The German Department Presents:

A talk by Peter Pfeiffer, Professor, Department of German, Georgetown University

"Magie des Ästhetischen: Stifters Novelle Granit und die anthropologische Notwendigkeit der Literatur."

In the second half of the nineteenth century, literature was in fierce competition with the natural sciences in claiming the premier status of knowledge creation relevant to an understanding of man. Looking at Adalbert Stifter (1805-1868) who exerts significant influence on writers to this day (cf. W. G. Sebald, Peter Handke, Arnold Stadler and many others), I explore this competition and how literary knowledge creation is made to be more significant than that of the natural sciences. To that end, I will take a close look at the first novella, “Granit”, from Stifter’s most famous collection of stories, Bunte Steine (1853) exploring the significance of aesthetics as anthropological necessity. (The presentation will be in German.)

Monday January 25th, 2010
Humanities Instructional Building 220
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM