Chair’s Corner
By Marc L. Greenberg

The 2013–14 academic year has been a year of transition for the Department. This year we have said farewell to Professor Frank Baron, who is retiring after 43 years at the University of Kansas, 16 of which he served indefatigably as Director of the Max Kade Center at KU. Jimmy Morrison will serve as interim director in the coming year as we search for a new director. Prof. Baron’s many contributions to the research, outreach, and service mission benefitting the greater KU community were marked with a special event on 6 April at the MKC, organized by Prof. William Keel. The event included testimonials from colleagues and former students as well as musical performances by David Neely and students of the KU School of Music.

This year we also say farewell to our colleague Prof. James H. Brown, a specialist in German medieval literature, who is moving to Chapel Hill, North Carolina, as his family pursues new career opportunities. His book, Imagining the Text: Ekphrasis and Envisioning Courtly Identity in Wirnt von Gravenberg’s “Wigalois”, is slated for publication with the prestigious Brill Publishers, Netherlands. His contributions to the undergraduate curriculum and teaching have helped the Department considerably to make our classroom offerings fresh and relevant to KU students and he has been among the most popular among both graduate and undergraduate students for his unflagging patience and support of their work. Together with Prof. Lorie Vanchena, Prof. Brown helped undertake the redesign of the German undergraduate curriculum and Core offerings, which moved the undergraduate program toward a German Studies model. We are also parting with our colleague Dr. Mark Daly (KU GLL PhD ’03), who has served as lecturer and program associate for the Department during the last two years and served as the first editor of the KÜrier. Since 1999 he served as Assistant and then Associate Director of the University Honors Program. He is now moving on to new opportunities in higher education administration, using his long experience and knowledge in this area. Finally, we enjoyed hosting Distinguished Max Kade Visiting Professor Sigrid Niederle (U. of Erlangen) in spring 2013. In addition to teaching two courses

Frank Baron’s Retirement

Celebrating Frank Baron’s 43 years on Mount Oread, some 80 guests gathered in the Max Kade Center on April 6 to hear remarks from a number of colleagues on Frank’s multi-faceted and multi-disciplinary scholarly interests. The formal program was framed by performances from KU School of Music featuring a clarinet solo by Katie McKeirnan and the “Champagne Song” from Die Fledermaus, sung by Madison Mikenna. The speakers highlighted Frank’s contributions to research on the historical Faustus, the explorer and scientist Alexander von Humboldt, the sociologist Ernest Manheim, the artist Albert Bloch and the writer Thomas Mann. At the celebration, letters of appreciation from the City of Lawrence and the City of Eutin were read underscoring Frank’s central role in the sister-city relationship between the two communities. Frank’s efforts in expanding the Max Kade Center were acknowledged in letters from the Max Kade Foundation and the New York Turners. Finally, Frank’s doctoral students had the floor to express their gratitude for his inspiration and guidance in their careers.

Remarks on the occasion of Prof. Frank Baron’s retirement from the University of Kansas in Lawrence, April 6, 2013.
Paul Gebhardt, Associate Professor of German, Kenyon College

I assume that a contribution from a former graduate student and doctoral advisee would differ slightly from the more narrowly scholarly and administrative perspectives on Frank’s towering professional achievements. So I thought I would shed
some light on my very personal interactions with Prof. Baron from the time when I was his Graduate Research Assistant at KU.

I would like to relate two little stories from the time when the Exile Project at the Kade Center began to take shape. Frank and I took a trip together to Detroit, Michigan in order to pick up the estate (artwork and writings) of Fritz Blumenau, an exiled artist who had worked as a designer for General Motors. His work was supposed to enter the exile collection at the Kade Center. John Spalek had made the contact with the surviving life partner of Blumenau in Detroit, a Swiss woman.

The first example from this trip illustrates, in my opinion, Frank’s dedication to an academic project – and his ability, for this reason, to work with limited resources. We had departed Lawrence for Detroit in a van from the State of Kansas kind of late. It was getting dark, and we had to stay overnight somewhere. Somewhere in Illinois, I believe, Frank discovered a sign on the side of the highway for a campground. He left the highway at the next exit, and we arrived at the campground. However, it was already too late at night: nobody was at the booth at the entrance to take our money. Full of determination, Frank pulled ahead onto the premises with the van, and parked it in an empty lot. He rested in the front part of the still empty van, and the back part was mine.

