

# Mitteilungen aus Madison

NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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## Other Stories: Discussing Diversity in the German Context

BY B. VENKAT MANI

With guest speakers including an African performance artist, an Afro-German scholar, and a Turkish-German scholar, the German Department provided a fantastic platform for discussions on ethnic, racial, and gender diversity during the academic year 2001–2002.

The lecture series “Multiculturalism in German Society Today,” organized by Prof. Sabine Mödersheim, kicked off in September 2001 with a workshop and a lecture by artist and scholar Braima Moiwa. Moiwa visited the German Department as a Brittingham scholar-in-residence. Moiwa learned the art of listening to and telling stories during his childhood years in Bunumbu, Sierra Leone. In addition to conducting a workshop on oral narratives for the students of the course “German Culture up to 1648” taught by Prof. Mödersheim, during his public lecture Moiwa enthralled the audience by engaging with them in a storytelling session.

The story of May Ayim, the late Afro-German poet and activist, was the topic of a lecture in February by UW–Madison alumna Dagmar Schultz. Schultz is the coeditor of the much acclaimed book *Farbe bekennen*. Along with screening of the documentary film *Hoffnung im Herz: Mündliche Poesie: May Ayim*, Schultz presented a lecture on the history and the presence of Africans in Germany. This event was complemented by the public reading of the autobiography *Daheim unterwegs: Ein deutsches Leben* by the Afro-German author and activist Ika Hügel-Marshall. Born to a German mother and an African-American father, Marshall is an American citizen as well. Her reading therefore was able to foster a substantial discussion not only on Afro-German identity but also the implications of dual citizenship within the German context.

The discussion on multiculturalism in Germany continued with a video presentation in March by Prof. Deniz Göktürk from UC Berkeley. Prof. Göktürk, author of *Künstler, Cowboys, Ingenieure: Kultur- und medien-geschichtliche Studien zu deutschen Amerika-Texten 1912–1920*, has published articles on migration, culture, and cinema and translated fiction works and poetry from Turkish into German. In her lecture “Spectacles of Multiculturalism in the New Berlin” Prof. Göktürk showed clips from and discussed the annual “Karnival der Kulturen” in Berlin. She also presented at the European Film Conference organized in March by the Center for European Studies.

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*Ika Hügel-Marshall*

## News from the Dutch Program

By JOLANDA VANDERWAL TAYLOR

The U.S. press has paid more attention to things Dutch this spring than I can remember ever having seen before. A royal wedding, the fall of the government over the Srebrenica report, the assassination of a politician and elections soon after—there has been a lot of excitement. We, too, have news, but it's much quieter. The 2001–2002 academic year has presented several reasons for joy for those involved with Dutch at the UW. If you remember last year's announcement about the record numbers of students taking the standardized achievement test for Dutch (the *Certificaat Nederlands als Vreemde Taal*), you may be interested to know that most of the candidates performed beautifully on their tests, and that even more students participated this year. Which leaves me fatigued but proud.

We enjoyed the visit of two Dutch writers to Madison this year: Renate Dorrestein, an established and well-loved writer whose novel *Heart of Stone* was recently published in the United States, and Oscar van den Boogaard, whom we met for the first time and whose *Love's Death* was an impressive introduction to a relatively new writer. Both gave wonderful presentations to impressive and appreciative audiences. A remarkable fact is that these writers were here at the invitation of other entities. While we are always happy to bring authors to campus, I note with pleasure that Dutch literature is now also appreciated outside of "Dutch academic" circles. It is being recognized as important literature by readers from other backgrounds.

The relative success that Dutch studies and Dutch literature have experienced in the United States recently was also evident in the culture and literature courses offered this year. It is a good deal easier than it used to be to find good materials (particularly in English) for our investigations. This year the culture course took on the topic of the Golden Age for the first time. Thanks to a grant from the Global Languages, Literatures, and Cultures Forum, we had materials galore, including beautiful CD-ROMs and, with the expert help of several graduate students, Web-based instructional resources. There was a lot of material to cover, but by the end of the semester, the students' satisfaction at having tackled such a huge topic was palpable and infectious. This year's literature class looked at the topic of the voyage in Dutch literature from various perspectives. We began with the wonderful seventeenth-century travel journal of Willem Ysbrants

Bontekoe, which most of the students came to appreciate either because of, or despite, its colorful, archaic language, and, after jumping across centuries and spanning several continents, ended with Cees Nooteboom's challenging novel *Allerzielen*. As usual, some of the students read entire novels in Dutch, while others found them sufficiently thought-provoking in English. A broad variety of approaches and texts provided challenging topics for debate. Thanks to all who went on the journey with us this year.

If you have news, letters, comments, etc., please send them to:

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*Other Stories, continued*

The last event of the series was a presentation in May by Prof. Fatima El-Tayeb, a historian from Hamburg and the author of *Oxymoron or Repressed History? African Germans and the Discourse on "Race," 1900–1933* (2001). Along with Angelina Maccarone she is the coscriptwriter of the award-winning comedy *Alles wird gut* (1997).

Madison's German Department strives to integrate issues of diversity into the curriculum at all levels, from elementary language instruction to graduate seminars. During the current academic year, for example, two colleagues offered relevant focus courses: for undergraduates Prof. Sabine Mödersheim taught "Multiculturalism in German Society Today," and for graduates Prof. Venkat Mani taught "Identitätsdiskurs nach 1945." We look forward to extending the discussion on cultural diversity in Germany and in German studies over the coming years.

## New Faculty Profile: Mark L. Louden

BY KIMBERLY A. MILLER

Since moving from the University of Texas at Austin to the UW German Department two years ago, Mark Louden has enjoyed getting to know the culture of a new department, as well as becoming acquainted with faculty and students here. He is impressed with the quality of the students and with the interesting work done by every member of the Department.



Mark began his graduate studies in Germanic linguistics at Cornell University in 1984; during his first year, personal and spiritual contact with Amish and Old Order Mennonites led to an interest in their language, Pennsylvania German, which Mark now speaks fluently. Add to this Mark's interest in syntax, language contact, and language change, and you have his dissertation, entitled *Bilingualism and Syntactic Change in Pennsylvania German*. After receiving his Ph.D. in the summer of 1988, Mark joined the faculty at the University of Texas at Austin, teaching courses in theoretical linguistics and, later, language acquisition. There, Mark's approach to teaching was shaped by his desire to introduce newcomers to linguistics to general linguistic theory by way of data from modern Germanic languages, especially their nonstandard varieties. Mark works to make linguistics accessible to beginners and meaningful to all his students; his goal is to spark students' interest and to teach them new ways of thinking about language that will enable them to later teach themselves.

Here at the UW Mark's teaching complements strengths in phonology, morphology, sociolinguistics, and historical linguistics already present in the Department's course offerings. He teaches in the areas of syntax, first

and second language acquisition, language change, Pennsylvania German, and Yiddish, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. In spring 2002 he taught a seminar on language acquisition and in the fall will offer an introductory syntax course, followed by a course on Pennsylvania German language and culture in spring 2003. In the near future he plans on teaching a course on Yiddish, focusing on the language and its history.

