

# UCI Department of German News

## Fall 2007



### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Department of German at UC Irvine is not the same place it was twenty-five years ago when I arrived here relatively fresh out of graduate school. Although we continue to benefit from the collective wisdom and experience of our emeritae and emeriti (Herbert Lehnert, Bill Lillyman, Ruth Kluger, Tom Saine, Meredith Lee, and Jens Rieckmann), we have a largely new faculty (three hires in the last four years) and have come to develop a different profile. While the history of post-1750 German literature and solid training in language pedagogy will always play major roles in our program, the emphasis of most course offerings and research is on the intellectual-historical and cultural contributions that the German tradition has made to understandings of the contemporary world. Whether it be punishment and the death penalty in Classicism or the aesthetics of violence in Modernism, whether it be the legal theories of Carl Schmitt or philosophies of religion, whether it be German-Jewish culture or post-*Wende* literature and globalization—the department offerings are committed to the premise that German thought provides a unique foundation for and insight into pressing issues.

As chair, I also wish to highlight the first major revision in our graduate curriculum in over twenty-five years. Last year, two of our graduate students piloted our innovative, and to our knowledge unique, Ph.D. examination structure (see our website for details). In brief, the key component of the qualifying exams consists of four syllabi that students develop in writing (with extensive readings and explanations) and “defend” in their orals. Three of the courses could be taught at the graduate

level and should cover major genre, periods, or themes. One course is an “Introduction to German Literature” seminar for the “ideal” undergraduate (who could actually read a novel or drama each week...). This exam structure not only allows graduate students to organize their massive reading lists into meaningful groupings, but also introduces an important component of “professionalization,” since students are not just being examined but engaging in the kinds of activities they hope to perform in their future careers. Students find the preparation for their exams interesting; and we all find the discussions of the syllabi in the oral defense itself stimulating. We hope this UC Irvine model gains widespread recognition.



John H. Smith  
Chair

### DEPARTMENT NEWS

We’re expanding! Capitalizing on UCI Humanities’ strength in interdisciplinary education and research, we’ve formalized opportunities for academic collaboration between our faculty and undergraduate and graduate students by establishing the following affiliated faculty appointments in German:

- **Edward Dimendberg**, Associate Professor of Film & Media Studies (film history, audiovisual media and the built environment, contemporary architecture and urbanism, avant-garde cinema, modernism and modernity)

- **Alexander Gelley**, Professor of Comparative Literature (18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century European novel, critical theory, narrative theory)
- **Robert Moeller**, Professor of History (Modern Germany and European Women)
- **Jane Newman**, Professor of Comparative Literature (Comparative Renaissance and Baroque Studies, Walter Benjamin and the Baroque, History and Theories of Comparative Literature, Cultural Studies and Criticism, History and Theories of Rhetoric)
- **Annette Schlichter**, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature (feminist theory and criticism, queer theory, contemporary American literature and culture)
- **Gabriele Schwab**, UCI Chancellor's Professor of Comparative Literature (modern literature, critical theory, psychoanalysis)
- **Martin Schwab**, Professor of Philosophy (19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century continental philosophy, literature and other arts)
- **Ulrike Strasser**, Associate Professor of History (early modern continental Europe)

Visitors to the department include **Doris Bachmann-Medick**, adjunct faculty at the Universität Göttingen and Freie Universität Berlin, who joined us spring quarter 2007. She taught an undergraduate class and a graduate seminar and gave a presentation, "Rückkehr des Autors? Literatur und kulturelle Autorität in der interkulturellen Kommunikation," to members of the Department, School of Humanities, UCI Campus and surrounding community.

We welcome **Julia Schöll**, who is spending this academic year in residence as a Research Associate to collaborate with faculty on a project entitled "The Beauty of the Soul: On the Relationship between Aesthetics and Ethics in German Literature around 1800." Dr. Schöll is an assistant professor of modern German literature at the University of Bamberg. Her stay in the US is being supported by a Lynen

Fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Germany.

