Chair’s Corner

This year marks a new chapter for the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures as Prof. William Keel completed more than two decades of service as chair of the department. His many accomplishments include continued service to the state’s German language and heritage communities through his work as organizer of the annual Schulerkongress, nationally through his work on the Yearbook of German-American Studies, outreach activities with the Sister-Cities exchange with Eutin, as well as overseeing the success of KU’s Max Kade Center. He continues to work on issues concerning German Sprachinseln in Kansas and elsewhere in the U.S. and has seen through several successful doctoral dissertations that will ensure that his research legacy will continue. One of his recent Ph.D. students, Mascha Khramova, PhD ’11, published the article “Russian Borrowings in the Volga German Dialect in Russell County, Kansas” in the refereed international journal, Slavia Centralis. I am grateful to Bill for his numerous contributions and continued energy in serving the Department.

As I take over the chairing duties for the department I am encouraged by the opportunities offered by thinking broadly about how the Department can contribute to many campus initiatives that strengthen the international profile of the University of Kansas. The Department is already deeply involved in connecting KU students to the world of German business through its Deutsch für den Beruf curriculum as well as its summer business internship program, ably stewarded by Mr. Jim Morrison, whose long experience with Siemens as a German- and English-speaking business professional, is put to the benefit of our students. The relationship between Germany and the rest of Europe and the world has received renewed attention largely through the new life breathed into the European Studies Program (ESP), now led by our own Prof. Lorie Vanchena. Recent ESP initiatives have included sponsored talks by German diplomat and political scientist, Dr. Manfred Stinnes (details elsewhere in this issue), and Dr. Roman Sukač (Silesian U., Opava, Czech Republic), who spoke on the ‘palimpsest’ history of Silesia and the Czech Sudetenland. Most exciting, however, are the investments in interdisciplinary initiatives with German connections. The Department itself is now conducting an open-rank search for a specialist in the intellectual history of the Enlightenment with a focus on the Age of Goethe with an eye to a scholar who can draw connections with the arts, philosophy, history, and natural sciences. We have high hopes for a successful search and will report back to you in the spring on the outcome. We are also energized by the possibilities engendered by the hiring of Distinguished Professor of Environmental History Edmund P. Russell, who succeeds the eminent Prof. Donald Worster, who retired last year. Among Prof. Russell’s portfolio is his close association with the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, which is a joint initiative of the Ludwig-Maximilians Universität, Munich, and the Deutsches Museum. We are already discussing ways for fruitful collaboration to strengthen this relationship and benefit KU students.

The current year offers many activities and milestones that will invigorate the German Department. We will celebrate the career of retiring faculty member Frank Baron, who will undoubtedly find retirement an opportunity to further free his energies to pursue his numerous research and outreach initiatives, which will redound to the continued credit of the Department. We have also bid farewell to our colleague, Dr. Rex Clark, who with his spouse, Prof. Nancy Baym, has moved on to greener pastures. Rex’s lecturer line has been restored by Dr. Mark Daly (KU GLL PhD ’03), who has moved from the Honors Program, and whose specialization is in medieval German literature. Last year we enjoyed the visit of Max Kade Distinguished Visiting Lecturer Prof. Dr. Wynfrid Kriegleder (U. of Vienna) and look forward to the visit of next year’s distinguished visitor, Prof. Dr. Sigrid Nieberle (U. of Erlangen). We were also joined this year by a short-term distinguished guest, Prof. Dr. Dr. Helmut Koopmann (Emeritus, U. of Augsburg), who delivered a short seminar on Schiller this fall. More on these special guests can be read in this issue.

I would like to thank our supporters, both individuals and institutions, as they help us through this period of change. In particular, I would like to thank the New York Max Kade Foundation and its president, Ms. Lya Pfeifer, for continued financial support of our initiatives and our outstanding students. I look forward to continued support from our current and former students as well as friends of the Department as we continue our work and serve the university and state.
**Student News**

**Graduate Students**

**Graduate Students in German (GAGS)**
By Gabrielle Frawley

The notion of borders seems ubiquitous this semester in the GAGS context. Beyond serving as the theme of our 2013 conference, borders, and specifically the delineation and crossing thereof, continue to inform the German graduate student experience for the 2012-2013 academic year. Our collaboration with faculty to restructure the Ph.D. program is one of the many 'redefinition' projects that we have undertaken this semester. We realize the significant implications of this restructuring project for Ph.D. students, for both their experience at KU as well as the meaning of their future degree, and have dedicated much time to formulate our vision. The proposal-writing process for these program changes has proven to be an invaluable experience, providing us with insight into the demands of committee-work at the university level. We are especially indebted to Melanie Piltinsrud and Megan Wehrman for their service on the Voting Staff Committee as well as their representation of our graduate student voice within the department. Internally, we have also undertaken a 'redefinition' project, namely the composition of a charter and mission statement for GAGS. Our direct involvement in reshaping the German graduate student experience at KU has given us a new sense of agency in the program and our education.