Beyond the German Department, Mark is already involved in the wider UW community. He will be acting director of the Max Kade Institute this coming year, is an affiliate member of the faculty of the Mosse-Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies, and, together with faculty from the Linguistics, English, Psychology, and Communicative Disorders departments, is a co-organizer of the "Language and Mind" workshop sponsored by the Center for the Humanities. He has recently been selected to become a member of the UW Teaching Academy, a group of faculty that meets monthly to engage in discussions promoting good teaching. This past summer Mark taught two seminars on general linguistics as an exchange professor at the Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen.

Mark is active in research and publication. Most recently he coedited and wrote the introduction for *A Word Atlas of Pennsylvania German* by Lester W. J. Seifert. He also edits the *Journal of Germanic Linguistics*, published by Cambridge University Press.

*This is perhaps the only sonnet ever written in Pennsylvania German.*

### 's Sonnet

Vor mir hot nimmmand en Sonnet gschriwwe  
In Pennsilfeenisch Deitsch. Ich will's mol waage  
'm Dante un 'm Petrarch nooch ze jaage  
Bis ich die Wadde zamme hab gedriwwe.  
Nau, 'm Sonnet sei Lines sin zwee mol siwwe,  
Net mehner un net wennicher kann's verdraage;  
Zwee Deel hot's: 's erscht — 's *Octave* so ze saage —  
Hot juscht zwee Rhymes, die darf mer net verschiewe.  
's Zwett un glenner Deel — *Sestette* wadd's gheese —  
Kann zwee Rhymes hawwe adder drei, (net meh'),  
Un die darf mer arrange wie mer will.  
Es fehle noch drei Lines; halt dich nau schtill! —  
Ich hab sie schunnt! — un du hoscht nau, verschteh,  
's Erscht Sonnet in dere Schprooch glese.

— Charles Calvin Ziegler (1854–1930)

If you would like a translation of this sonnet, feel free to contact Mark Louden at [mllouden@wisc.edu](mailto:mllouden@wisc.edu).

„Die Leute ... sind durchgängig sehr  
gefällig und freundschaftlich...“  
Eindrücke von einer Gastprofessur  
in Madison

VON HELMUT G. SCHMAHL  
(JOHANNES GUTENBERG-UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ)

„Die Leute, wenngleich von sehr verschiedenen Nationen, sind durchgängig sehr gefällig und freundschaftlich ...“ Mit diesen Worten charakterisierte Franz Neukirch, ein 1839 nach Wisconsin ausgewanderter Mainzer, den Menschen-schlag, den er bei seiner Ankunft vorfand. „Ich bin gereist und hierhergekommen“, fuhr er in einem Brief an seine Verwandten fort, „als wenn schon alles für mich vorbereitet gewesen wäre, und bin von den hiesigen Bewohnern wie ein alter Bekannter und Freund empfangen worden.“ Nicht anders erging es seinem Landsmann, der die Ehre hatte, auf Einladung des Department of German und der Max Kade Foundation das Frühjahrssemester 2002 als Max Kade Professor in Madison zu verbringen.

Wisconsin war für mich keine *terra incognita*, da ich mich als Migrationshistoriker intensiv mit der Geschichte seiner Besiedlung beschäftigt und Land und Leute auf früheren Reisen kennen und schätzen gelernt habe. Dennoch habe ich viele neue Eindrücke gewonnen und meinen Horizont erweitert, insbesondere was die amerikanische Mentalität und Kultur betrifft. Dies war vor allem im Kurs „Advanced Conversation and Composition“ der Fall, wo ich mit einer hochmotivierten Gruppe von Undergraduates meist deutsche und amerikanische landeskundliche Themen behandelte und eine Internetsite für deutschsprachige Besucher Madisons erstellte. Nicht minder interessiert und engagiert waren die aus vier Ländern stammenden Teilnehmer meines interdisziplinären Seminars „Wisconsin Immigration History“. Dort beschäftigten wir uns mit einer breiten Palette von Themen, zu denen Siedlungsgeographie, Akkulturation, Interkulturalität, Folklore und die Entwicklung der deutschen Sprache in Wisconsin zählten. Höhepunkt dieser

Veranstaltung war eine Tagesexkursion auf den Spuren deutscher und osteuropäischer Einwanderer in Milwaukee. Neben bekannten Sehenswürdigkeiten besichtigten wir auch einen unscheinbaren Backsteinbau, der wohl wie kein zweites Gebäude die wechselhafte Geschichte der Stadt in den letzten 100 Jahren verdeutlicht. Über dem Eingang findet sich die deutsche Inschrift „EV[ANGELISCH]-LUTH[ERISCHE] ST. PETERS SCHULE“, deren letztes Wort—wohl in den Jahren des Ersten Weltkriegs—mit einigen Meißelhieben und etwas Mörtel in „SCHOOL“ verwandelt wurde. Auf dem verwitterten Sandstein sind heute sowohl Reste des deutschen als auch des englischen Wortes zu erkennen. Seit einigen Jahrzehnten befindet sich die Schule mitten in einem hispanischen Viertel, in der benachbarten Kirche werden Gottesdienste auf Spanisch und Englisch gehalten.

Es ist der Traum eines jeden Nordamerikahistorikers, in Madison arbeiten zu dürfen! Die Literaturbestände der State Historical Society zur nord-amerikanischen Geschichte werden landesweit nur noch von der Kongressbibliothek übertroffen, und auch der Archivalienfundus zur Landesgeschichte ist beachtlich. Nicht weniger beeindruckt war ich von der Arbeit des Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies, wo ich einen Großteil meiner Zeit verbrachte. Ein besonderes Vergnügen war es mir, an einigen der diesjährigen Aktivitäten des Instituts mitwirken zu dürfen. Hierzu gehörten der paläographische Kurs „Learning Old German Script“, ein Workshop



*Helmut Schmahl at the MKI banquet*

über deutsche Quellen zur Nordamerikaauswanderung, eine Tagung für Deutschlehrer sowie die Mitgliederversammlung des Fördervereins, wo ich eine Rede über Interkulturalität im Wisconsin des 19. Jahrhunderts hielt.

Langweilig wurde es mir in Madison nie, wofür nicht zuletzt das—euphemistisch ausgedrückt—abwechslungsreiche Wetter sorgte. Mir blieb genügend Zeit, mit dem Fahrrad die nähere Umgebung zu erkunden und als Freiwilliger beim Membership Drive des Wisconsin Public Television mitzuwirken. Abschließend gilt mein Dank all denjenigen, die dazu beigetragen haben, dass mein Aufenthalt in der Stadt der vier Seen zu einem unvergesslichen Erlebnis wurde!

## From Washington, DC, to Madison, WI

By ALFRED DEFAGO

*Professor Alfred Defago, former ambassador of Switzerland to the United States, is a visiting professor at the International Institute. He holds a Ph.D. in history and German literature and teaches undergraduate and graduate courses at the UW–Madison on international relations and European studies. During his first year in Madison he has participated in several events cosponsored by the German Department, including a reading of Swiss dramatist Urs Widmer’s play Top Dogs, an exhibition at Memorial Library on “The Sister Republics: Switzerland and the U.S. from 1776 to the Present,” and “Swiss Paradise,” a festival of Swiss films presented at the UW Cinematheque.*

The move from the nation’s capital to the campus of the UW–Madison in August 2001 was not only a matter of geography, it was also, even in the first place, a dramatic change in work, culture, and lifestyle. Washington, DC, meant in my case more than four years of diplomatic activities, interesting meetings (most of the time), and conferences with politicians, business leaders, and colleagues from the diplomatic corps. But it was also a world of receptions, dinners, and other social gatherings, things that can make diplomatic life sometimes so fascinating and once in a while also rather boring.