**André Lottman**, Ph.D. candidate in modern German literature at the Freie Universität, will visit spring quarter 2008. Supported by a fellowship from the Hans Böckler Foundation, he will do research and collaborate with faculty on the concept of work in the writings of the late Goethe.

### FACULTY NEWS

At the 2006 MLA Convention in Philadelphia, **Anke Biendarra** read a paper on the re-politicization of contemporary literature and organized a panel on German pop. She is now in the process of editing the proceedings of the panel, which are scheduled to appear in 2008 as "Closing Borders, Bridging Gaps? Deutscher Pop an der Jahrtausendwende" in a special issue of *Literatur für Leser*. In the summer of 2007, Anke completed her ongoing interview project of younger German authors, for which she was awarded a faculty research grant from the International Center for Writing and Translation at UCI. One of these interviews (with Thomas Meinecke) already appeared in *Literaturkritik.de* in July 2007; the remaining ones will be published over the course of fall and winter in various venues. Anke presented papers at the GSA 2007 in San Diego and the PAMLA 2007 in Bellingham, both of which dealt with the literary treatment of 09/11 as an example of cultural globalization. This is also the focus of Anke's ongoing book project and a new graduate course she will teach in winter quarter.

Research-wise this year **Kai Evers** focused on two gargantuan novels of 20<sup>th</sup>-century literature: Robert Musil's *Der Mann ohne Eigenschaften* and Peter Weiss' *Die Ästhetik des Widerstands*. He spoke on Musil and violence at the conference "Terror und Erlösung: Robert Musil und die zwanziger Jahre" at the Freie Universität. The results of his research on the echoes of WWI in Weiss' writings will be published 2008 in the *Germanic Review*. Forthcoming is also an article on Canetti and Benjamin which together with the Musil research is part of his book project, "Violent Modernists: The Aesthetics of Destruction in

20<sup>th</sup>-Century German Literature and Theory.” Kai received the School of Humanities Faculty Teaching Award for 2006-07. He is the recipient of a UCI Faculty Career Development Award for fall 2007 and will be on sabbatical winter 2008.

**Gail Hart** stepped down as Director of Humanities Core Course after seven years and she is, this fall, for the first time in thirteen years, **not** an administrator. Having emerged from the dark side, she is reading, writing, and looking forward to more teaching. Some of this teaching will occur in Washington D.C this winter, where she will be the resident UCI faculty member in the UC-DC Program. This fall she is offering a grad seminar on the “Poetics of Punishment.” In other news, she spent July in Berlin and has two articles on 18<sup>th</sup>-century robber novels (Vulpus and Zschokke) coming out (*Seminar* and *Colloquia Germanica*). She has also contributed to Jeffrey High’s edition of new translations of Schiller’s prose with a critical essay on “Verbrecher aus verlorener Ehre.” This will appear in 2008. The first book in the series she now edits with Irmela von der Lühe of the Freie Universität has just appeared: *Berliner Beiträge zur neueren deutsche Literatur- und Kulturgeschichte* is proud to announce the publication of Magdalena Tarnawska’s *...und Medea war eine Ärztin*. (See our Alumni News below).

Even though she’s an emerita faculty, **Ruth Kluger** remains as active as ever in the profession! She published a new book on lyric poetry last February entitled *Gemalte Fensterscheiben. Über Lyrik*. Ruth continues to write book reviews in German for *DIE WELT* and in English for *The Washington Post*.

Professor Emerita **Meredith Lee** is enjoying her retirement from teaching and administration. She concluded her term as president of the Goethe Society of North America last December and in June ended her eight-year service on the international Goethe Gesellschaft board in Weimar. She’s actively pursuing her interests in music and literature, singing in the Camerata Singers of Long Beach and serving as president of the chorus.