**Visit to the Newberry Library**
By James Landes

This July I visited the Newberry Library in Chicago, in order to conduct research on my dissertation. The Newberry’s Center for Renaissance Studies has a consortium arrangement with KU, through which graduate students who are conducting research are able to gain funding for such study trips. The chance to work at the Newberry proved to be invaluable for my dissertation. I was able to examine a copy of Georg von Welling’s *Opus Mago-cabbalisticum et theosophicum*, a rare book that is available for examination in only a very few research libraries, most of which are in Europe. My findings actually changed the direction of my research and helped me to tie together a number of threads in my dissertation more nicely than I had imagined would be possible beforehand. I highly recommend looking into the travel funds available from the consortium for any student researching in the period of the Renaissance. The library has a great number of hard-to-find texts, which are searchable via an online catalog, and the staff there is quite helpful and prompt in bringing requested texts to your table.

In fact, after the first day, they even recognized me when I entered my reading room in the morning and would ask me right away if I wanted to look at Welling’s work again. If you have a chance to go there, it’s a great place to work.

**Deutsches Wochenende at Kansas State University**
By Styfany Van Scoyk

A virtual walk through Berlin and Nina Hagen’s song *Farbfilm* as innovative ways of bringing the German capitol closer to students were part of the fun-filled Deutsches Wochenende. Organized by the Kansas chapter of the AATG, the Deutsches Wochenende is an opportunity for German instructors from across the state to speak German and participate in workshops that focus on teaching German. This year’s event was held in Manhattan and was co-organized by the Department of Modern Languages, Kansas State University and graduate students Emily Hackman and Styfany Van Scoyk attended. The 2012 theme was *Berlin in Unterricht* presented by Dr. Reinhard K. Zachau, University of the South, Sewanee, TN, co-author of *Berliner Spaziergänge: Architektur, Litera-

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In this issue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair’s Corner ................1</th>
<th>Faculty Spotlight ...........7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Students ..........2</td>
<td>Honors Reception 2012 ....10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Students ...3</td>
<td>News from Alumni ..........11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting Guests and Scholars ..........6</td>
<td>Giving to the Department ..........13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Undergraduate Students

Zack Hader Attends Language Institute in Kiel

Zack Hader writes that he received a scholarship from the KU Office of International Programs to participate in a four-week summer language program in Kiel. The program provided excursions to Hamburg, Lübeck, and the North Sea coast (Husum and Friedrichstadt). Participants also went to the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival where they attended a traditional classical concert with music by Beethoven and Rimsky-Korsakov, as well as one featuring music by Gershwin. Zack notes, “I thoroughly enjoyed the classical music concert.” In all 76 participants from 25 different countries participated in the program. Zack sums his experience up, “overall it was a great program that not only improved my German skills, but also reinvigorated my interest in the Slavic languages.”

Interning in Eutin, Summer 2012

By Sara Anderson

As a freshman in Germanic Languages & Literatures last year who had just returned from a year in Germany, I was already looking for an opportunity to return to Germany. Mr. Jim Morrison presented me with the opportunity last fall to apply for an internship in Eutin. I was not familiar with the town or with Schleswig-Holstein in general, but I thought it would be a chance to get a professional perspective on German life, something I had not experienced previously and experience a new region of Germany.

Participating in the Eutin Internship Program was one of the best decisions I have made. I worked at the Entwicklungsge- sellschaft Ostholstein with fantastic coworkers and travel opportunities, met wonderful friends, and lived with a great host family. My German skills improved tremendously, and the Rotary Club in Eutin helped establish activities for us to make our stay there enjoyable. The six weeks we spent in Eutin together, and in other places such as Berlin, Hamburg, and Kiel, flew by.

These experiences would not have been possible without the scholarships from the Office of Study Abroad, the Honors Program, and the Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures. I know that everyone who participated in the internship had an unforgettable experience.
My Summer in Germany

By Sylas May

Lying on my desk, right next to my computer and my alarm clock, is a little orange book, no bigger than a billfold. Instant German: The Follett Vest-Pocket Conversation Guide. When I started reluctantly taking German classes last year, my parents bought it at an estate sale and gave it to me as a joke. The pages are yellowed, the cover is cracking, and the book is full of sloppy translations for antiquated phrases like “could I have a cream rinse?” and “are there any organ recitals this evening?” And, if I hadn't gone to Eutin last summer, I’d probably be looking at the entire German language like I looked at the phrases in that book: old-fashioned, useless, a bunch of boring words to cram into my memory. I got on that plane to Germany hoping to “get it over with” and spend the rest of my time at KU analyzing Shakespeare, but I got on the plane back to the States hoping to learn more, and, eventually, to come back.

Honestly, at first I didn’t expect to learn much more in Eutin than in a typical university setting. When I signed up, I expected the program to be just “same classes, different place,” but everything was completely different; the classes moved faster than at KU, and the fact that I was surrounded by the language everywhere I went really helped me pick up on things that I wouldn’t have learned in a normal class. If I’d just stayed in America for the summer and coasted through another year of German, I wouldn’t be able to order water ohne Gas, to recy-cle my beer bottles at the grocery store, to find my way around a train station! I wouldn’t even be able to earnestly say, “Ich verstehe Bahnhof!”

