer considered an alien and finally allowed to cast her vote!

Kai Evers taught classes this year ranging from the notions of terror and redemption in modern Europe to a class called Global Kafka. He presented in April 2010 a paper at the Teaching the Holocaust Symposium and he gives another paper on the politics of rage and violence in Sloterdijk and Žižek’s recent writings at this year’s GSA meeting in Oakland. His book Violent Modernists: The Aesthetics of Destruction in 20th-Century German Literature and Theory will be published by Northwestern University Press. Just as excitingly, two of his graduate students, Simona Moti and Rebecca Schuman, completed their brilliant dissertations in 2010 and they are both this year on the job market.

Gail Hart Gail Hart, who came to Irvine in Fall of 1990, celebrates her 20th anniversary with the UCI German Department. She also completed her first year as director of the Campuswide UCI GERMAN DEPARTMENT CASH BAR!

AT THE 2011 MLA CONVENTION
FROM 7:00 TO 8:15 P.M.
SATURDAY JANUARY 08, 2011
LOS ANGELES CONVENTION CENTER
1201 S. FIGUEROA STREET
ROOM: 408B
HOST: PROFESSOR GAIL HART

Contemporary Literature and Cultural Globalization is now in its last stage and has been submitted to a publisher. Anke also published a book chapter, “Autorschaft 2.0:
Honors Program (http://www.honors.uci.edu/), turned 60, and finally got to an opera at La Scala (Gounod’s Faust). She is chairing German this year. Having spent the last 15 years working mainly on eighteenth-century subjects, she is revisiting the nineteenth century with a graduate course on Narrative and Authority in that period and an essay and GSA paper on Gotthelf’s business models. Her essay, “Some Day My Prince Will Come: Fürstenspiegel and the Bourgeois Writer,” appeared in The Self as Muse: Narcissism and Creativity in the German Imagination 1750-1850, ed. Alexander Mathaes (Bucknell 2010); and her contribution to the Long Beach Schiller conference, “Whose Schiller is This? A Tale of Two Reviewers,” is about to appear in Jeffrey High, Norbert Oellers, ed. Who is this Schiller—Now? (Camden House, 2010).

Another essay on the compromised freedom Schiller envisions for his reader and the illusion of freedom that drives certain video games, “Save the Prinz: Schiller’s Geisterseher and the Paths of Imagination,” is forthcoming in Goethe Yearbook. She is working on a larger project on freedom and coercion as conceived and practiced by German writers in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Glenn Levine has two books appearing this academic year. In November, a volume co-edited with Alison Phipps of the University of Glasgow will appear through Cengage Heine, Critical and Intercultural Theory and Language Pedagogy. Early in 2011 his monograph, Code Choice in the Language Classroom, will appear with Multilingual Matters. In addition to these projects, he has recently started a research project on the discourse and socialization functions of digital media among language learners studying abroad. Here on campus, in addition to his role as German language program director, Professor Levine continues as director of both the UCI Center for International Education and the new Humanities Language Learning Program (http://www.humanities.uci.edu/hllp/). In the profession, in 2010 he began a two-year term as president of the American Association of University Supervisors and Coordinators, the professional organization of foreign language program directors in the U.S. and Canada (http://www.aausc.org). Finally, Professor Levine will begin this year as co-editor of the journal Die Unterrichtspraxis/Teaching German, together with Professor Carlee Arnett of UC Davis.

Herbert Lehnert's contribution to the Frankfurt edition of the works of Thomas Mann, a volume containing Mann's essays written between the end of the European war in 1945 and the end of 1949, the work of more than ten years, was published in the fall of 2009 by Fischer Verlag in Frankfurt/Main, Germany. One volume presents Mann's essay-texts critically reviewed, a second one contains commentaries to the essays. In the "Grosse Frankfurter Kommentierten Ausgabe der Werke Thomas Mann’s” it is volume 19 or EssaysVI.