Retired Professor **Herbert Lehnert** has continued to work with graduate students. Collaborating with Roland Spahr of the Fischer Verlag, editor of the Thomas Mann edition, he also continues to work on the volumes of text and commentary of Mann’s essays 1945-1949 (*Essays VI*), and on review essays on biographical literature on Thomas Mann for *Orbis Litterarum*. In addition, Herbert has started research on a book on the early Thomas Mann.

**Glenn Levine** has been involved in several exciting projects this past year. He published an article in *Die Unterrichtspraxis* entitled “Problematizing the Teaching and Learning of Grammar in the Intermediate German Classroom: A Sociocultural Approach.” Two further articles that deal with learner code-switching are set to appear in the coming months. In the winter he secured funding from multiple UCI grants, then organized and hosted a working-group symposium on “First-Language Use in Second-Language Learning.” The symposium was attended by scholars from the U.S., Canada, and the U.K. and will result in a published volume on the topic.



**A captivated audience (left to right): Ernesto Macaro (Oxford U), Miles Turnbull (U of Prince Edward Island), Michael Huffmaster (UC Berkeley), Glenn Levine (UCI) and Grit Liebscher (U of Waterloo)**

During the spring quarter, Glenn was awarded a DAAD grant and carried out a linguistics field-research project at the Freie Universität in Berlin. The project delves into numerous aspects of study-abroad students’ second-language

socialization and German-language acquisition. He recently began a new curriculum project, a collaborative course with the Sprachenzentrum of the Universität Leipzig. The project has students from UCI's third-year German course communicate and work together with intermediate-level English-as-a-foreign-language students in Leipzig. The students are exploring "Patriotismus in Deutschland und den USA" and developing their own "wiki" site on the topic. They meet by video conference, chat, and of course e-mail. You can contact Glenn ([glevine@uci.edu](mailto:glevine@uci.edu)) at any time if you would like info about the project or access to the course websites.

Glenn continues as faculty director of the UCI International Center and as School of Humanities coordinator of world languages. He was also awarded a 2007-08 UCI Instructional Improvement Initiative Grant for his project "Integration and Articulation of Cultural Studies and Critical Approaches in Lower-Division German." The goal of the project is to develop a lower-division language curriculum oriented toward cultural studies and humanistic inquiry.

Since arriving at UCI in the fall of 2006, **David Pan** has been working on revisions to his manuscript for the University of Nebraska Press, "Economies of Sacrifice: Violence and Culture in Modern Germany." In addition to presenting conference papers on Ernst Jünger, Theodor Adorno, Carl Schmitt, and Goethe's *Faust*, he has a forthcoming publication at *Telos* on Carl Schmitt and Giorgio Agamben due out in spring 2008. He continues his work as book review editor at *Telos* and is also editing a special issue on Carl Schmitt. His courses have focused on similar topics, covering Enlightenment and Anti-Enlightenment in 18<sup>th</sup>-century Germany, the origin of language, the Faust myth, and Carl Schmitt and the Frankfurt School. Finally, he has been working to revamp the German Department's website, with the new site due to be up and running this December.

**Tom Saine**, who retired in 2005, continues to teach German 97. The department is extremely grateful to him for this contribution.

Since his sabbatical year in Berlin, 2004-05, **John Smith** has been working on an extensive book project entitled "Dialogues between Faith and Reason: The Death of God and the Return of Religion." He explores the "slippery slope" that much German (predominantly Protestant) theology and philosophy found itself sliding down beginning in the Reformation and Humanism, through the Enlightenment, Idealism, and the skeptical 19<sup>th</sup> century, to Heidegger, a decline into the death of God. Ironically, many thinkers (Erasmus, Leibniz, Kant, Hegel, e.g.) accelerated the downward movement even as they attempted to apply the brakes. And others—here he challenges straightforward notions of "secularization"—opened the door to a return of religion, also in contemporary theory, even as they strove for its end (Feuerbach, Nietzsche, Heidegger, e.g.). John has presented some of this material at a number of universities (including Harvard and Johns Hopkins) and conferences (including the American Comparative Literature Association and the German Studies Association). Stay tuned!