And, sure I didn’t pick up on every German custom. I kinda cheated on some things; for instance, after I learned it wasn’t normal to drink tap water, I started smuggling a small water bottle to the kitchen and filling it up from the tap when nobody was around. I never did get used to that bit, and I kept a used water bottle with me for the rest of the trip, just because it felt so strange to buy a new one every time. I did, however, get opportunities to practice my German every waking moment, which really helped me. And, although I made tons of embar-rassing mistakes (in everything from asking for some mustard at dinner to trying to clarify where I was going on a Saturday night), I really came out of it with a lot better Sprachgefühl than I had when I first got off the plane.

Even though we got to tour several of the larger cities in Germany, including Berlin, Munich and Mainz, I always found myself wanting to go back to Eutin. It’s not that I didn’t like walking around the Reichstag’s dome or drinking a beer in the Hofbräuhaus, but I thought that being in a small town, talking to people and living like the locals would have been more fun for me. I would never have thought coming over that I would have traded one of the weeks on the road for a more normal week in Eutin in a heartbeat—in fact, one of the few things I was looking forward to when the trip started was sightseeing in Berlin—but I absolutely fell in love with the slower-paced life of small-town Germany, and I would jump at the chance to go back.

That’s why I’ve decided to trade in my English books for deutsche Bücher and spend my next couple years at KU polishing my speaking skills even more. So I can go back one day and talk to my friends in Eutin on more equal turf. So I can settle down in a little German town and live a German life for a while. So I can find more things about the language and the people who speak it to fall in love with. And so I can toss out this Instant German: The Follett Vest-Pocket Conversation Guide once and for all.

Eutin Internship Program 2012

By Jim Morrison

In summer 2012, 10 KU undergraduate students and 4 graduate students received internship positions in Germany. All were placed through KU’s partners in Eutin, Lawrence’s sister city. The students came from various disciplines, including architecture, engineering, German, business, and design. For about half of the six-week internships, the students were with host families and they were housed in a large dormitory-like facility for the rest of the time. The time with the host families was especially appreciated. One student wrote, “Living with a host family gave me the opportunity to improve my German a great deal, learn more about their culture and lifestyle, and experience things I would otherwise not experienced. . . .” Another commented, my host family were “some of the kindest people I have ever met. Not only did they make me welcome into their home, they went out of their way to make me feel included in both family and Eutin activities. Since we only spoke German, my German improved dramatically.”

The students enjoyed a program that included trips around the region and to Berlin, as well as a seminar on leadership.
They also took part in a special language course on professional communication in German. This was in addition to their challenging internships. “I gained valuable knowledge from my internship that I can carry on to my future workplace, as well as throughout my daily life. It provided me with an opportunity to work in a field of study in one of the most scientifically advanced countries in the world,” wrote one intern. Another stated, “The position was an excellent fit for me; it was within my major and was as good as an internship in the United States would have been. My work there was appropriate for both my level of German and my engineering skills.” “I especially enjoyed all the interactions with the Germans in Eutin. It gave me a sense of connection with the city (and of being a minor celebrity).”

The German department interviewed internship candidates in November 2012 for placement in summer 2013.

KU and the Revival of the Eutin Summer Opera Festival
by Isaac E. Gwin

The US Consulate General in Hamburg, Germany, has given high praise to a unique musical collaboration taking place in the north German town of Eutin between student musicians from Lawrence, Kansas, and acclaimed professionals from around the world. US Consul General Inmi Patterson has taken notice of this year’s Eutin Summer Music Festival, which has featured performances from 33 premiere student vocalists and instrumentalists from the University of Kansas for the past two months.

“The cooperation between the University of Kansas Orchestra and the Eutin Festival is a wonderful example for cultural exchange between the United States and northern Germany,” Patterson said. “It is programs like this one that really bring the German-American partnership to life.”

“This whole cooperation is very much supported by the community,” Eutin Mayor Klaus-Dieter Schulz said about the Lawrence-Eutin relations and the inclusion of KU students in the festival. “Almost everyone here has some relationship with Lawrence. This is more than just your average sister-city partnership, where it is mostly administration and politicians coming together. This is much livelier and more personal. It really is legendary what has been built up over the last 25 years.”

Urs-Michael Theus, general music director for the Eutin Music Festival who has been working directly with the American students, has been pleased with the performances and attitudes the young musicians have exhibited while contributing to the festival. “The students from Lawrence do a very good job,” said Theus, “It has been a lot of fun working with them and they have been very professional. This festival is a big success because of the integration of the students and I am very interested in doing this again next year.”

