Letter from the Outgoing Chair

I write at the end of an unusually eventful year. On the negative side, we lost two colleagues to other institutions: Oliver Simons to Columbia University and Ursula Lindqvist to Gustavus Adolphus College. We will miss them both. Professor Simons’ courses on critical theory, literature and science, German tragedy, and twentieth-century modernism sustained our graduate and undergraduate programs during his eight years at Harvard. Dr. Lindqvist brought immense energy to the task of building up our Scandinavian program: alongside teaching the first two years of Swedish, she introduced course offerings in Nordic literature and film and developed language tutorials in other Nordic languages. We will also miss Charles Lutcavage, who is retiring after many years in the department. The loss of Dr. Lutcavage’s signature courses, Business German and Germany and Europe, leaves a large hole in our offerings. On the positive side, Professor John Hamilton has returned to the department as a joint appointment with Comparative Literature. We welcome him back very warmly. In addition, we have acquired nine new departmental affiliates: Professors Peter Gordon (History), Benjamin Buchloh, Jeffrey Hamburger, and Joseph Koerner (History of Art and Architecture), Alison Frank Johnson (History of Science), Jay Jasanoff (Linguistics), Alexander Rehding and Anne Schreffler (Music), Sean Kelly (Philosophy). Bringing with them a rich set of cross-listed courses, the affiliates will substantially expand the range of topics and the types of interdisciplinary work available to our students.

Plans for Academic Year 2013-14

The new academic year will open with a graduate student conference in September co-organized by Nicole Burgoyne (Harvard) and Daniel Pratt (Chicago). The topic is “Post-Dissident Studies: Between Collaboration and Dissent in Central Europe.” In April 2014, we will bring to campus a small number of our alumni who hold positions at a range of universities and colleges to participate in a colloquium on “Models for German Studies in the New Millennium.” Their varying experiences will surely prompt us all to imagine new configurations for teaching and research in our field.

Two visitors will offer courses in the department. Professor Yasemin Yildiz (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) will teach two courses in fall 2013: “History and Memory in the Literature of Migration” and “Postmonolingual Constellations.” Dr. Christiane Ackermann (Universität Tübingen) will teach a course in spring 2014 on “Encounters with the Orient in Pre-Modern German Literature.” Four new graduate students will enter the program, four graduate students from German universities will come (or continue here) as visiting students, and two visiting scholars will also enrich our intellectual exchanges.

I am delighted to announce our new chair, Professor John Hamilton. I know he will bring fresh ideas and impulses to all of our departmental enterprises. Welcome, Professor Hamilton!
Professor Ursula Lindqvist

Professor Lindqvist’s primary areas of research and teaching are Nordic literature and culture since the Enlightenment. She has published articles in Modernism/Modernity, Space and Culture: International Journal of Social Spaces, and a special issue of Scandinavian-Canadian Studies devoted to Nordic cinema. She recently contributed an article on the Swedish and Danish translations of Cameroonian author Ferdinand Oyono’s Francophone novel Un’s Vic de Boy, forthcoming in January 2013. Dr. Lindqvist is also working on a monograph of Roy Andersson's film Songs from the Second Floor, which will appear in the University of Washington Press’ Nordic Film Classics Series. Her second monograph (in progress) is on new nationalism and the colonial imagination in Scandinavia and the Caribbean. In addition, Dr. Lindqvist is co-editing the Blackwell Companion to Nordic Cinema with Mette Hjort and finishing her forthcoming article in African and Black Diaspora’s special issue on the Nordic region. With her entrepreneurial spirit, she expanded the Scandinavian language program’s offerings in Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, and Norwegian as well as our usual courses in Swedish. In addition, Dr. Lindqvist introduced three new courses: “Nordic Theatre and Drama,” “Crime, Power, and Politics in Contemporary Scandinavian Culture,” and “Topics in Swedish Literature and Culture: Multi-Ethnic Society.” She is leaving to take up a position at Gustavus Adolphus College.

Dr. Lisa Parke

As Coordinator of the German language program, Dr. Parke trains new teaching fellows and designs and supervises the elementary and intermediate German courses. She has special interests in drama, theater, and music. One of her research interests is in the performing body in its relation to culture, gender, and sexuality: her dissertation on Thomas Mann focused on this topic. In addition, she works on language acquisition through performance. Each year, Dr. Parke produces a German play: this spring, students in her course on “German Drama and Theater” presented Wolfgang Borchert’s Draußen vor der Tür, written in the immediate aftermath of World War II. She will be offering a new course on German cabaret in spring 2014: this course will also culminate in a performance. At present, she is directing the “Virtual Study Abroad” project, a web-based German language program that combines authentic video with interactive language exercises for the development of listening and pragmatic skills at the intermediate and advanced levels.