Quite early in the morning – the sun was just coming up – Frank woke me up. It was time to get back on the road. Again, it was too early for the campground booth to be staffed. Nobody was there to take our money. Grateful for the free stay, we waved goodbye. You can see how one can work with limited resources. (In Detroit, we actually stayed at the home of Betty’s sister’s family.)

Back on the road, Frank had me check the exact route on the map (in the late 1990s, we did not yet use GPS devices, at least not in a Kansas van). On the map, I saw the immense city of Chicago, and I remarked that I had never been there. Frank turned to me in serious disbelief: “You have never been to Chicago?” I confirmed.

“We should really go there, then,” he responded. If you know something about the geography of the Midwest, you will agree that Chicago does not lie on a direct path between Lawrence, Kansas and Detroit, Michigan. That did not matter to Frank. For sure, this was a professional trip but he also wanted me to get something out of this undertaking. We spent an enjoyable afternoon in the city of Chicago – not without having looked at Albert Bloch’s paintings that are part of the Arthur Jerome Eddy Memorial Collection in the Art Institute of Chicago.

This second small story very much demonstrated what Frank Baron embodies for me, as someone who has worked with him in a professional context: that being a dedicated scholar and teacher in the humanities, on the one hand, and being generous of spirit and profoundly humane, on the other hand, belong together.

Congratulations, Frank, on your well-deserved retirement!

The following text is excerpted from remarks given by Jeff Weinberg Frank Baron’s retirement reception.

Frank Baron, with his extraordinary insight, wrote that in the poetry and painting of Albert Bloch can be found a voice that gives us a vision of the human condition – a voice that rejected materialism and falsehood, a voice that struggled against the forces of hate and discord – and who affirmed beauty in nature, and articulated the possibility of love and peace. According to Frank, Bloch presents us with a total fusion of matter with spirit, poetry and painting that like an elegy increases in intensity within the composition. And, to me, providing the reader or the viewer with a lyrical Wagnerian experience.

Albert Bloch, through the eyes, and writing, and conversation of Frank Baron, becomes more than a painter or poet. Bloch becomes even better than the experience he represents in word and paint and better than Bloch may have been as a
teacher, because, the mind of Bloch is so impregnated by ideas that his work transcends any definition of poetry or painting, and touches the human eye, and heart and mind, in equal measure.

Here in Lawrence, Albert Bloch found himself. He blossomed, and evolved as an artist, as a man, and as a great poet. The same can be said of Frank Baron, who is also, in his unique way, an artist.

I have known Frank for many years, and have always respected him as one who knows all that we can know is that we know nothing – and that the highest wisdom can be found in our history, and in great art and in literature and in music and in the sounds and silences of our languages – all of which give us a glimpse into the soul of mankind.

So how do we find Frank Baron? In St. Paul’s Cathedral in London, in the crypt, can be found the epitaph of Sir Christopher Wren: it reads: Lector: Si Monumentum Requiris Circumspice: “Reader, if you seek his monument look around you.” And I suggest to you that if you seek Frank Baron, look around you.

AN INTERVIEW WITH FRANK BARON

By James Landes

After 43 years of service to the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at KU, Professor Frank Baron is retiring. Those who were present at his retirement party, held on April 6 at the Max Kade Center for German-American Studies, know how difficult it is to briefly sum up his tremendous contributions to the department and to our university over the decades, whether it be through his scholarly contributions related to Thomas Mann, Rilke, Hesse, German-Jewish relations, Humboldt, and, of course, the Faust legend; successful initiatives in resource and institutional development, whether it be his work as head of the Max Kade Center since 1997, his work in founding the Humboldt Digital Library Project, the conferences that he has put together (which have brought scholars of world renown to KU), the fundraising efforts that he has led to help our department acquire valuable resources (such as the Max Kade Center Annex building), his significant contributions to our Sister City relationship with Eutin, Germany, and the many ways in which he has helped several generations of students, both undergraduate and graduate, learn and experience German language and literature, whether through teaching, advising/directing, or through helping to build up some of the extremely valuable resources that many of us take for granted, such as those in the Max Kade Center or the Engel Library.