Life in Madison was different from day one. Of course, I had already heard in Washington quite a lot of great things about the place and its campus. I knew of the excellent reputation of the University of Wisconsin–Madison with its top schools and departments in so many academic areas. Moreover, I assumed that life on campus would be slightly different and above all a little bit less formal than the one I had led at the Swiss ambassador’s residence on the Potomac. Nevertheless, it came as a surprise to me how intellectually fascinating and socially open life on the Madison campus was.

One expression of this openness was and is the decidedly interdisciplinary approach when the various schools, departments, and institutes discuss topics and controversial issues of academic and public interest. Not only does my campus home, the International Institute, continually bring people, ideas, and academic disciplines into contact with each other, but I also experienced this deliberately interdisciplinary approach in areas where I—frankly speaking—did not expect it. As a Swiss and as a former director general of multicultural Switzerland’s Federal Office of Culture, I was more than pleased to see how, for example, the German Department along with the

French and Italian Department coproduced most interesting events about contemporary literature, theater, and films from my country. When I recently told some friends in Washington about this easygoing interdisciplinary cooperation, they were quite surprised ... and impressed. “You won’t find such a thing at all too many universities in this country,” they said appreciatively.

At some universities in Europe teaching still means above all delivering lectures, and learning means getting served with knowledge. A genuine dialogue between professors and students is somewhat rare in that world. Despite the size of its campus, at the UW–Madison I experience a fascinating world of mutual teaching and learning. It is also a world in which a visiting professor from Europe with a background as a diplomat and political pragmatist not only can give something to his students, but also gets from them in return new, fresh ideas and views. This most stimulating atmosphere in class as well as among faculty colleagues definitely contributed to my decision to accept an offer to teach for two more semesters at the International Institute. After my first two semesters on this campus, this was a rather easy decision, and I am looking forward to ongoing cooperation with the Departments of German and French and Italian during the coming year.

**Stockwerk Deutsch** is the name of the German Department’s new undergraduate dorm, which will open its doors this fall. Located on two floors in Richardson Hall, one of the beautiful dorms overlooking Lake Mendota and also housing the International Living Community, this pilot project has been organized in cooperation with the UW’s Residential Housing Office. The dorm provides 14 undergraduates with a living/learning opportunity where German will be the daily language of communication. A resident native speaker, graduate student Antje Krüger, is coordinating activities together with professors Venkat Mani and Charles James. Regular evening programming (videos, discussions of current events, a reading group, etc.) and frequent German dinners with student and faculty guests from the Department as well as native speakers from the entire campus are being planned. Alles auf deutsch natürlich!

In the future, we expect Spanish and Italian language floors will follow and learn from our experiment. Stay tuned for a report!

## Launched from the Isthmus: Graduate Studies in Madison, 1969–1974

BY HELEN FEHERVARY (THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY)

*Now a full professor of German at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Helen Fehervary completed her graduate studies in the Madison German Department during some of the most turbulent years on the UW campus in recent memory.*

Fresh from the East Coast, two Ivy League degrees in hand, and driven by a restlessness in my life that brought me midwestward, I arrived in Madison in the fall of 1969 to pursue my Ph.D. My enrollment in John Workman's eighteenth-century survey course seemed fine, but to Chairman Ian Loram's office I ran—tripping in high heels and, I think, still sporting a platinum French twist—begging to be transferred out of Jost Hermand's seminar on post-Brechtian drama: he was reputed to be controversial and demanding. Loram persuaded me to give it a try. Notes from both courses served me well for many more years. Workman ordered the material with the pedagogic ingenuity of a rationalist inspired by the very era he surveyed; Hermand overwhelmed us with ideas and information, forcing even the most reluctant to reconsider her/his place in the world. As an indecisive newcomer, I didn't raise my hand in time to register my preference for a paper topic (Frisch, Weiss, etc.), so I got the one that was left: an absolute unknown named Heiner Müller. Don't worry, Hermand assured me, he's very good, and there's no secondary literature—that will make your work easier. There were no books available either, only three plays about industrial production, about which I knew nothing, in GDR journals I'd never heard of. With little but my fascination for the language of the young Müller I produced a paper that to my astonishment delighted the person whom from that point on I would regard as my teacher.

German TAs joined the campus-wide TAA strike in the spring of 1970. When National Guard troops were dispatched to occupy the campus, we protested. The more we were tear-gassed, the more serious the protests and the more intransigent TAs in English, History, and German became. All the time we picketed Van Hise, we continued to teach our classes off-campus, a favorite site being Rennebohm's Drugstore. And what of the classes in which I was enrolled? My solution for the Heine seminar was to submit my paper on Atta Troll at the time scheduled for its discussion and to attach a note which roughly read: "Dear Prof. Hermand, Enclosed is my seminar paper, which you may wish to discuss in class despite the TAA call for a

strike of all classes. I for my part will honor the strike and not be in attendance." When I ran into him a few days later, he didn't seem displeased: of course the seminar wouldn't meet without the author of the paper. Throughout the strike "reconciliation" meetings took place in Charlotte Brancaforte's house, where she and Klaus Berghahn, both walking a fine political line as "young" faculty, promoted dialogue among the Department's TAA-active left, the scabs, and our more or less split faculty. (With the advent of more sanitized meetings in our profession I have waxed nostalgic more than once for the awkward coziness and Schillerian pathos of the Brancaforte "salon.")

If I went into the strike with a smattering of historical dialectics, I came out of it with the experience of spontaneous action at the—well, campus—base in the spirit of Ernst Toller and Rosa Luxemburg. We TAs flocked to George Mosse's and Harvey Goldberg's history lectures, and the courses and joint projects of Reinhold Grimm and Hermand brought students from other departments into our own—interdisciplinarity worthy of its name! The junior faculty appointments of David Bathrick and Evelyn Beck in my second year eased the formality between professors and students, brought an American perspective to bear (and the soul of Otis Redding counterpointed by Helen Reddy's "I Am Woman, Hear Me Roar" to our raucous parties), and challenged our thinking on radical history, which now included Marxist theory, German-Jewish issues, and feminism. When David (with Andy Rabinbach and Jack Zipes) launched *New German Critique* in 1973, the journal's earliest projects were supported by student collectives in both Madison and Milwaukee. And with Evi we joined CR groups, researched women's history, and drafted syllabi that included V. Woolf and C. Wolf. In my last semester, spring 1974, a group of us brought "Women in German" to life with Evi and Pat Herminghouse at the first national GDR conference at Washington University.

When I returned to Madison the following year to defend my dissertation on Hölderlin's reception, departmental factions were more entrenched than during my "Camelot" years. The Committee consisted of Hermand, Grimm, Bathrick, Berghahn, and, from History, Sterling Fishman. It was not so much I who seemed to be in the "hot seat" that evening as the inviolability of the arguments thrown into the crossfire among the core committee members. "That was the roughest exam I ever sat on," Sterling Fishman told me when he and Klaus Berghahn sympathetically came to shake my hand once the "debate" had subsided. I was too dazed at the time to tell him that I wouldn't have traded it, nor all the years I spent in Madison, for the world.