In October of 2009, Herbert presented a lecture "Gefallen. Thomas Manns erste Novelle: Ein Experiment des Modernismus” (Gefallen. Thomas Mann's first novella: an experiment of Modernism) to the "Thomas Mann Förderkreis" in Munich, Germany. The "Förderkreis" publishes a serial, "Schriftenreihe". In its most recent issue, /Thomas Mann in //München Vorträge// 2007-2009/ Munich, 2010/ Herbert's Munich lecture was printed. In the summer of 2009, with the work on the edition finished, Herbert started a new book - a new detailed biography of the young Thomas Mann. The working title is "Thomas Mann's entry into the literature of Modernism."
book will trace the influence of Mann's brother Heinrich on his brother's early development and contain a chapter on Thomas Mann and Maximilian Harden, a newspaper-writer, editor of the influential weekly /Die Zukunft/ from 1892-1922, who strongly influenced Mann's early views of politics.

David Pan has finished work with Julia Lupton on a special issue of Telos devoted to Carl Schmitt's Hamlet or Hecuba, which will appear in December. He presented papers on Schmitt and John Dewey at the 2009 MLA Convention and on Schmitt and Barack Obama at the Telos Institute conference in January 2010, and Schmitt and Carl Einstein at the Universität Konstanz in July. As a break from Schmitt, he also spoke on Ernst Jünger in April at Stanford University and on Heinrich von Kleist at the University of Otago in September. He will be speaking at the German Studies Association conference in October on Schmitt again and about the state of academic publishing and at the MLA Convention on Brecht and the Nazi Thingspiel. He continues to work as book review editor at Telos and is organizing the Telos Institute annual conference in New York in January, 2011. His teaching this coming year will center around the UCI Humanities Core Course, for which he is now the director and in which he will lecture on Goethe's Faust and Kafka's “In the Penal Colony.” He will also be offering a graduate seminar in winter 2011 on “Cosmopolitanism and Nationalism in Goethe and Kleist.”

After passing the chair’s baton off to Gail Hart, John Smith has departed to Berlin for endless months of research and writing in 2010-11. He received a renewal of his Humboldt fellowship (to work on Schleiermacher and Romanticism) and will be a Gastwissenschaftler first at the FU and then at the Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung. His book, Dialogues between Faith and Reason: The Death and Return of God in Modern German Thought, will appear in the coming year with Cornell UP. The 2011 Goethe Yearbook will contain a special section which he co-edited with Elizabeth Millán (Philosophy, DePaul University) on “Goethe and Idealism” (including his essay on philosophies of life and religion around 1800).

GRADUATE STUDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spotlight on Ph.D. Dissertation: Erin Hourigan My dissertation, “Dialectical Theology and Divine and Secular Authority in Alfred Döblin's Wallenstein,” addresses the intersections and conjunctions of religious and secular thought in Germany of the 1920s, with a focus on Alfred Döblin’s 1919 novel, Wallenstein. I am especially interested in Döblin’s representations of secular and divine authority and in comparing them with the concept of authority developed, also in 1919, by Karl Barth and Friedrich Gogarten, Protestant theologians credited with founding dialectical, or crisis, theology.

Barth and Gogarten theorized God as wholly other, superior to man and knowable only through his self-revelation (the Scriptures) and in the laws of secular authority figures (all of whom enjoy their positions by the grace of God). Döblin’s essays characterize his inspiration in similar terms, but without denying the author’s creative contributions, while dialectical theology faces the difficulty that the message of the wholly other is inevitably tinged by the human chosen to relate it, in human terms, to other humans. How is one to differentiate between the divine and human parts of the message?
While Gogarten’s belief in secular authority led him to briefly support the Third Reich, Döblin’s less stringent thought eliminates the need to ask the above question. The result is that *Wallenstein* successfully represents the feeling of contingency endemic to modern warfare and existence while thematizing the issue of divine vs. secular authority, the meaning of “legitimate” authority, the right to rebel against authority, and the question of the nature of God. Döblin succeeds in representing the destruction of the War by undermining the reader’s view of world history as a sensible narrative and simultaneously addresses questions of authority that were equally relevant to the Thirty Years’ War and the Weimar Republic.