His efforts on behalf of the furtherance of study in German art, culture and literature, as well as of German-American friendship, have gained recognition by the government of Germany. In 2011, Professor Baron was honored with the award of the Officer’s Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, bestowed on behalf of the President of Germany. This honor is one of the most supreme distinctions that Germany confers upon individuals, whether German or foreign.

As his final dissertation student, I have been asked to try to encompass these and many other achievements for our newsletter. While it’s not possible to do justice to all of his accomplishments in a short chat, I sat down with Professor Baron during finals week, in order to ask him a few questions.

JL: One of the things most remarkable about your career is the fact that you have had so many interests, often seemingly not directly related to each other, and yet, you’ve managed to make a difference, whether through scholarship, or resource and institutional development, in all of them. Of all of the pursuits that you’ve had since coming to KU, are there any that stand out to you as having been particularly challenging or more difficult than you might have imagined when you first set out?

FB: I have had the opportunity and the rare privilege of developing and expanding the resources of the Max Kade Center. That is just the easier and most enjoyable part of the work. It would be important to make sure that students become aware of the research resources available. The distance from the center of departmental activities in Wescoe Hall makes this difficult.

JL: You’ve organized a number of conferences at KU over the years, and have been involved in bringing a number of noted scholars to campus, whether as visiting professors or as conference participants. In my time at KU alone, I’ve personally met a number of the best experts in German literature over the past few decades through these events, including Helmut Koopmann, Wulf Koepke, Irmela von der Lühe, Hans-Gert Roloff, August Stahl, and others whose names I neglect to mention only due to the length of the list. I remember once asking Jan-Dirk Müller of the LMU what had brought him to KU, and without batting an eye, he smiled and said “Frank Baron.” In all the years of conference organizing, what would you say was your biggest organizational success, or the biggest surprise (whether positive or negative)?

FB: In 1975 I organized a symposium dedicated to the legacy of the Rainer Maria Rilke. It was the first ambitious project that required me to invite scholars, poets, philosophers, and translators who were concerned with the works of this poet. It was gratifying to gain participation by famous individuals like Stephen Spender, Hans Georg Gadamer, Walter Kaufmann, Hans Egon Holthusen, Ruth Angress, and others.

JL: You’ve been the biggest single influence on my academic approach and development, and for that, I’ll always be thankful. I was wondering if you might have a few words about those who influenced you when you were starting out as a scholar, whether as a Ph.D. student at Berkeley in the 1960s for example, or in your early years as a professor at KU, for instance, a senior faculty member who might have mentored you or given you a good example to follow.

FB: I have had many good teachers, but in my stay at KU over the years I have profited much from the unique opportunity to get to know and learn from the most distinguished European scholars who have come to us every year as Max Kade profes-
FB: The project was not my idea, but soon after seeing the proposal I realized that it was a very good one for the future of German-American studies. It has been pointed out that Humboldt was perhaps the world’s most famous and influential intellectual in the nineteenth century. It was a stroke of luck that a computer scientist named Detlev Doherr from Germany also became greatly interested in the challenge of implementing the proposal. We formed a partnership to create a program that was appropriate for Humboldt’s unique scientific and literary publications. Our site now receives an average of 400 visits per day.

JL: At the same time that you’ve helped pioneer the development of digital library resources in our field, you have a keen awareness of the value of the printed book or manuscript for archival research. A few years ago, I had the opportunity to meet John Spalek, whose collection of books is now housed in the conference room upstairs in the Max Kade Center. I was wondering if you might talk a bit about how we were fortunate enough to receive Professor Spalek’s library.