Celebrating 30 years of cultural exchange in German Tuscany’s Badenheim
By Mark Daly

For thirty years, Summer Language Institute students have spent a weekend in Badenheim (near Mainz) with host families. This tradition was made possible when Dr. Richard Auernheimer, former secretary of state for the state of Rheinland-Pfalz, and Prof. Frank Baron met while they were both at the University of Munich. Prof. Baron was looking for a place for his students near Bad Kreuznach, and Dr. Auernheimer and his wife Maria-Luise Auernheimer asked friends and neighbors in his village of Badenheim. There was great interest among the families from the onset. During the weekend, students enjoy experiencing family life in the village, tour the local wine making facility, enjoy a wine tasting and a delicious home-cooked feast prepared by the host families. The Auernheimer family has continued arranging this special weekend visit in ever since. To date, approximately 450 students from KU have stayed with 35 host families in the village. This past July, Badenheim host families and participants of the Eutin Summer Language Institute celebrated the 30th anniversary of KU Badenheim Weekends at the Auernheimer’s home. The cordial evening included addresses by Dr. Auernheimer and Dr. Daly as well as local mayor Werner Ott who also presented gifts to each American guest. The Auernheimer family created a special gift and memento for host families and students in the form of an impressive postal stamp, which features the long tradition of visits by the University of Kansas students.
Visiting Lecturer Dr. Manfred Stinnes
By Prof. Lori Vanchena

Dr. Manfred Stinnes returned to the University of Kansas this fall as German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Short-Term Lecturer in European Studies and Political Science. A former cultural affairs specialist at the American Embassy in Germany, Dr. Stinnes is currently Adjunct Lecturer in International Relations at the Humboldt University in Berlin. His visit has been organized by the European Studies Program, which is coordinated by Prof. Lorie A. Vanchena, with additional support from the Center for Global & International Studies and the Departments of Germanic Languages & Literatures and Political Science.

This semester Dr. Stinnes, who earned his Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota, is teaching courses for the European Studies Program and the Department of Political Science on International Conflict and International Relations in Political Philosophy. He presented a public lecture entitled “The European Union: Fourth Year of a Crisis, or Birth Pangs of a New Historical Period?” as well as a talk for the Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies, “Is Germany Europe’s New Hegemonic Power?” In November he gave an informal talk for undergraduate students on the Leipzig demonstrations and fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989; he will also meet with students in GERM 136/AMS 344: The German-American Experience, taught by Prof. Vanchena, to discuss the contemporary transatlantic relationship.

Dr. Stinnes is accompanied this semester by his wife, Annelie Runge, noted German author, screenwriter, and film director. Her films have been supported by grants and shown at festivals in Germany, Egypt, and the Netherlands as well as on German and French television. Her documentary, “Delphina’s Story: About Faith and Superstition Toward God and the Father,” was screened at the Spencer Museum of Art in spring 2011. Ms. Runge has also showed and discussed her film in Prof. Marx’s graduate classes.

Prof. Helmut Koopmann
By Mark Daly

This fall, eminent literary scholar Prof. Dr. Helmut Koopmann, professor emeritus at the University of Augsburg, offered a two-week graduate seminar on Friedrich Schiller. Prof. Koopmann has long standing ties with the Department. In 1972 he spent a semester as Max Kade Professor and returned in 1979 as Distinguished Rose Morgan Professor. During this second visit, Prof. Koopmann brought his third son, Anselm who attended first grade at Hillcrest. Evidently, Anselm still speaks English with a midwestern accent. Since then, Prof. Koopmann has been at KU several times to deliver papers at conferences held in the Max Kade Center and to deliver a laudatio to Prof. Dick on the occasion of his 80th birthday. Prof. Koopmann has many fond memories of Lawrence and has especially has appreciated the warm hospitality and friendliness he has experienced. In reflecting on his time spent at KU, Prof. Koopmann admits that over all of the US universities he has had residencies, KU alone feels like a second home. During his latest stay this fall, Koopmann gave a lecture entitled The Humanities in Transition: Decline or New Challenge?

Prof. Koopman is also serving presently on the dissertation committee of James Landes, and thus his involvement with our department will continue.

Dr. Heidi Byrnes

KU hosted Dr. Heidi Byrnes, the George M. Roth Distinguished Professor of German at Georgetown University this fall for a brief stay. Prof. Byrnes has authored or edited 15 books and special journal issues and
Dr. Roman Sukač

With co-sponsorship from the European Studies Program, the Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures, the Center for Russian, East-European, and Eurasian Studies, the German Department co-hosted a talk by Dr. Roman Sukač, “The Sudety/Sudetenland Experience: The Palimpsest Memory of Silesia,” on 19 September 2012. Dr. Sukač discussed the rediscovery and reevaluation of of the events leading up to and following the Vertriebung, the forced exile of the German population, including showing competing German and Czech perspectives of the other. He also described the experience from the viewpoint of his family history, as his parents were among the new settlers to Silesia after the exile. Dr. Manfred Stinnes commented that “this was an excellent talk. It gives me hope for the future that the younger generation can treat these traumatic events in a balanced and dispassionate manner.”