## On Life and Deutsch

By CHAD HOLLAND (UW B.S. '99)

My affair with the German language began unexpectedly during my sophomore year of college, on December 27, 1995. I had taken two years of the language in high school to fulfill the UW foreign language entrance requirement so that I could pursue my engineering degree. But there I was, crammed into steerage class on my first-ever flight outside the U.S.A. My best friend, Dan Langenfeld (B.A. '99), was studying in Gießen and had invited me to visit. Our memories of that trip are manifold: from hunger pangs caused by subsisting almost exclusively on bread for two weeks; to the pure humor found in watching a larger German woman thrust herself up onto a couch in front of the TV, cramming chocolates into her mouth and barking "Mein Revier!"; from feeling winded after climbing the enormous incline to the Wartburg castle where Martin Luther once spent time; to experiencing overwhelming fear and sadness walking through the frigid memorial site of the Buchenwald concentration camp, encircled by forest and barbed wire that were, ironically, encrusted in millions of beautiful, tiny, glimmering ice crystals. These and other experiences came crashing over me in waves, bringing into my consciousness for the first time that Germany is a real place with real people and a real history.

I returned to Madison embracing a different approach to the world. Though I somehow still completed my chemical engineering degree, I added a significant number of German language and literature courses. I also participated in a study abroad experience through the College of Engineering that landed me for a semester in Vienna, resulting in another quantum leap in how I looked at the world. Being in Vienna, the third seat of the United Nations and a historical gateway to Eastern Europe, exposed me to diverse people and cultures. I also learned what it feels like not to understand everything at first, to really have to make a conscious effort to listen and communicate, an experience that would aid me in my future endeavors internationally.

After returning to Madison from Vienna for my last year of undergraduate education, it was time to look for a job. Inspired by my experience in Vienna, I made "international content" the top criterion for a job, and somehow the company that offered me the most of this was S. C. Johnson, located in Racine, Wisconsin, not 30 minutes from where I was raised. My last semester at the UW was most enjoyable; I took two German classes and had the chance to act in the Department's presentation of

Dürrenmatt's *Der Meteor*. But it was soon time to start working, time to enter the "real world."

The "real world" is where I have discovered the significance of "things German." The significance goes beyond the relationships formed along the way, language skills, dealing with people of other cultures, or even a greater appreciation of my own country. The experience of German is, for me, a projection of the hopes, failures, and dreams that combine to form the human experience. An intermediate class I took in the Department dealt with post-World War II thought and literature, specifically the concept of *Vergangenheitsbewältigung*. This concept draws from psychological theories suggesting that each person's life is about overcoming one's own history, about mustering the courage to hear and follow one's own callings despite, or perhaps because of, the pain of the past. German, then, is a wake-up call from the tedium and minutiae of the business world or of my personal life. It is a reminder to look at the big picture, to notice the interconnectedness of people and events, and to listen to one's self.

I have been at S. C. Johnson for almost three years now and have traveled extensively, both for my job and for personal reasons: to Argentina, Vietnam, China, India, England, Japan, Austria, Germany, the Slovak Republic, and Thailand. The more I travel, the more I realize the power of the experiences I had in connection with German and the seeming universality of the lessons. Most of the significant growth and learnings in my life are, at some level, a result of the choice to study German. As I pursue my Master's of Business Administration part-time at Northwestern University, I wonder about the future: will it, too, somehow be an exciting consequence of having studied German? It wouldn't surprise me.

### Upcoming Event

**35th Wisconsin Workshop**, September 19–21, 2002, "Unmasking Hitler: Cultural Representations of Adolf Hitler from the Weimar Republic to the Present" with: David Bathrick (Cornell University), Helen Fehervary (The Ohio State University), Jost Hermand (UW–Madison), Helmut Peitsch (University of Potsdam), Gerhard Richter (UW–Madison), Claudia Schmölders (Humboldt University of Berlin), James Steakley (UW–Madison)

Fall 2001

CGES = Center for German and European Studies  
 MKI = Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies

Sept 7–9, George L. Mosse Memorial Conference, “An Historian’s Legacy: George L. Mosse and Recent Research on Fascism, Society, and Culture” (History Department, CGES)

Sept 13, MKI lecture in honor of Lester W. J. “Smoky” Seifert, Glenn G. Gilbert (Southern Illinois University at Carbondale): “Atlases of the Demography, Culture, and Language of the Descendants of German Immigrants in the United States”

Sept 13, Roundtable lecture, Braima Moiwa (Independent Artist, Durham, NC): “Storytelling and Oral Tradition”

Sept 14, MKI lecture, Joseph Salmons (UW–Madison German Dept./MKI) and Antje Petty (MKI): “Pommersch Language and Culture in Wisconsin”

Sept 14, Department picnic

September–November, Fritz Lang Retrospective: The German Films, UW Cinémathèque

Sept 20–23, 34th Wisconsin Workshop, “Fascism and Its Legacies: The Re-Emergence of the Extreme Right in Europe and the U.S.A.,” cosponsored with CGES, Departments of Comparative Literature, French and Italian, History, Sociology, the European Union Center, Havens Center. Lutz Koepnick (Washington University), Claudio Fogu (University of Southern California), Tom Wolfe (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities), Maria Bucur (Indiana University), David Carroll (University of California, Irvine), Michel Wieviorka (EHESS, Paris), Richard Golsan (Texas A&M University), Franklin Hugh Adler (Macalester College), Joachim Kersten (Fachhochschule Villingen-Schwenningen), Linda Kintz (University of Oregon)

Sept 25, CGES lecture, Michael Engelhard (Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany): “At Crossed Signals? Transatlantic Transitions, Global Agendas, and Current Challenges for European-American Relations”

Sept 28, Roundtable lecture, Joy Calico (Illinois Wesleyan University): “The Trial, the Judgment, the Coverup: Behind the Scenes of Brecht’s and Dessau’s *Lucullus* Opera”

Sept 28–29, Seventh Annual Conference of the Medieval Association of the Midwest

Oct 3, MKI lecture, Joseph Salmons and Antje Petty (MKI): “‘Klein Deutschland’: German Immigrant Life in Milwaukee in the Late 19th Century,” cosponsored with Hales Corners Historical Society

October–November, “German Women on the Silver Screen,” a film series in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the UW Women’s Studies Program, cosponsored with the Women’s Studies Program and Associated Students of Madison (ASM)

Oct 16, Roundtable lecture, Brigitte Jirku (Valencia, Spain): “Gegenwärtige Vergangenheit. Die österreichische Schriftstellerin Elisabeth Reichart,” cosponsored with CGES

Oct 16, Roundtable lecture, Lutz Kuntzsch (Wiesbaden): “Wörter, die Geschichte machten—Schlüsselbegriffe des 20. Jahrhunderts im Fremdsprachenunterricht”

Oct 25, CGES lecture, Venkat Mani (UW–Madison): “Enduring Critique after September 11: Reflections of a Non-Resident Alien”

Oct 25, Don Tuten (Emory University): “On the Use and Misuse of L1 (English) in Foreign Language Teaching,” cosponsored with the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and the Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies Program

Oct 26, University lecture, Marc Weiner (Indiana University): “The Emergence of Antisemitism in Recent Richard Wagner Scholarship”

Nov 2, Roundtable lecture, Stephan Jaeger (Universität Gießen): “Die Inszenierung des Vergangenen. Zwischen Fakt und Fiktion in Literatur und Geschichtsschreibung um 1800”