**Kurt Buhanan** delivered a paper at the 45th Annual Comp Lit Conference at CSU-Long Beach on “Negative Visuality” and will be presenting a modified version at the upcoming MLA Convention in January. He also gave a presentation at the 5th UC Language Consortium Conference, along with Professor Glenn Levine, Jonathan Fine, and Paul Rama, on “Complexity Theory” and Second Language Teaching. He has a couple of forthcoming publications: a translation of Carl Schmitt that will appear in *Telos*, and a book review that will appear in the *Goethe Yearbook*. He also has an article under review with *Seminar*, which offers a political reading of Hesse’s Weimar novels. Kurt had a number of defenses in recent months, first for his dissertation prospectus and then a couple of months later for the first chapter of his dissertation, looking at the problem of looking in postwar Germany. He is excited to be teaching in UCI’s esteemed Humanities Core Course this year.

**Jonathan Fine** presented a paper on the role of the judge in medieval German prose at the Group for the Study of Early Cultures Graduate Student Conference at UCI last November. After passing his qualifying exams in June, he participated in the Internationale Germanistische Meisterklasse at the Universität Heidelberg. Following his return to Irvine, he worked on the implementation of the new German 1 curriculum.

**Friederike Kaufel** finished off the 2009/2010 academic year by presenting her first chapter to her committee as well as Department Chair John Smith and fellow PhD student Kurt Buhanan; she would like to take this as an opportunity to thank all of the above for the very helpful comments and productive criticism she received! Over the summer, she developed two teaching modules for second year German classes, one on ballads and one on migration literature in Germany. While she also worked on expanding her dissertation and her knowledge about *Wendeliteratur*, the main expansion happened first in her belly and then in her family, when she gave birth to her beautiful daughter Elise Lina on July 27th! Fortunately, little Elise knows about the importance of
academia, so she lets her mommy sleep at night (for the most part), and already spends quite some time pondering the deeper meanings of life, love, and baby formula.

UNDERGRADUATE ANNOUNCEMENTS

This year the department again selected four recipients for the 2010-2011 Leindecker Travel Award to Germany: Amanda Carrillo, Ruth Liao, Isabelle Gerbatsch, and Edelmira Hernandez.

Two reports from the field:

Amanda Carrillo Humboldt University is a beautiful school with a rich history. It’s located in the very heart of Berlin, as well as in the vicinity of very important landmarks. I feel privileged to call it home while I study abroad. The classes offered are interesting and delve into a variety of topics pertaining to German culture, literature, and history, all of which can be applied to my major. I am eager to begin the winter semester and see what it’s like to be a student in Germany. I am most looking forward to a class titled “Souvenirs and Heirlooms: Things as mediums for memory in nineteenth century literature”, which will analyze texts from authors such as E.T.A. Hoffman and discuss how these items seem to play an important role in the literature of this time frame. The Leindecker award has been immensely helpful in supporting my schooling, and I honestly could not be more grateful to Ms. Leindecker for her gracious award.

Aside from school, roaming the streets of Berlin and experiencing the German culture on a first hand basis is incredible! There is so much to do here and Berlin is such a diverse place. Either visiting a landmark that you read about in class or finding a cozy little café, every day yields a new experience. It’s a wonderful feeling being able to say that culturally and historically important places such as the Kaiser Wilhelm Gedächtniskirche and the Brandenburger Tor are just a short train ride away. Studying abroad in Germany has thus far been amazing, and I look forward to enjoying the rest of my stay here in Berlin.