Dr. Elizabeth Spreng

Dr. Elizabeth Spreng gave a talk entitled “Troubling Talk: How a History of Indistinction Becomes Local Gossip” on September 18. Dr. Spreng is a lecturer in the Department of Anthropology. A linguistic anthropologist, she completed her PhD at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2011. The talk was very informative and a rare opportunity to learn about the Sorbian (Lausitzer Serben) communities living in Saxony and Brandenburg. Dr. Spreng has done extensive anthropological-linguistic fieldwork in this community.

The talk can be seen at the following link: http://youtu.be/0MK6UVh2mU0

Dr. Sigrid Nieberle to be the 2013 Max Kade Professor

The Department will welcome Prof. Dr. Sigrid Nieberle from the Universität Erlangen as the 2013 Max Kade Professor. Prof. Nieberle’s impressive publication record includes six books and over 40 articles on a broad array of topics looking at themes such as intertextuality, music and literature, biography, gender studies, and narrative studies. While at KU next spring, Prof. Nieberle will teach two courses, a seminar in Romanticism and a course entitled Kanonwerke der Goethezeit. Prof. Dr. Nieberle will deliver the Max Lecture entitle: Do Men Really Write Differently? Gender and the Literary Biopic.


Prof. Nina Vyatkina had a productive research year and con-tinued investigating the longitudinal development of foreign language abilities in KU students of German. She won two com-petitive research grants: an external grant awarded by the Lan-guage Learning journal and an internal grant awarded by the KU Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities. Furthermore, Dr. Vyatkina continued working as a co-investigator on a long-term international research project with the University of Tübingen funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. These research grants supported seven graduate students from our department over the last academic year, who worked as research assistants and gained experience in research ethics, working with learner data, and linguistic data annotation. Dr. Vyatkina has disseminated her research results in publications and conference presentations. She published a peer-reviewed article in the L2 Journal in 2011 and a chapter in the edited vol-ume on telecollaboration in education in 2012. She presented two peer-reviewed papers at major international conferences: the Learner Corpus Research conference in Leuven-la-Neuve (Belgium) in 2011 and the Computer Assisted Language In-struction Consortium (CALICO) conference at Notre Dame (IN) in 2012. Furthermore, she gave a number of invited ex-ternal and internal talks, including a lecture at Georgetown University, and conducted a workshop for 30 participants at the Second Language Research Forum (SLRF) at Iowa State University. As research mentor, she supervised Ph.D. students Joe Cunningham, who presented at SLRF and CALICO, and Michael Dehaven, who presented at SLRF and assisted Dr. Vyatkina with conducting the SLRF workshop. These mentoring activities culminated in the publication of a peer-reviewed arti-cle in the Canadian Modern Language Review co-authored by Joe Cunningham and Dr. Vyatkina.

Prof. William D. Keel writes, “Last spring I organized the Symposium of the Society for German-American Studies held in mid-April at the new Oread Hotel adjacent to the KU cam-pus. The Symposium was preceded by the dedication of the renovatated Sudler Annex next to our Max Kade Center for Ger-man-American Studies on campus. The Annex will house the Turner Archives and library materials from the Turner Societies in New York, Milwaukee and Lawrence. During the sum-mer I again directed our Advanced Language Institute in Holz-kirchen —for the 25th time— with sixteen students, including a large contingent from the University of Arkansas. It was also the first summer for the award of the new Carl Krebbiel Scholarships – every eligible KU student was supported with a nearly $5,000 scholarship. On the 4th of July, I celebrated by giving a guest lecture at the University of Regensburg on the varieties of German dialects in Kansas. I had barely returned to campus in August when I flew back to Germany for the 4th Congress of the International Society for the Dialectology of German held in early September at the University of Kiel. There I gave a paper on factors leading to the extinction and maintenance of German dialects on the Great Plains and was also interviewed by the NDR radio and television affiliates in Kiel about Low German in Kansas. On the home front, Nancy and I now have 13 grandchildren with our son and his wife having twins last May and our oldest daughter having her 4th child in early Au-gust.”