November–January, exhibit at the UW Memorial Library, “The Sister Republics: Switzerland and the U.S.,” created by the Library of Congress and the Swiss National Library to celebrate the special relationship between Switzerland and the United States

Nov 8, University lecture, Paul Guyer (University of Pennsylvania): “Exemplary Originality: Genius, Universality, and Individuality,” cosponsored with the Department of Philosophy

Nov 15, European Writers Workshop, Gerhard Kofler (Austria), Edoardo Albinati (Italy), Oscar van den Boogaard (the Netherlands), and Benjamin Prado (Spain), co-sponsored with the European Studies Alliance and the E.U. Cultural Committee in Chicago

Nov 16, CGES lecture, Olaf Hoerschelman (University of North Texas): “No Place Like ... Stammheim: Terrorism and Public Memory in Postwar Germany,” co-sponsored by the Media, Performance, and Identity Research Circle

Nov 28, MKI lecture, Dr. Tobias Brinkmann (Universität Leipzig): “Jews, Germans, or Americans? Jewish Immigrants from Central and Eastern Europe in 19th-Century America”

Nov 30, reading of Urs Widmer’s Swiss play *Top Dogs*: Chris Bolander, Janet Caulkins, Francine Conley, Christian Flaugh, Thyra Knapp, Steve Krause, François Tochon, Christoph Weber (UW–Madison), and His Excellency Alfred Defago (former ambassador of Switzerland to the United States), cosponsored with the Department of French and Italian and the European Studies Alliance

Dec 3, University lecture, Robert W. Murray (Calgary): “Syllable Cut Prosody in Middle English: Synchrony and Diachrony”

## Spring 2002

Feb 8, Singakademie Dresden Concert (Madison concert)

Feb 14, Renate Dorrestein, reading and discussion with one of the Netherlands' most popular writers (cosponsored with *The Capital Times* Book Club Reading Series)

Feb 27–28, lecture series “Multicultural Society in Germany Today,” Dagmar Schultz (Berlin): lecture and film *Hope in my Heart—May Ayim* and Ika Hügel-Marshall (Berlin): reading from *Daheim unterwegs: Ein deutsches Leben*

Mar 1, Humanities Lunch Series, Hans Adler (UW–Madison): “Studying German in Times of Globalization”

Mar 1, MKI lecture, Maria Diederich (Harvard Visiting Scholar): “Of Borderstates and Leeches: Otilie Assing and the Douglass Family”

Mar 4, CGES lecture, Ute Gerhard (Universität Frankfurt and Carl Schurz Visiting Professor): “Gendered Citizenship: The German Case in European Perspective”

Mar 9, Rebekah Pryor (UW–Madison): “German Culture in Fairy Tales and Opera of the 19th Century”

Mar 14, lecture series “Multicultural Society in Germany Today,” Deniz Göktürk (University of California, Berkeley): “Spectacles of Multiculturalism in the New Berlin”

Mar 14, CGES lecture, Dr. Gerhard Fischer (Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction): “German Responses to the PISA Study—Denial and Action: Can Germans Learn from the U.S.?”

Mar 15, Marc Silberman (UW–Madison): “Popular Cinema, National Cinema, and European Integration: The German Case” and Deniz Göktürk (University of California, Berkeley): “Role Play on the Border: Turkish-German Comedies Beyond Identity Politics,”/European Film Conference, sponsored by the European Studies Alliance

Mar 18, Christiane Harzig (Universität Bremen): “Peasant Maids—City Women: Migration Experience from the European Countryside to Urban America,” cosponsored with MKI, the Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures, CGES, Scandinavian Studies, and the Women's Studies Program

Mar 19, Institute for Research in the Humanities lecture, Dirk Oschmann (Universität Jena): “‘Palpable’ Speech: Language and Literary Representation in Late 18th-Century German Literature”

Apr 1, CGES lecture, Milan Hauner (Naval War College): “Are Czech-German Relations so Marred (or Hurt) by History?”

Apr 2, Medieval lecture, Monika Schausten (University of Illinois at Chicago): “‘Writing only Locks up History’: Biography and Gender in Johann von Würzburg's ‘Wilhelm von Österreich’”

Apr 3, University lecture, Carol Jacobs (New York University): “Language of Religion, Ethics, and Aesthetics,” cosponsored with Comparative Literature

Apr 4, University lecture, Ray Jackendoff (Brandeis University): “Some Stages in the Evolution of Language,” cosponsored with Linguistics

Apr 5, Language and the Mind workshop, Ray Jackendoff (Brandeis University): “Reintegrating Linguistic Theory,” cosponsored with Linguistics

Apr 8, CGES lecture, Karen Offen (Stanford University): “Everything You Wanted to Know about European Feminism”

Apr 9, George C. Schoolfield (Professor Emeritus, Yale University): “Idle Women,” cosponsored with Comparative Literature and Scandinavian Studies

Apr 11, CGES lecture, Barbara Hobson (Stockholm University and Marshall Monnet Scholar in Residence): “Economic Citizenship: Reflecting Gender through the European Union”

Apr 12–13, Fourth Annual German Studies Graduate Student Conference, “Text in the City: Germany and City Life,” Rudy Koshar (UW–Madison, Keynote address), Christina Urie (Brigham Young University), Klaus Mueller-Richter (Washington University, St. Louis), Eric Jarosinski (UW–Madison), Patrick Farges (University of California, Berkeley), Thomas Haakenson (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities), Shannon V. Hebel (Georgetown University), Alys X. George (Stanford University), Raluca Negrisanu (University of Tennessee, Knoxville), Peter van Suntum (UW–Madison), Carrie Jackson (UW–Madison), Kimberly Miller (UW–Madison), Laura Catharine Smith (UW–Madison), Michael Cowan (University of California, Berkeley), David Wachter (University of Cincinnati)

Apr 12 and 19, Schweizer FilmFest, UW Cinematheque

Apr 15, Gesellschaft für deutsche Sprache lecture, Dr. Peter Wagener (Director of the Deutsches Spracharchiv/Institut für Deutsche Sprache, Mannheim): “Korpuslinguistik online/Corpus Linguistics Online”

Apr 16, World Languages Day, German Department participants: Monika Chavez, Mark Loudon, Jolanda Vanderwal Taylor, sponsored by College of Letters and Science and the International Institute

Apr 23 German Day

April 26, University lecture, Ulrich Gaier (Universität Konstanz): “Literary Scholarship and Its Tasks”

Apr 30, Roundtable lecture, Jan Wirrer (Universität Bielefeld): “Saterfriesisch: Eine bedrohte Sprache im Nordwesten Deutschlands”

May 1, lecture series, “Multicultural Society in Germany Today,” Fatima El-Tayeb (Hamburg/Amherst): “Playing the Hip Hybrid: Migrants in the German Mind,” co-sponsored with the Retention Action Project and the Equity and Diversity Center

May 8, Workshops for Teaching Assistants by Teaching Assistants: Carrie Jackson, Kirk Martinson, Kimberly Miller, Shawn Severson, Michelle Forsberg

May 15, Film Screening: Otto Preminger, *Exodus* (1960), cosponsored with the Center for Jewish Studies and the School of Journalism to recognize the conferral of the Doctor of Humane Letters on photojournalist Ruth Gruber (M.A. German, 1931)

May 23, CGES Brownbag lecture, Peter Claus Hartmann (Universität Mainz): “The Holy Roman Empire 1648–1806: Region, State, and Supraterritorial Diversity”

## News from the Max Kade Institute

By MARK L. LOUDEN

The historic Keystone House, home to the Max Kade Institute and the new Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures (CSUMC, pronounced see-SUM-see), has been a veritable beehive of activity during this past academic year.