Isabelle Gerbatsch On my first day in Berlin I was jetlagged and disoriented as I ventured to my EAP orientation. I had absolutely no idea how to get there. Even though Berlin has an amazing public transport system, it can be very confusing at first. Luckily my roommate showed me a website, vbg.de, that plans out traveling routes with the public transport. According to VBG, it was going to take me an hour and a half and I would have to change trains four times. The first portion of the trip was in a street car, I boarded the first one that arrived at the station and nervously sat down. However, after five minutes I did not hear my exit being called. The landscape started to become more rural until I realized I had gone the wrong direction. I felt embarrassed as I exited the street car and walked to the opposite side of the tracks to return to my original starting point. It was supposed to take me 5 minutes until I had to get out and switch trains. However, after five minutes I did not hear my exit being called. The landscape started to become more rural until I realized I had gone the wrong direction. I felt embarrassed as I exited the street car and walked to the opposite side of the tracks to return to my original starting point. Even though I got lost on the first day, I have now mastered the public transport system and feel comfortable getting on any train without looking at a map.
Berlin has an incredible amount of culture, history and activities to take part in. I felt very lucky because October 3 this year was the twentieth anniversary of the Wiedervereinigung (German Reunification). The Strasse des 17. Juni was closed down the entire day and there was a festival in front of the Brandenburger Tor. At night they had big screens broadcasting the ceremony at the Bundestag and a fireworks show. It was a wonderful feeling to take part in such a historic anniversary.

Over the past month and a half I have been taking a Sprachkurs (German course) at the Freie Universität. We were placed in small classes of fifteen students depending on our German language skills. The small class size was essential because it allowed us to get one on one attention with our teachers. It was an intensive course that took place every day for three hours, and helped me to improve my German grammar, and made me feel prepared to take courses in German.

To help develop stronger speaking skills, I searched online for a tandem partner. We meet up at least once a week for two hours and spend half the time speaking English, the other half speaking German. In order to increase the range of our vocabulary we take part in different activities such as horseback riding. Not only is my German getting better, but I have also made a good friend.

The actual school semester has not started yet. Our first week of school is October 18, and my nerves are running high. I have picked out my courses, but the system is very different here. Students do not have the option of signing up for courses online, instead they crash the courses during the first week and hope that there is a seat for them in the lecture hall. We also have to go up and introduce ourselves to our professors the first day and explain to them that we are exchange students. I am hoping that I will be able to get into all the classes I need and am really excited to finally go to school!

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**GERMAN DEPARTMENT SUPPORTERS**

Once again we salute UCI alumna Kendra Lein Becker Mirasol (BA, German 1988 and MBA, University of Chicago, 1993) who supported another travel award—the 2010-11 Lein Becker Travel Award to Germany—with her generous gift and by making a 100% matching gift available from IBM, her husband’s employer. (See above for information on the current recipients.) With Kendra’s support, twenty-seven students have traveled to Germany to enrich their education since the inception of her award in 2001-02. What a legacy she’s leaving the department!

We kindly ask that you, too, consider a charitable gift to UCI German, which would be particularly meaningful due to all the cutbacks education is absorbing during these turbulent economic times. Please contact the department at (949) 824-6406 or via e-mail (german@uci.edu) to find out what you can do to make a difference.

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**NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNAE/I**

Rebecca Schuman received the Ph.D. degree from the Department in August of 2010, and has been nominated by UC-Irvine as one of its candidates for the 2010-2011 American Council of Learned Societies New Faculty Fellows competition. She is currently on the faculty at the Pierre Laclede Honors College at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, where she teaches comparative literature and German literature in translation.

Simona Moti received her Ph.D. in summer 2010. Her dissertation is entitled "Between Panic and Plurality: Colonial Others in the Work of Hofmannsthal, Musil, and Kafka."
Rose Jones (Ph.D., German, UCI, 2009) is Guest Lecturer in the UCI Department of German this year. She is teaching on the "Masterpieces of German Literature" and on "Deutsche Erzaehlungen" to eager and enthusiastic undergraduate Anteaters. She is looking forward to the MLA Convention in L.A. this year.