FB: When I became director of the Max Kade Center, I asked to be able to extend the scope of the center’s collections from a focus on the nineteenth century to the twentieth. Professor John Spalek has been the foremost expert in this field. Our discussions quickly evolved into a friendship, and he helped us acquire a number of valuable collections of immigrant and exile writers, including his own.

JL: One story that I think that some might find amusing relates to your contributions to research on the historical Faust. There are, of course, some small towns in Germany whose history, whether documented or apocryphal, is intertwined with the Faust legend. I remember once hearing that in the course of publishing some of your findings on the historical Faust, you managed to step on a few toes in this regard, and that you are now basically persona non grata in at least one of these towns. Could you tell us about that?

FB: I have always been interested in history. When I worked on my dissertation (which treated a topic of Renaissance literature), my advisor had to insist that I balance the historical presentation with sufficient literary analysis. My work with historical sources made me realize that the available information about the origins of the Faust legend contained fundamental errors. There is today an attractive museum in a village that claims to be the birthplace of Faust. Without wishing to undermine the economic welfare of that place, I have presented evidence that Faust had been born in a totally different location, and that this minor correction had significant implications for the historical Faust’s biography and his legend. My interest in reconstructing this background has been to present a precise and accurate narrative of this significant legend.

JL: Among the courses that you’ve regularly taught over the years in the department are the film course, your Faust course, the early modern course for grad students, etc. Which course or courses have you most enjoyed teaching?

FB: Teaching the film course for a number of years has been rewarding. I saw this course, ironically, as an opportunity to look at the literary background and context of early German films. I saw it as an opportunity to introduce the students not just to the evolution of early German films but also to present the literature that was often the basis for it. There were required readings and discussions of texts by Goethe, Mann, Kafka, and Brecht.

JL: This almost seems an unfair question to ask of someone who has so many intellectual interests, and who continues to pursue so many projects with the passion that you do, but is there any particular writer in the history of literature whose works you particularly admire more than any other, or maybe someone whose work continues to inspire or even surprise you?

FB: Goethe’s poetry and his Faust first influenced me to make German my major field of study. Those works still influence and inspire me.

JL: Those of us who know you well suspect that you’ll continue to pursue many of the same projects in retirement that you have thus far in your career. Do you have any new projects in mind, or any new plans for some of the continuing projects, now that you will, officially, at least, have more time and freedom?

FB: I have enjoyed getting to know Anna Bloch, who lives close by on Alabama Street and is today 100 years old. She opened up for me the artistic and literary world of her late husband, the painter, poet, and translator Albert Bloch. I am now working on a book about his years as the American “Blue Rider” in Munich (1909 to 1919) and his association with the artists Kandinsky and Marc Chagall.

JL: Thank you, Professor Baron, for your time. Is there any last piece of advice that you would have for young scholars, something that you wish you had known when you were starting out, perhaps?

FB: The computer and the Internet were not available when I started out. That was a disadvantage. On the other hand, I see a danger in those new tools in that they distract too much from the ultimate sources of genuine discoveries and their confirmation. They still reside, in my view, in original documents, manuscripts, and books.
New German Undergraduate Curriculum
By Lorie A. Vanchena

In fall 2013 the Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures will implement a new undergraduate curriculum. The department’s Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC), chaired by Prof. Lorie A. Vanchena, began work on the new curriculum in fall 2011; the final proposal was approved by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences in December 2012. Based on an interdisciplinary German Studies model that encompasses not only language and literature but also the history, society, and culture (broadly conceived) of German-speaking Europe, the new curriculum was shaped by many factors, including changing geopolitical and demographic realities, input from KU students of German, and a review of curricula in other KU departments and in German departments around the country.

The USC began this project by reconsidering the answer to the question: “Why study Germanic languages and literatures?” The committee shifted emphasis from “Because understanding the language, literature, and culture of Central Europe is essential for our history and our future” to thinking in terms of how translingual competence and transcultural competence will help students participate actively and productively in our increasingly global world. The goal was to develop a curriculum that expands the traditional language and literature approach and gives students a more contemporary, diverse, and challenging program in the language and culture of German-speaking Europe, including the arts, history, and politics, for example.