James Brown writes, “2012 started for me at the MLA Con-vention in Seattle, where I presented a peer-reviewed paper on Schloss Runkelstein in Italy, whose walls are adorned with a series of frescoes depicting scenes from medieval German Arthurian romances. This past year has been busy along the mentoring front; I directed a successful M.A. thesis by Jenny Faber on the different types of courtly love (minne) in the works of Hartmann von Aue, and mentored Melanie Pilton-krud through her Ph.D. qualifying exams and dissertation pro-posal. Finally, I oversaw the successful completion of Michael Grünbaum’s doctoral work on visuality in the Nibelungenlied; Michael defended his dissertation in August and is now a lec-turer in the Department of Languages and Literature at the University of Utah. I recently completed the manuscript for my book, Imagining the Text: Ekphrasis and Envisioning Courty Identity in Wirnt von Gravenberg’s “Wigalois,” and the project is currently under review with Brill’s series Visualising the Mid-dle Ages. I have also completed an article for Word and Image about the relationships between textiles and courtly reading culture in Ulrich von Zatikhozhen’s 12th-century romance Lan-zelet, and am finishing another article about one of my favorite and most successful projects from my Middle High German courses: teaching courtly culture through idiomatic transla-tions of Wernher der Gartenare’s Meier Helmbrecht.”
As part of her research in exile studies, Prof. Leonie Marx gave a paper entitled “Between Harlem and Hellas: On Becoming American” at the 36th Annual Symposium of the Society for German-American Studies 2012 this spring. At this conference she also chaired the session “Exile Studies IV”. One of her students, Julia Trumpold Stock, successfully defended her dissertation and received her Ph.D. in May 2012. Her dissertation is entitled: “Verantwortung durch Erinnerung: Luise Rinser’s autobiographisches Schreiben als Medium für die Nähe zu den Lesern” [Responsibility through Memory: Luise Rinser’s Autobiographical Writing as a Medium for Connecting with Readers]. For the fall semester Prof. Marx organized a two-week seminar on Friedrich Schiller held by Prof. Dr. h.c. Helmut Koopmann from the University of Augsburg. Prof. Koopmann also gave a public lecture on the thought-provoking topic “The Humanities in Transition: Decline or New Challenge?” Prof. Marx is in the process of concluding her work on the book “Exilsituation und inszeniertes Leben” and looks forward to the approaching publication by the end of this year.

In collaboration with Jim Jewell of KU Media Services, Prof. Frank Baron produced a film about James H. Lane and the origins of the Kansas Jayhawk. In part, the film features the Max Kade Annex, which Lane commissioned to be built in 1861–62. The annex is now the oldest building on campus. The film was first shown on April 12, at the dedication of the annex and the opening of the conference for the Society of German-American Studies.

In the summer, Prof. Baron addressed a conference in Trittenheim, Germany, with a paper about the earliest news reaching Europe about the discovery and naming of America. In Hanover, Prof. Baron gave a public lecture about the Vrba-Wetzler report on Auschwitz (1944) as an instrument of rescue. In October, Baron gave a talk at a conference on Illinois history at the presidential library in Springfield with a talk on Lincoln's gamble on the German vote. The talk featured parts of Baron’s book on Abraham Lincoln and the German Immigrants: Turners and Forty-Eighters, published recently as a supplemental issue of the Yearbook of the Society of German-American Studies. This semester Baron is teaching a course at the annex for OS-HER, KU’s Lifelong Learning Institute, on German immigrants in Bleeding Kansas.

The Made Kade Center Annex Dedication
By Prof. Frank Baron

On April 12, 2012 the oldest building on the KU campus was dedicated as the Max Kade Annex and will house the New York Turner Society archive and book collection. This structure is closely intertwined with the historical era known as Bleeding Kansas. In the early days of the Civil War, James H. Lane, the charismatic Kansas political and military leader, had the structure built as a stable. In recent times, it was part of Dr. Marvin Sudler’s estate, which ultimately became the home of the Max Kade Center. For a while the building served as the home of KJHK, the student radio station. Renovation was made possible by generous grants from the New York Turnverein 1850 Foundation, represented by Ferdinand Beinert, Ernest Menze, Hans Sammer, Robert and Peter Rohlfs, and Frank Wedl, the Max Kade Foundation and its president, Lya Pfeifer, and Graham Kreicker of Lawrence, Kansas.

The Story of the Walnut Desk
By Prof. Frank Baron

Prof. E. F. Engel, for many years professor of German at the University of Kansas, described the story of the Walnut desk, which for a period of time belonged to him. He wrote that when he first appeared before the committee on new students in 1886, Chancellor Lippincott welcomed him “and offered advice on habits of study and behavior.” Engel recalled being seated “before a roller-top walnut desk on which lay a bible and a memoranda pad.” This desk greatly impressed the new student because it was the first one he had ever seen. Engel graduated in 1892 and became assistant professor of German. He was also appointed registrar to succeed Prof. Templin. About this time Chancellor F. H. Snow (1890-1902) was provided with a new large light oak desk. Because of Mr. Engel’s attachment to the walnut desk Chancellor Snow granted him the right to call it his own. In the Summer of 1941, after the desk had served Engel for several decades, it caught the eye of Chancellor Malott, “who perceived in it “a sentimental connection to the early chancellors,” and he expressed the wish to have it in his Strong Hall office. Engel “was happy to relinquish any proprietary right he might have had in the desk.”

The historic desk will be located for the coming years in the Max Kade Annex.
Honors Reception 2012

The Department recognized its outstanding students on April 26, 2012. Prof. Lorie Vanchena served as the emcee for the evening. After dinner and the awards, we were treated to a talk by Prof. Edith Clowes, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, entitled “Germans and Russians: Imagining Other Europes.” The department which plans to make the awards ceremony and dinner an annual event, is proud of its students and their many accomplishments.