This past fall (2001), the Institute welcomed Glenn G. Gilbert of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale for a lecture celebrating the posthumous publication by the MKI of *A Word Atlas of Pennsylvania German* by Lester W. J. "Smoky" Seifert. Professor Gilbert, himself a leading figure in the study of immigrant varieties of German in North America through his classic work on Texas German, paid homage to Smoky's groundbreaking research before a sizable audience, including Smoky and Mamie's daughter Suzanne Seifert Treichel, as well as former MKI Director Hank Geitz. The Institute owes the Seifert family, and especially Sue, a debt of gratitude for their generous financial support in realizing the culmination of Smoky's life's work with the publication of the *Word Atlas*.

With the *Word Atlas* the MKI monograph series, produced now in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin Press, has continued to grow. This year three new books are scheduled to appear: a revised edition/translation of Hans Bahlow's *Dictionary of German Names*; *Land without Nightingales*, an anthology of articles on the music of German-speaking groups in North America edited by Philip V. Bohlman and Otto Holzapfel; and *Pickled Herring and Pumpkin Pie*, a reprint of the classic German-American immigrant cookbook by Henriette Davidis with an introduction by Louis A. Pitschmann. This last monograph has been a special project of the indefatigable MKI assistant director and educational outreach specialist Antje Petty. Overall, the monograph series has benefited tremendously from the work of editorial assistants Eric W. Platt and Emily Engel.

This past spring our 5th Annual Mini-Conference on German Dialects in the Midwest was devoted to Dane County Kölsch and featured Dr. Peter McGraw of Linwood College, a graduate of the UW German Department who wrote his dissertation on the immigrant dialect nearly thirty years ago. Dr. McGraw has generously donated his original reel-to-reel tapes to the Institute's sound lab for digitization. Also this spring the MKI welcomed guest researchers Professor Jan Wirrer of the University of Bielefeld, a leading figure in Low German linguistics, and Alexandra Jacob, a doctoral student of Prof. Wirrer's, who is conducting research for her dissertation on Low German



*Joe Salmons and Mark Loudon at the MKI banquet*

in North America. Finally, although neither a Low German specialist nor a linguist, the MKI has had a very special guest, Dr. Helmut Schmahl of the University of Mainz, a historian and visiting Max Kade Professor in the German Department who wrote his award-winning dissertation on German immigration to Wisconsin. (Read Dr. Schmahl's essay in this issue of *Mitteilungen*!)

At the end of this academic year Joe Salmons is stepping down after five years as director of the MKI. His achievements over the past half-decade merit an essay unto themselves. Suffice it to say that, with the help of the Friends' Board and a wonderful and engaged staff, Joe has set the MKI on a truly impressive intellectual footing. No less important has been the eight-fold increase in the Institute's funding during Joe's tenure. During his upcoming (and well-deserved) sabbatical year and beyond Joe will continue to actively work on behalf of the MKI and as associate director of CSUMC. All of us involved with the work of the MKI and CSUMC are deeply grateful for what Joe has done to secure the future of both institutions.

You are encouraged to check out the activities of the MKI and CSUMC on our new Web site: <http://csumc.wisc.edu/> (for the MKI, log on to <http://csumc.wisc.edu/mki>). To kick things off this fall we will be hosting on September 13 and 14 an interdisciplinary conference entitled "Sounds of Two Worlds: Music as a Mirror of Migration to and from Germany" that will feature speakers from the U.S. and Europe, as well as live performances by local groups. As we develop our Web site, we welcome any helpful feedback!

## News from the Center for German and European Studies (CGES)

BY MARC SILBERMAN

The CGES was established in 1998 with generous funding from the German Academic Exchange Service as a consortium project of the University of Wisconsin–Madison and the University of Minnesota (Twin Cities). Aimed at educating the next generation of Europeanists, its principle goal is to offer graduate seminars that focus on Germany from a transatlantic perspective. From its inception the CGES, under the direction of Prof. Klaus Berghahn, has offered one such seminar each semester with a team of 2–4 professors drawing on expertise from both campus Centers. A group of advanced graduate students in Madison and Minneapolis is linked by high-speed cable video once a week for the seminar session, creating a unique multimedia environment supplemented by intensive email interaction and sophisticated Web site installations. The first evaluation of the Center consortium, completed in spring 2002, was very positive, and it is expected that the German Academic Exchange Service will agree to continue funding the Center’s Strategic Plan for the next five years (2003–2007).

During the past academic year the two seminars attracted ambitious groups of students on both campuses. Prof. Thomas Broman (History of Science) offered “Experts, Expertise, and Public Intellectuals in Germany, 1750–1970,” and Prof. Myra Marx Ferree (Sociology) taught “Germany, Gender, and Genre” in conjunction with the Women’s Studies Program. A special feature of this latter seminar was the participation of our visiting Carl Schurz Professor, Uta Gerhard (University of Frankfurt/Main), who holds the first chair in Gender Studies in Germany. Once again two seminars are being planned for the upcoming academic year in conjunction with the Minneapolis campus. Profs. Klaus Berghahn (German) and David Sorkin (History) will be directing a seminar under the auspices of the Center for Jewish Studies on “Antisemitism in Modern European Culture”; and two geographers, Eric Sheppard and Jamie Peck, will offer “Contested Urban Futures in Europe and the U.S.” They will be joined by a very special guest, the German Department’s Max Kade Professor, Dr. Christoph König from the Literaturarchiv in Marbach (read about him in next year’s *Mitteilungen!*).

The CGES seminars bear fruit in a number of ways. For students, including those from the German Department, the seminars offer an extraordinary experience of

interdisciplinary exchange and collegiality. Moreover, many of the student participants receive fellowships during their participation in a CGES seminar. During the past year, for example, the CGES was able to support 14 grad students on the UW campus with stipends and tuition remission, 7 of whom were in the German program. For the faculty involved it offers a rare opportunity of team-teaching not only across disciplines but also across state lines, building bridges that often result in longer term cooperations. Thus, the seminar that I taught on “Legacies of Fascism” in spring 2001 together with my colleague from Comparative Literature, Prof. Mary Layoun, and with two historians from the University of Minnesota, Profs. Eric Weitz and Tom Wolfe, led to a co-organized, international conference on the topic “The Re-Emergence of the Extreme Right in Europe and the U.S.A.” (held on the Madison campus in September 2001). Similarly, the seminar this past spring on “Germany, Gender, and Genre” (together with Minnesota faculty Mary Jo Maynes in History and Ruth Ellen Joeres in German) led to the second major CGES conference titled “Gender and Politics in the Transatlantic World, 1776–1989” (held on the Minneapolis campus in May 2002). Without the financial and moral support of the Centers on both campuses, neither of the conferences, which included student participants from the seminars, nor the publications that will emerge from them would be possible.