The new German major is characterized by interdisciplinary flexibility: two courses taught outside the department but with significant content related to German-speaking Europe will count toward the German degree. The USC made major and minor requirements more flexible by reducing requirements for specific courses. The committee also developed a more clearly defined sequence of courses at the advanced intermediate and advanced levels to help ensure continued development of multiple literacies, and it deleted or revised courses that did not reflect current best practices in the discipline. The new curriculum includes a true senior capstone course for all German majors and offers better articulation between courses at all levels and with courses taken in our Summer Language Institutes. Finally, the USC redesigned requirements for Departmental Honors.

Our undergraduate program is characterized by personalized advising, co-curricular activities, and opportunities to conduct independent research and to study and undertake internships abroad. The new German major and minor can both be combined with coursework in other departments; students can take advantage of this opportunity to combine their study of German with Linguistics, Business, Philosophy, European Studies, and History, for example.

New or redesigned courses include: Topics in the Film of German-Speaking Europe (GERM 375); Advanced German I and Advanced German II (GERM 401 and 402); Topics in German Studies I (GERM 475); and Senior Capstone Course: German-Speaking Europe Today (GERM 580).

50 Years of Cooperation Between KU and the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg
By Jim Morrison

This year, KU and one of its strongest partners in Germany, the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg are celebrating fifty years of successful cooperation as Graduate Direct Exchange (GDX) partners. These exchanges are not tied directly to any specific discipline and, over the years, 55 students have come to Lawrence from Germany and 43 KU students have gone to Erlangen.

I was fortunate enough to receive one such position for the 1977/78 school year as a master’s candidate in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. I already knew Erlangen from my undergraduate year abroad in 1974/75 and really appreciated the opportunity to visit Erlangen once more. Erlangen is a city not unlike Lawrence in size and has a similar laid back, but not sleepy, life style. The university there was also very helpful in my studies. They had faculty and research resources which allowed me to not only complete much of my coursework towards the MA in German, but also to pursue potential research topics.

After my year as a GDX student, I ended up staying in Erlangen for two more years, strengthening my ties to many people and the city became a second home to me. Over the years I have visited Erlangen numerous times and still have very close friends there. This all came about because of the close ties between KU and the university in Erlangen.

Prof. Marc L. Greenberg, PhD., Chair of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, KU; Prof. Dr. Sigrid Nieberle, Max Kade Distinguished Visiting Professor, KU, und Dept. Germanistik und Komparatistik der FAU; Dr. Hodgie Bricke, former Assistant Vice Provost for International Programs and GDX Coordinator; Dr. Charles A.S. Bankart, Assistant Vice Provost KU; Therese Danley, Koordinatorin am IPO der KU.
**News from Alumni**

David White writes, “I’m a 1964 KU graduate with a BA degree in German (honors) and philosophy and I’m currently on the Board of the Max Kade Center for German-American Studies at KU. The Max Kade Board asked me to join the Board several years ago at the suggestion of Breon Mitchell, a close friend of mine since kindergarten and my roommate at KU and also a 1964 graduate in German with honors.

I’ve lived in Asia since 1987 and currently live in Singapore and I unfortunately missed the 2012 Max Kade Board meeting and the opportunity to meet you at that time, but I look forward to meeting you at the next Max Kade Board meeting, which I assume will be in the Fall. I’m unclear if Frank Baron is still running the Max Kade Center or if he has retired now, but in any case both Breon and I would like to continue to serve on the Max Kade Board.

I went to Holzkirchen in the summer of 1962 and I’ve attached a picture of our group from that summer. Breon’s brother, Tim Mitchell was also in the 1962 Holzkirchen group. Tim later became the Chairman of the Art History Department at KU. In the picture, I’m the second person from the right on the top row and Tim is the second person from the right on the third row. I’m still in contact with Bob Stewart, the second person from the left on the top row and the two of us are going on a two week trip to Burma/Myanmar next month.