Graduate Student Awards

Stella Knecht Prize for Outstanding GTA
Emily Rielley

Montana Huslig Outstanding Graduate Student in German
Jenny Faber

Elmer Franklin Engel Summer Research Fellowships
Joe Cunningham

Max Kade Dissertation Fellowship Awardees
Joe Cunningham  Emily Hackmann  Melanie Piltingsrud

German Professional Internships in Eutin
Jenny Faber  Gabrielle Frawley

Undergraduate Student Awards

German Business Language Program Awards Professional Internships in Eutin
Sara Anderson  Christoph Goessing  John McGuire  Cory Archer  Mark Hageman  Chris Novosel  Andrea Brown  Josh Lodoly  Jennifer Raney  Michael Claman

Zertifikat Deutsch für den Beruf
Shane Billig  Grace Philipp  Andrew Toth

Lauren Bowman

Summer Language Institute Scholarships for Eutin and Holzkirchen

Krehbiel Scholarships

Eutin
Amanda Berckefeldt  Kandece Money  Sydney Ragsdale
Jaclyn Bitto  Alexander Montgomery  Quinn Ried
Sylas May  Nicole Peterson  Dustin Wolfe

Holzkirchen
Kelly Bowman  Lance King  Bryan Thelen
Erin Christiansen  William Nulton  Leah Wohlfarth
Nick Gourley

Dr. Walter Fahrer Scholarship
Nicholas Matherson  Ben Roberts

L. Neil Slentz Award
Mitchell Pruett

The Department bids Alles Gute und Aufwiedersehen to its Graduating Majors and Minors:

Anna Allen  Jared Downard  Dallas Schmittendorf
Cory Archer  Laura Drees  Justin Smith
Shane Billig  Emily Foerschler  Sarah Smith
Lauren Bowman  Mark Grinstead  Bryan Thelen
Keegan Cole  Katie Martin  Wenwen Xu
Alex Davidson  Michael Parsons
News from Alumni

Bob Benson (BA 1966) writes: “After graduation, I spent a year in Germany on a DAAD scholarship. I was at the Universität Stuttgart (damals Technische Hochschule Stuttgart) 1966-67, where I lived in the Max-Kade-Haus. I subsequently entered graduate school in Art History at the University of Michigan in the Fall of 1967. I earned the MA and the PhD in Art History from Michigan. After two years in Europe, I taught ABD for two years at the College of Wooster (Ohio), for ten years at Lawrence Technological University (then Lawrence Institute of Technology), and finally moved to Miami University in Ohio, where I am now Professor of Architectural History and Theory. I served here as chair of the department for about 15 years, one year as Interim Dean of the School of Fine Arts; and now again, as a faculty member. I will retire at the end of this academic year after 39 years of teaching in higher education. I have always found my education and major in German at KU to be equal to any, better than most and appreciated increasingly through the years the strong foundation that it afforded me personally and professionally. I will always be a loyal Jayhawk because of the outstanding education I received there as an undergraduate.”

W Dale Brownawell (BA 1964) gives us an update: “I was a German and mathematics major. The background in German that KU provided me has influenced my life tremendously. I studied in 1964/65 as a Fulbright fellow at Hamburg, where I met my future wife, Eva. We continued to speak German at home when I came back to study math at Cornell, and our son is bilingual. Although my wife died almost 4 years ago, I am still in close contact with German friends and her family. In the intervening years, I discovered German relatives (Braunewell is a strange name in Germany as well), and Eva and I became close friends with cousins living in the family hometown of Essenheim near Mainz that my ancestor left in 1770. I have always been thankful for the emphasis in the KU German department on teaching undergraduates.”

Don Nease (BA 1983) writes: “Great to hear from the Department. Lots of exciting stuff going on I see. Great to see how well the Eutin relationship is going. I have fond memories of hosting one of the first delegations in Charleston, back in 1989.

We had the opportunity to repay some of the hospitality I enjoyed in Eutin by hosting an exchange student from Dortmund this past academic year. She was with us for 11 months, and it was a great experience. We are looking forward to visiting her and her family next summer.

I continue to be grateful for the instruction and guidance in the Department. I continue to use my German actively in my academic medical connections, many of which are in Germany.”


Joyce Saricks (BA 1970) writes: “What a delight to hear from you Professor Keel! I graduated with majors in German and English in 1970 and went on to complete an MA in Comparative Literature at the University of Wisconsin. Since then my career has taken me into public libraries, but I’ve kept up my German and use it on our trips back to Germany.

I imagine this is only going out to German majors, but I really wish you’d consider a reunion of those of us who did the Summer Language Institutes. I was in Holzkirchen in 1967 and in Eutin in 1969. I started dating my husband, Chris Saricks, in Holzkirchen, and we’ve just celebrated our 40th anniversary. Both my brother and sister studied in Holzkirchen before me but didn’t major in German. It would be wonderful to be able to contact the students with whom we shared those adventures—and even better to see them again! We were back in Holzkirchen with my brother and his wife in 2007, and we visited Eutin in 2004 with Dixie Hiatt Upritchard, who also studied there in 1969, went to Kiel on a Fulbright in 1970, and made a life there in Kiel.