The Madison CGES is looking forward to other public events during the coming year. It is cooperating with the German Department in sponsoring the 35th Wisconsin Workshop under the title “Unmasking Hitler” (September 19–21, 2002); in October the German ambassador to the U.S.A., His Excellency Wolfgang Ischinger, will be hosted at the CGES; and throughout the fall semester there will be a lecture series flanking the CGES seminar on “Antisemitism in Europe.” Finally, in summer 2003 a block seminar on “Literary Scholarship” will take place at the Literaturarchiv in Marbach (Germany) with CGES scholarships for graduate student participants. Over the last four years the Center has truly enriched and stimulated the intellectual life of the German Department, and we all look forward to participating in future projects.



## News from the German and Dutch Graduate Student Association

BY STEVE KRAUSE

This year the GDGSA focused its attention on several projects, both large and small. We continued our commitment to the graduate student conference (discussed at right) and worked to refine TA training and support. We also went forward with projects started in previous years, such as increasing computer access and upgrading graduate student offices.

The space constraints of Van Hise Hall necessitated our move from four to three offices, and with departmental support we purchased new furniture to provide more—and more usable—work spaces. Whiteboards and other equipment were also provided for each office. Great strides were made regarding computer access for graduate students; each office now contains one PC and one Macintosh, and ethernet hubs allow students to bring in and hook up their own laptops.

The GDGSA worked together with the Department to refine and improve TA training and support. Earlier notification of teaching assignments and plans for a revised pedagogy course were two results of this effort. The teaching materials in the “Schlauch” (our lounge) are being sorted and pruned, and a project is underway to make writing projects, homework assignments, classroom activities, and overheads available through an online database.

At the same time, the GDGSA has been involved in social and professional activities such as the weekly Kaffeestunde, representation on departmental committees, graduate student recruitment, German Day, and our fourth annual graduate student conference.

### Upcoming Events

**German Play** (April 2003), Play Circle, Memorial Union: Soeren Voima, *Das Kontigent* (2000, an updated rewrite of Brecht’s Lehrstück *Die Maßnahme*); director: Manfred Roth (Frankfurt am Main)

**Wiener Werkstätte** (April/May 2003), Elvehjem Museum. Exhibit, lectures, and other events on the theme of Viennese design after the turn of the twentieth century

## “Text and the City”: Fourth Annual German Studies Graduate Student Conference

BY CHRISTOPH WEBER

On Friday and Saturday, April 12 and 13, the UW–Madison German and Dutch Graduate Student Association hosted its fourth annual conference, under the theme “Text and the City: Germany and City Life.” Similar to last year’s event, the conference took place over two days and attracted out-of-state speakers. Fifteen presenters (five from the UW–Madison, and others from places such as Berkeley, Cincinnati, Knoxville, Minneapolis, St. Louis, and Washington, DC) addressed a wide spectrum of topics on urban life and culture. The city was featured as a locus where people of different ideologies, languages, ethnicities, and sexual orientations live in close proximity and come into contact with each other. Common themes included the tensions arising between policies of city government and the demands of various subgroups, and the psychological confrontation of the individual with the problematic aspects of early twentieth-century modernization, such as rapid urban growth and the introduction of new technologies. The pathological side of city life was featured in presentations on sexual deviance in Arthur Schnitzler’s *Vienna* and the criminal mind as depicted in early German cinema. One panel devoted exclusively to linguistics explored how the city as an economic center has facilitated language change from the Middle Ages to the present.

This year’s conference was organized by Steve Krause, assisted by his colleagues Mary Grantham O’Brien, Katerina Somers Wicka, and Christoph Weber. The conference opened on Friday with a keynote address by Professor Rudy Koshar of the UW History Department entitled “On the Road in Germany between the World Wars.” This offered an insightful overview of how German automobile culture was represented in magazines, photography, and posters. On Saturday evening, after a full day of engaging presentations and discussions, the presenters joined with graduate students from the UW–Madison to enjoy the post-conference party hosted by Shawn Severson.

The conference was a great success, and the conference organizers are particularly grateful to the German Department and the Associated Students of Madison for their generous support. The organizers also would like to thank all the moderators for their time and effort. For further information on this conference, please visit the conference Web site at: [www.sit.wisc.edu/~gdgsa/conference](http://www.sit.wisc.edu/~gdgsa/conference).

## The Man behind the Smile: Graduate Coordinator Mark Mears

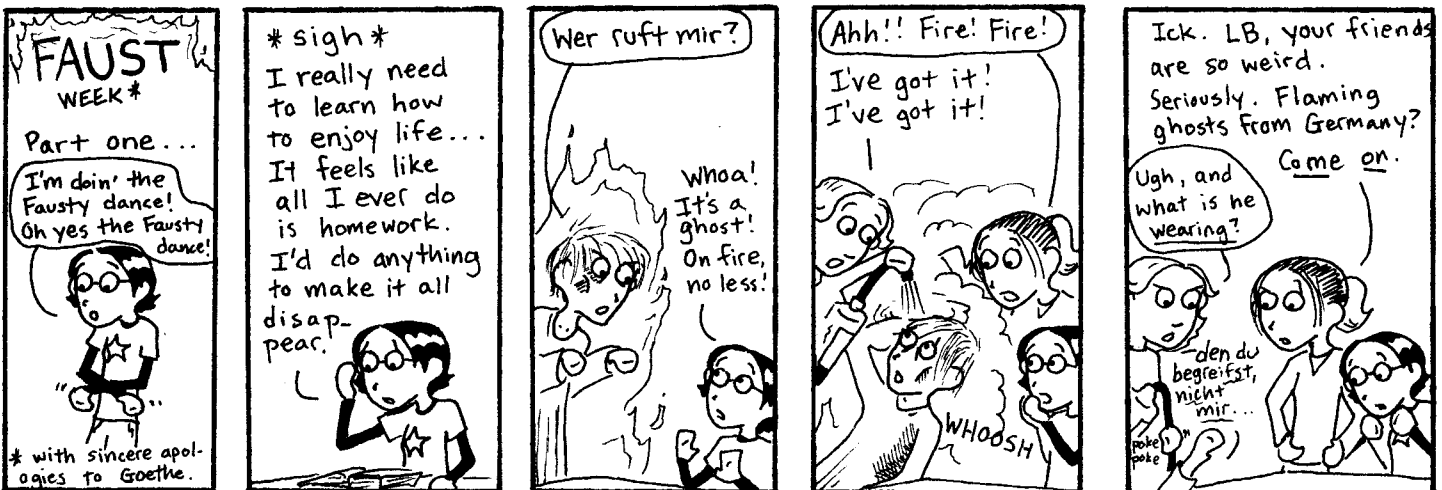
BY THYRA E. KNAPP

When prospective graduate students visit the UW–Madison German Department, bursting with questions, Mark Mears is one of the first people they meet. For the past nine years Mark has been the smiling face with all the answers. As graduate coordinator, Mark’s primary responsibilities have been to help recruit new graduate students and to coordinate the timetable. But his favorite aspect of the job, by far, is his interaction with students.

Mark grew up in Fitchburg in a very musical family (his father is a professional musician) and began playing the violin in the fourth grade. He was a member of the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra while attending Madison West High School and played in the All-University Orchestra as an undergraduate at the UW–Madison. In his sophomore year Mark’s interest in criminal justice inspired him to apply to the Madison Police Department, where he made it through the rigorous physical and psychological testing and up to the very last round of elimination. Although Mark was disappointed at the time, he now realizes that life in the German Department is a better fit for his other roles as husband and father. After graduating with a B.A. in sociology with a certificate in criminal justice from the UW–Madison in the spring of 1989, Mark took a circuitous route through temporary jobs in departments on campus ranging from Industrial Relations to Afro-American Studies, before finally finding a permanent home in the German Department in 1993. Joan Leffler (department coordinator), Lisa Blochwitz (undergraduate coordinator), and Mark Mears have been working together ever since and comprise a team of office staff that has been together longer than almost any other group on campus.