Andy Stein, (BA 2010) writes: “I will be graduating from KU Law this May. Law school has been a largely rewarding experience for me. As I’d hoped at the outset, it has proven to be an engaging and challenging academic endeavor. I have developed an interest in business law with a particular focus on corporate bankruptcy. I just returned from New York City, where I competed on behalf of KU Law School in the Duberstein National Moot Court Competition. I currently serve as a board member of the Kansas Law Review and last year I worked as a clerk for a federal magistrate judge for the District of Kansas.

My undergraduate study of German has been an excellent foundation for my legal training. In particular, analysis of various literary works and understanding those works within the historical context in which they were written has been very beneficial. This mental exercise closely mirrors the analytical process of applying law to the unique factual situations of a given client’s situation. Additionally, through the hyper-technical nature of mastering German grammar, I developed a strong attention to detail. This skill has been extremely relevant in dissecting dense statutory and case language as well as writing about complicated concepts in clear, concise sentences.”

Philip Michelbach (BA ’90, MA ’93) writes, “I have been awarded the Fulbright Junior Lectureship in American Studies for next year at the University of Potsdam. We’re packing up Kind und Kegel this summer. My daughter Jane will actually be studying at a Goethe Institute in Malente (one town over from Eutin) for part of the summer. My son Harry’s going to be someplace else in Schleswig-Holstein.

Of course part of the reason for this award is my association with the KU German Department, to which I am always thankful.”

Nicholas (Nick) Susi (BA 2009) with minor in German writes: “After graduating from the University of Kansas in 2009 (B.M. Piano, minor in German), Nick continued his studies at the University of Michigan. Shortly before his graduation from UM in 2011 (M.M. Piano), Nick received a full grant from DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst) to study piano at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln, focusing on Beethoven’s sets of variations for solo piano. After successfully extending his DAAD grant for a second year, he is now on schedule for completing his second Master’s degree in Cologne this coming July. In connection with his grant work and schoolwork, Nick has gotten the chance to appear in concert as soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician in various cities across Germany.”

**Student News**

Sara Sofia Anderson, a sophomore majoring in Germanic Languages & Literatures and Global & International Studies, has received an undergraduate scholarship from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Sara will use her scholarship, which provides a monthly stipend as well as funds to cover travel and research expenses, to attend the Universität Regensburg during spring 2014 semester.
Joe Cunningham wins CALICO Award
By Mark Daly

The Department congratulates Joe Cunningham on his receiving the CALICO Outstanding Graduate Student Award. CALICO, the Computer-Assisted Language Instruction Consortium is an international organization dedicated to research and development in the use of computer technology in language learning: computer-assisted language learning (CALL). This means that Joe is the top graduate student nationally in the field of Computer-Assisted Language Instruction this year. The honor goes in part to his mentor, Prof. Vyatkina. We can be justly proud of them both for this outstanding achievement.

The outstanding graduate student is selected by CALICO’s Executive Board, and the recipient is recognized at CALICO’s annual conference and is presented with a certificate and a small cash prize. This year’s conference is being held May 21-25 at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Mark Daly met with Joe and asked him some questions about the award.

MD: Did you know that Prof. Vyatkina had nominated you, or was it a surprise?

JC: Actually, it was not a surprise. Prof. Vyatkina indicated to me that she felt I was a strong candidate and that she would like to nominate me. The nomination required me to submit a CV and an application detailing my contributions to the CALICO organization and the nature of my CALL-related research activities.

MD: What is the topic for which you won the award?

JC: Conferral of the award is based on a number of criteria, including: CALL research projects completed and in progress, CALL development projects completed and in progress, participation in CALICO, general service to the profession, teaching, research, and potential for making significant contributions to the field.

MD: You did research with students in Lawrence’s sister city, Eutin, Germany. Is this project related to what you did in Eutin?

JC: My experience in 2010 as a teaching assistant in Eutin was an important aspect of my dissertation research, in that it allowed me to make contact with internship coordinator Torben Mothes, who became a participant in my research activities. He was one of a selected group of «expert guests» who participated in a series of Web-based discussions with students in GERM 352 during Fall 2010 and Fall 2011. Several of the students from GERM 352 who took part in my research subsequently spent time completing their own internship experiences in Eutin.

MD: How does it relate to your dissertation?