### GRADUATE STUDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Department welcomes **Kurt Buhanan** to our program this fall quarter. Kurt comes to us from Brigham Young University where he received his MA in German last spring. He is the 2007-08 recipient of a UCI Chancellor's Fellowship as well as an Entering Graduate Student Fellowship in Modern European Studies supported by the UC Institute of European Studies at UC Berkeley.



**Kurt Buhanan (pictured right) joins UCI's Ph.D. Program in German.**

**Natalie Eppelsheimer** presented a paper “Why Can’t This Be My Home? Kenya’s Fight for Independence in German Fiction” at the 2007 Comparative Literature Association Conference, “Trans, Pan, Inter: Cultures in Contact,” April 19-22, 2007, Puebla, Mexico. She presented another paper, “I Had a ‘Papa’ but Wanted a ‘Daddy’: Memories of Child Exiles and their ‘Reps,’” at the German Studies Association Conference, October 4-7, 2007, San Diego, CA. Natalie is a Fall ’07 recipient of a Humanities Dissertation Fellowship and one of two graduate students on our campus to receive this year’s Debbie Davis Award for outstanding graduate student advocacy and leadership given by the UCI Associated Graduate Students.

In March of 2007 **Erin Hourigan** presented a paper entitled “True History or Repressed Recurring Memory? Cathy Caruth’s Voice of the Wounded and the Status of Passive Trauma in German World War I Narratives” at the conference “The Image of Violence in Literature, Media and Society” sponsored by the Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Social Imagery, Colorado Springs, Colorado. She has been awarded a DAAD Fellowship for 2007-08 and is spending the year in Berlin at the Freie Universität doing research for her dissertation, which attempts to define the role of apocalyptic imagery and thinking in theological, literary, and public thought during the years between 1918 and 1933. She also plans to spend a lot of time in cafés and going to the theater!

**Rose Jones** co-chaired with Stephen Sohn (English, UCSB) the two panels "Trauma and Narrative I and II" at the 2006 PAMLA Annual Conference on "Transoceanic Dialogues," November 10-11, 2006, in Riverside, CA.

**Friederike Kaufel** presented a paper, “Paradigmatic Mistranslations: Reclaiming the Oriental Fairytale in Rafik Schami’s *Erzähler der Nacht*,” at the University of Wisconsin Graduate Student Conference, “‘Jenseits von Worten?’: Translation, Transfer, and Transformation,” Madison, Wisconsin, March 23-24, 2007.

**Helen Kilgallen** presented a paper, “Invoking the Prophet: The Persian and Nietzschean Zarathustras in Hermann Hesse’s *Zarathustras Wiederkehr*,” at the University of Virginia’s 14<sup>th</sup> Annual German Graduate Studies Conference, “Prophetic Discourse from Amos to Zarathustra: On the Uses and Misuses of Prophecy,” February 23-25, 2007, Charlottesville.

**Simona Moti** received a School of Humanities Spring '07 Dissertation Fellowship and a Summer '07 Dissertation Fellowship. She also received a Graduate Student Fellowship to participate in the International Literature Symposium "Mit Blick über den Atlantik: Wandel und Veränderungen literarischer Texte" organized by the Austrian P.E.N. Center in Vienna and the International Studies Institute of the University of New Mexico this past July and August. During the three weeks she spent in Taos, New Mexico, she attended literary readings, film presentations, discussions on Austrian literature, and presented a paper on Musil, the Habsburg Empire, and postcolonial theory. (As the most northerly possession of the Habsburgs in Latin America, New Mexico was a felicitous setting for the topic of her presentation.) She also presented a paper on Thomas Mann’s *Zauberberg* at the PAMLA 2007 in a panel on food in film and literature.