I look forward to hearing more about the German department!”

Kirk Allison (BA 1985) gives us an update: “After finishing a PhD in Germanic Studies at the University of Minnesota in 2000 I somewhat lateraled from my dissertation on Gottfried Benn (concerning also medical sociology, medical ethics, intersections in literature, politics, eugenics, relation to and contradictions with Hippocratic ethical tradition) into issues of health, ethics, human rights. I also added on a public health research degree (MS) with a bioethics minor.

Since 2006 I have directed the Program in Human Rights and Health in the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota. I am also affiliated with the U’s Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. A recent publication was a chapter on “Race Hygiene, Eugenics and the Holocaust” in the Routledge History of the Holocaust (2011).

One current project is working on an online course concerning the history of eugenics and lethality in health professions and by health professionals. This was originally a course
accompanying the US Holocaust Museum exhibit Deadly Medicine - but I also include elements concerning physician involvement in the genocide against the Armenians and so-called liberal eugenics (raising issues to day from prenatal diagnosis to enhancement). Of course there is a lot on American eugenics, in Germany etc. (Interestingly politically there were enthusiastic eugenicists who were far left, far right and in the middle—both here and in Germany, though the extremes politically were greater in Germany.)”

**Margaret Beltz Guenther** (BA 1950, MA 1953) writes: “It was a delight to receive news from the KU German department. I’m an old timer—BA in German and English 1950, MA in German 1953. We were in OLD Fraser Hall. Toni Burzle was my beloved teacher and mentor. He and Muriel changed my life, broadened my horizons as they did for many students of that era. For a time as a student, I was also departmental secretary. (These were simpler, humbler times.) With his assistance and encouragement I received a modest fellowship for a life-changing year at the university in Zurich, returning home to work on the MA. Again with his support I went to Harvard where I received the Ph.D. in Germanic Languages and Literatures in 1958.

It sounds very much as if the department is carrying on the heritage, not just teaching a language but enlarging and transforming the vision of your students.”

**Sarah Nagl Hanan** (BA 1994) writes: “I currently work in public affairs at SMU in Dallas, after many years as an editor at The Dallas Morning News. And thanks to your teaching, I had the chance to work in Berlin a few years back at Die Welt as a Burns Fellow, which was so much fun.

**Paul Gebhardt** (PhD 2001) gives us an update: “I was awarded tenure at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, in the Spring of 2011. After teaching for another academic year, I am now enjoying my sabbatical leave. I am working on a project on cinematic intertextuality with German director Tom Tykwer, with Run Lola Run as the example. That project has already led me on a research trip to Berchtesgaden and Wuppertal, Germany, with the support of a Kenyon Faculty Development Grant. Post-unification German cinema is a research interest that grew out of my teaching at Kenyon. Also, I started learning a new language in 2011, Spanish, and I have travel plans for a longer stay in Mexico during this sabbatical.

Please tell us your news:

**Profession:**

**Family:**

**Other:**
Since 1887 when William Herbert Carruth became the first professor of German at KU and was joined in the 1890s by Elmer Franklin Engel and Alberta Lincoln Corbin, KU’s tradition of German studies has offered students at all levels the opportunity to learn one of the world’s great languages and study the literature and culture of Central Europe. Under J. Anthony “Toni” Burzle’s tenure as department chair in the 1950s and 1960s, the department was in the forefront of establishing opportunities for our students to study language and culture in Germany.

Our programs in German at KU, however, rely very much on the generosity of our former students. For many of you, a summer, semester or year in Germany during your KU years was the highlight of your studies. This experience has been and continues to be a truly life-changing event for so many of our students. But each year study abroad becomes more and more expensive. It is imperative that we support our students and enable them to study abroad.

Norm Fahrer, who passed away this summer, attended both of our summer institutes as a KU undergraduate (Holzkirchen in 1965 and Eutin in 1966). Before he died, Norm contributed $150,000 to establish an endowed scholarship for a KU student to participate in the summer program in Holzkirchen. It is very gratifying to hear from Norm and other former summer institute students. With your help we can continue to offer such high quality summer experiences in Germany for our future students.

We are also very proud of our record of achievement in educating and training our future professionals in German Studies. With the support of the Max Kade Foundation, we have been able to offer dissertation fellowships to our doctoral students in German. But our graduate students have many needs. For instance, it is becoming more and more necessary to provide them with opportunities to present their research at professional conferences. Support for our graduate students and the research programs of our Max Kade Center would also be greatly appreciated.

Herzlichen Dank und beste Grüße!
Bill Keel

Ways to give to the department
You can donate online with a credit card by going to http://www.kuendowment.org/depts/german/dept Online giving is secure, speedy and simple. Click the area you would like to support and you will be redirected to the website of KU Endowment, the non-profit fundraising organization that supports KU. For information on other ways to give, please visit the KU Endowment web site. Or for information on other opportunities to assist the Department, please contact the Chair, Marc L. Greenberg at mlg@ku.edu or (785) 864-9171.