JC: My dissertation focuses on a topic called telecollaboration, which involves the use of computer- and Internet-based technologies to connect geographically distant parties for the purposes of language learning and teaching. At the CALICO conference this year, I will be presenting on the topic of telecollaborative teacher competences, i.e., how language teachers develop and deploy those skills needed to engage their learners in telecollaborative projects.

MD: How exciting to attend the conference in Hawaii!

JC: Yes, and I would like to acknowledge that my conference travel is made possible through grants provided by the Graduate Scholarly Presentation Travel Fund and the Dept. of Germanic Languages and Literatures. Many thanks to them!

MD: What are your plans for next year?

JC: I plan to defend my dissertation in the fall semester. I also look forward to joining the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures as an Academic Program Associate, in which capacity I will both teach and assist Dr. Vyatkina with coordination of the German language proficiency sequence.

MD: Best wishes to you, Joe, in your research and your teaching.

Graduate Student Awards

This year’s graduate student awards were announced at the GAGS conference on April 20, 2013 at the Max Kade Center.

Stella Knecht Prize for Outstanding GTA
James Landes

Montana Huslig Outstanding Graduate Student in German
Gabrielle Frawley

Elmer Franklin Engel Summer Research Fellowships
James Landes
Gabrielle Frawley
On Friday May 3, the Department held a recognition ceremony for meritorious students in advanced language courses as well as the graduating majors and minors at the Max Kade Center. This year’s special guest was Kate Marples, BA 2011, who reflected on the impact her German degree has had on her law school studies and on her life. Prof. Lorie Vanchena emceed the event and was joined by Prof. James Brown and Mr. Jim Morrison to present the awards. Afterwards, the honored students, faculty and guests enjoyed a reception.

This year, each applicant for the Summer Language Institutes in Holzkirchen and Eutin received a scholarship exceeding $4,000 from The Carl C. Krehbiel and L. Neil Slentz Scholarships funds. In addition, the Department is pleased to have been able to support the following student to study abroad or participate in an internship in Eutin:

**Holzkirchen and Eutin**

**Holzkirchen Summer Language Institute:** Laura Bondank, John Dillon, Zachary Hader, Emily Harsh, Andrew Hoskins, Morgan Kilgore, Thomas Morrison, Christina Ralston, Alex Rankin and Adam Timmerman
two courses in the Department, she also gave two public lectures, “Ein hässliches Endlein der Welt”. Über das Entlegene in der deutschen Gegenwartsliteratur” (11 March) and “Do Men Really Write Differently? Gender and the Literary Biopic” (2 April).

Despite departures, the Department continues to develop in exciting new ways. In the coming year we will be joined by a visiting assistant professor of contemporary German studies, the identity of whom will be determined soon. The search is still under way as we go to press. We are also working toward integrating into our curriculum our colleague in Humanities & Western Civilization, Prof. Marike Janzen (PhD U. Texas, Austin), who also serves as the coordinator of HWC’s Peace and Conflict Studies Program. Her research and teaching interests focus on world literature, human rights literature, and notions of solidarity. A comparative literature specialist by training, she has published on the authors Alejo Carpentier and Anna Seghers. We have also been able to benefit from the expertise of Emeritus Professor Winder McConnell (KU GLL PhD, ’73), medievalist and former student of Emeritus Professor Ernst Dick, who recently retired from the German program at UC Davis and has settled in nearby McLouth. Prof. McConnell will work with graduate student Melanie Piltingsrud, who had been dissertating under Prof. Brown. In spring 2014 our MK Distinguished Visiting Professor will be Prof. Per Øhrgaard, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark.

Watch this space. In the next couple of years, despite the dire budgetary news, we will work hard to continue offering an innovative new curriculum and other initiatives to keep German Studies exciting and vibrant.

Finally, some late-breaking news: the department has hired a visiting assistant professor, Ari Linden, a newly minted PhD in German Studies from Cornell University.

Chair’s Corner continued.....
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!
Marc L. Greenberg, Chair

[With thanks to Prof. William Keel, who composed this historical narrative.]

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