**Simona Moti (front, left) and the other participants of the symposium conquer the tallest peak in New Mexico!**

**Rebecca Schuman** presented a paper entitled “The Power of Filth: Kafka’s ‘Jewishness’ and the Prague Ghetto Clearance” at the Yale University Graduate Student Conference, “Kafka Revisited,” New Haven, March 30-31, 2007.

**Congratulations to our new Ph.D.s:**

**Susan Morse** received her Ph.D. fall quarter '06. Her dissertation is entitled "Traveling through Time: Discourses of Memory, Self, and the Collective." Susan is a lecturer in the UCI Humanities Core Course this academic year.

**Kai Herklotz** received his Ph.D. winter quarter '07. His dissertation is entitled "The Politics of East German Memory: Representing the Holocaust in DEFA Film, 1946-1988." Kai is a 2007-08 visiting assistant professor at Carleton College.

**Karen Gallagher** receives her Ph.D. degree this fall quarter. Her dissertation is entitled "Marie Herzfeld (1855-1940) and European Modernism." Karen is now a full-time faculty member at California State University Fullerton in the Department of Marketing, College of Business and Economics.

**UNDERGRADUATE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Alumna **Kendra Leindecker Mirasol** (B.A., UCI German, 1988 and MBA, University of Chicago, 1993) continued to share her generosity by again making a gift to the Department with 100% matching funds from her husband's employer, IBM, to fund the Leindecker Travel Award to Germany for undergraduate students. Faculty selected two recipients: **Benjamin Bohr** and **Bradley Kahl**.



**John Smith is pictured with Leindecker Travel Award recipient Benjamin Bohr.**

Benjamin, with double majors in Political Science and Global Cultures, is of German heritage. One of his goals upon entering UCI was to become fluent in German and thus he enrolled in several of our language classes. The

basic knowledge he has acquired plus his fascination with German politics, culture and the country's role in the European Union sparked his interest in the UC Education Abroad Program (UC EAP). He will use his award to help support his studies at the Universität Göttingen in the fall of 2008.

Brad, also a double major—German Studies and Political Science—is using his award to help finance his participation in the UC EAP Program as well. He is spending 2007-08 in Berlin studying at Humboldt Universität. Brad anticipates that upon graduation, his year abroad will be helpful in pursuing utilizing the language skills and cultural knowledge he will acquire.

**INTERVIEW WITH ALUMNA & DONOR  
KENDRA LEINDECKER MIRASOL**

**When did you start giving to the UCI German Department and why?**

I began donating funds to the German Department in 2000, twelve years after having received my B.A. in German literature. Scholarships have been an integral component of my own education, because I come from a modest background and was the first member of my family to attend college. Without support from work and scholarships, I would not have been able to complete my degrees and would surely be leading a very sheltered life!

**Has anyone ever asked you, "So, what are you going to do with a German literature degree...teach?"**

Yes, a million times! And the answer each time was, "No!" While I had briefly considered a teaching profession, I felt my personality and skills were more suited to international business. It wasn't until my junior year, when one of my closest college friends was perceptive enough to see I had a love and talent for languages, but was studying economics for "practical" reasons. He quickly convinced me to do something I love, and assured me that success would follow. That day, I turned in a drop slip for an advanced Econ course and changed my major to German literature.

### **What makes your gift unique?**

It is important for me to support students in their ability to broaden their perspectives by traveling outside the US. As an undergraduate, I had spent two summers abroad working and had subsequently been sponsored by The German American Chamber of Commerce to work abroad as a young professional. These experiences changed my lens of the world dramatically. The professors in the German Department agreed that allocating funds specifically for travel would help students bridge the economic gap that may hold them back from going abroad. I am confident this gift has an immediate and significant impact, and I often receive letters from recipients revealing their experiences.