Mark and his wife DeDe (director of Room To Grow Day Care) currently reside in Verona with their two daughters, Marissa, who is seven, and Alena, who is four. They stay very active outdoors. Mark, in particular, enjoys playing softball and volleyball and coaching his daughter’s soccer team. While Mark considers himself the least knowledgeable German speaker in the Department (having taken only “German for Reading Knowledge” and been tutored by Professor Monika Chavez), he has spent time in Germany and is more than willing to tell you about his experiences there. If you have the chance, be sure and stop by his office and ask him about meeting Bruce Springsteen in the Hofbräuhaus and some of his other adventures. As always, Mark Mears will greet you with all the answers—and a smile.



The Faust cartoons in this year’s Mitteilungen were created by student Laura Beth Anderson and first appeared in one of the student newspapers at the UW–Madison.

## Degrees and Awards

### M.A. Degrees

Ed Metz (December 2001)  
Patricia Andrés-Sanmartín (May 2002)  
Michelle Forsberg (May 2002)  
Ingrid Kemp (May 2002)  
Nicholas Ryan-Lang (May 2002)  
Shawn Severson (May 2002)  
Thor Templin (June 2002)

### Ph.D. Degrees

Eric Jacobsen (August 2001)  
Kristen Julia Karolle (October 2001)  
Emily Goss (April 2002)  
William Maltarich (May 2002)  
Alan Ng (May 2002)  
Jill Twark (May 2002)  
Lisa Rainwater Van Suntum (May 2002)  
Peter Van Suntum (June 2002)  
Kristin Lovrien-Meuwese (August 2002)

### Graduate Awards and Scholarships

Diana Elgersma, Carrie Jackson, Jennifer Jenkins, Kimberly Miller: Netherlandic Studies Scholarships  
Jennifer Kapelanski and Antje Krüger: Edith M. Deuss Distinguished Graduate Fellow, 2001–2002  
Kimberly Miller and Laura Catharine Smith: Emmy Kleist Scholarships (2002 German Archival Tour)  
Mary Grantham O'Brien: Henry Gund Scholarship for Graduate Research

### Undergraduate Awards and Scholarships

Katherine Arner, Laura Brandt, Laura Brauer, Jacquelyn Jaques, Angela Lynn Kershner, Rebecca Lauer, Jennifer Lenger, Emily Reiss, Betsy Schulz, Amy Young: Alexander Hohlfeld and Minne Giese Summer Language Study Awards (Bonn Sommerkurs 2002)  
Robert Baille: Bonn Congress-Bundestag Fellowship, 2002–2003  
Justin Drees: DAAD grant for Freiburg Program, 2002–2003  
Natalie Kult: DAAD grant for Universität Darmstadt summer course, 2002  
Andrew Moser, Timothy Olin, Pierre Schmidt, Joshua Thompson: Harriet Kronke Undergraduate Writing Awards  
Eric Roubinek: DAAD grant for Bonn Program, 2002–2003  
Kristin Speth: Dr. Karl Oscar and Theodora Pisk Award for Excellence in Undergraduate German Studies



## German Day Reflections

BY MICHAEL TOLLEFSON

*Michael Tollefson received his M.A. in German from the UW–Madison in 1996 and currently teaches German at West High School and La Follette High School in Madison.*

Once again the UW–Madison’s German Day 2002 was a great success. West High has participated in German Day since its inception, and it has been a wonderful way for my students to showcase their language skills. It continues to motivate me as a teacher to incorporate German Day materials into my curriculum so students can utilize their language skills in the classroom in a fun and competitive way. For me, one of the most important aspects of German Day is the plethora of events that inspire me to become creative in using German in the classroom.

Each year my students come away from German Day rejuvenated and motivated to learn German. German Day helps my students view German as a vehicle through which other things can be learned rather than as the immediate object of study.

I love having a day of our own allowing me to network with fellow German language teachers from all over the state. I also love meeting other professionals with the same enthusiasm and challenges that I face. I intend to continue bringing my students to German Day as long as I teach German in the state of Wisconsin. As the only German



*Students from E. G. Kromrey Middle School participate in the spelling contest*

teacher at two high schools, I often feel isolated from my colleagues. German Day reminds me that there is no need to feel that way.

The annual recurrence of German Day gives my students and myself a highlight to look forward to each school year. My students especially like the setting at the Memorial Union on the UW campus. It also gives them a great opportunity to meet and interact with German graduate students and faculty of the German Department. Moreover, German Day is a good tool for German teachers

to promote the study of German, for example, by publicizing the results to the school community and by displaying the award plaques in the German classroom. I think that events like this are needed across the country to help us as German educators to strengthen our profession. Very few opportunities are available that allow us to integrate theory and practice of German as well as this one does.

To the originators and organizers of German Day I say thank you. German Day is truly an awesome practical experience. This event leads me to annually refocus my energies as a German language instructor. It is very well organized, and the support and input from the people involved with German Day are invaluable.



*Students from Maplewood Middle School*

## Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends and Alumni,

I find myself torn between feelings of gratification and concern: gratified at the exciting, successful achievements of the Department's students and colleagues, and concerned that the future of our programs may be jeopardized by the real constraints of Wisconsin's state budget crisis. Being an optimist, I prefer to dwell on the strengths that will help us weather any storms in our path.

The Department's lively academic and social life—documented in the *Chronik*—has been enriched this year with an unusual number of longterm guests: Dr. Stephan Jaeger (Universität Gießen) and Dr. Dirk Oschmann (Universität Jena) are both postdoctoral fellows sponsored by the German Department and funded by the Humboldt-Stiftung in Bonn; Dr. Helmut Schmahl (Universität Mainz), a historian with expertise on German emigration patterns, was the Department's Max Kade Professor in spring 2002; and Dr. Alfred Defago, the former ambassador of Switzerland to the U.S.A., is a visiting professor of International Studies. Dr. B. Venkat Mani, whom we welcomed as a new colleague, further enriches and strengthens our department (you'll be reading about him in next year's *Mitteilungen!*). Finally, we were especially pleased to welcome back Ruth Gruber, who received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters at the May

commencement ceremony. Gruber earned her M.A. in German in 1931 and went on to become a nationally recognized photojournalist whose work inspired the novel and the Otto Preminger film *Exodus* in 1960.

The department invested much energy in its ten-year review during the past two semesters. We authored a self-study in December, and an external review committee visited us in April. The retrospective study was a welcome opportunity to review continuities and changes of the past ten years. Although the review will not be completed until the fall, we are confident that the external committee as well as the University administration will recognize our successful mix of stability and flexibility as a good recipe for the future of our programs.

Once again, I wish to close by thanking all the friends who contributed to the German Department Enhancement Fund. These gifts help fund the new study grants for 10 undergraduates who are spending one month this summer at the Uni Bonn; they underwrite the grants for undergrads who will be living in Stockwerk Deutsch, the new German-language dorm floors; and they help us recruit the graduate students who will be the teachers of our next generation.

Mit freundlichem Gruß

Marc Silberman

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