### **What are you doing now?**

I am currently Senior Vice President for IOR Global Services, an intercultural consulting company that helps clients develop their employees to operate effectively in the global marketplace. I run the business and am responsible for the strategic and financial growth of the company. IOR is a premier provider of global talent management, cultural training, language instruction and destination services.

The department is extremely grateful to Kendra for her continued support. Anyone interested in helping as well or making any charitable gift to German at UCI should contact us at [german@uci.edu](mailto:german@uci.edu) or by telephone at (949) 824-4942.

### **NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNAE/I:**

**Kenneth Calhoon** (Ph.D., spring 1984) taught for two years at Haverford and Bryn Mawr colleges before joining the University of Oregon's faculty in 1987. He spent academic year 1994-95 at the University of Bonn as a Humboldt Fellow. He has served as director of Oregon's Program in Comparative Literature and acting director of Oregon's Creative Writing Program. Most recently, he has contributions on Mörike and Fontane in *The New History of German Literature* (Harvard 2005). Another essay, "Charming the Carnivore: Bruce Chatwin's Australian Odyssey," is forthcoming.

Professor Calhoon recently spoke at a conference entitled "Landschaftsgänge — Bewusstseinslandschaften: Zur Kulturgeschichte und Poetik des Spaziergangs" held on the Museuminsel Hombroich.

**Alexander Gardner** (B.A., spring, 2007) has entered the Ph.D. program in the German Department at Yale University.

Having been at Davidson since 1993, **Burkhard Henke** (Ph.D., fall 1993) has taught a variety of courses on German language, literature, and history as well courses in the Humanities program and the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies. His publication record includes articles on Schiller and Goethe and a book on Goethe's Weimar which he edited with Susanne Kord and Simon Richter. He currently serves on the board of the Goethe Society of North America and as president of the NC-AATG. To help strengthen articulation between secondary and post-secondary education on his campus, he founded the German Summer Institute, an annual opportunity for high school teachers of German to earn continuing education credits.

**Keith Mueller** (B.A., spring 2006) has put his studies to good use! He works in sales for a high tech company in Torrance, California, that is a subsidiary of a German firm. He did his training in Germany, works with several native Germans, and speaks and writes German daily. Keith is excited about the possibility that he will be able to transfer to Germany eventually.

After chairing the German Department at Georgetown University for eight out of the past ten years, **Peter C. Pfeiffer** (Ph.D., spring 1987) is happy to be a regular faculty member again. He is currently completing a book on Austrian woman writer Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach which will be published by Francke Verlag in Tübingen in 2008.

**Alexander Phillips** (B.A., spring 2007) has deferred starting the Ph.D. program in German Studies at Cornell University to study one year in Berlin thanks to his Fulbright Fellowship.

Since 2005 **Stephan Schindler** (Ph.D., fall 1990) has been Professor of German, Comparative Literature and Film Studies at Washington University in St. Louis and is currently serving as department chair. His books include *Eingebildete Körper: Phantasierte Sexualität in der Goethezeit* (Tübingen: Stauffenburg Verlag, 2001) and *Das Kind als Subjekt. Die Erfindung der Kindheit im Roman des 18. Jahrhunderts* (Berlin: Erich Schmidt Verlag, 1994).

**Magadena Tarnawska** (Ph.D., spring 2005) is now an Assistant Professor of German at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. Her book *...und Medea war eine Ärztin Constructions of Femininity in Public Debates about Medical Education for Women in Germany and Austria between 1870 and 1910* has recently been published (Berlin: Peter Lang, 2007).

**Eva Wessell** (Ph.D., winter 1987) has remained in Orange County California for family reasons since receiving her degree. She has been one of the veteran lecturers in UCI's Humanities Core Course, often teaching honors sections. She has also taught for UCI German as well as the University of Southern California and Saddleback College. She retired last year from UCI, but is being recalled to teach an undergraduate, upper-division literature course for us winter quarter 2008. Eva has published on freshman writing and individually and collaboratively (with Herbert Lehnert) on Thomas Mann.