Dr. Charles Lutcavage

After many years of teaching in the department, including a long stint as director of the language program, Dr. Lutcavage spent his last semester of active duty here this spring. In addition to training a long series of graduate students, many of whom are now teaching in departments across the United States, Dr. Lutcavage introduced two important courses that drew in students who might not otherwise have continued to the third-year level. The first of these was a course in Business German at the advanced intermediate level; the second began as a course on Germany, Austria, and Europe, but since this involved a large amount of material to be covered in a single semester, its focus was reduced to “Germany and Europe.” Each summer, Dr. Lutcavage gathered new material from a variety of sources, including major German newspapers and magazines, for use in these two courses. The students were able to fine-tune their work in the language while studying significant contemporary issues in authentic, up-to-date articles. With his retirement, we lose these valuable course offerings. Dr. Lutcavage plans to spend more time on one of his favorite extracurricular activities, and as we bid him farewell, we also wish him happy skiing!

Professor Markus Wilezek

Professor Wilezek’s research focuses on how changes in the semantic and cultural fabric of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries inform the condition of literature and theory in nineteenth-century modernity. His work has led to a wide spectrum of publications on Lichtenberg, Goethe, Kleist, Heiner Müller, conceptual history, and the rhetorical notion of voice.

Over the past year, Prof. Wilezek has been working on two book projects. One of them, his 2012 monograph Das Artikulierte und Inartikulierte: Eine Archäologie des strukturalistischen Denkens (Berlin, Boston: de Gruyter, 2012) came out in November. This book examines how the notion of articulation was transformed during the Age of Goethe from a linguistic and anatomical term into the foundational principle governing the generation of meaning. His current work in progress is a survey of the literary, philosophical, and economic discourses of Nachhaltigkeit (sustainability). This book not only sheds new light on major German writers, but also unveils a new perspective on the intellectual history from the early eighteenth to the early twentieth century.

In the fall semester, Prof. Wilezek offered a course titled “German Literature: From Goethe to Nietzsche,” and a graduate seminar called “From Natur zu Umwelt: Eco-Critical Approaches to German Literature,” which centered directly on his current book-length project. While on sabbatical in spring 2013, he worked on finishing this manuscript on sustainability for publication. In addition, he conducted archival research in Berlin, Göttingen, and Weimar.

Dr. Daniel Bowles

Dr. Bowles is the 2012-13 Harvard College Fellow in Germanic Languages and Literatures. He has won fellowships and grants from institutions such as the Fulbright Foundation, The Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdient, and the Whiting Foundation. Beyond his scholarly work in German literature, film, music, theory and queer studies, Dr. Bowles is a teacher of literature, film, music and language, as well as a published translator. Among others, he translated Thomas Meinecke’s novels Tomboy and Hellblau, and has been commissioned to translate Christian Kracht’s novel Imperium. In fall 2012 he offered a course on German for reading knowledge, and in spring 2013 he taught a course on queer identities in Literature and Film and a course on „German Literature from Kafka to Jelinek.”
Professor Stephen Mitchell

His research deals with a wide variety of genres and periods of Nordic culture and literature. His major research foci include popular traditions, mythology, legends in the late medieval and early modern period, as well as Scandinavian drama and women’s autobiographical literature in the 17th century. His book Heroic Sagas and Ballads, is a foundational study of the medieval Icelandic mythical sagas and ballads and their successors in more recent Scandinavian ballads and other oral traditions. For his 2011 book Witchcraft and Magic in the Nordic Middle Ages Professor Mitchell was recently named a “Walter Channing Cabot Fellow.” Among other articles, he has recently published on „Heroic Legend and Onomastics: Háls saga, the Hildebrandslied and the Listerby Stones.”

A former master of Eliot House, Professor Mitchell enjoys working closely with his students in the Scandinavian Program and in Folklore and Mythology. Every summer he teaches Harvard’s „Viking Studies Program in Scandinavia” together with colleagues from the University of Aarhus, in Denmark. Besides working in and advising students from various departments, Professor Mitchell also continues to serve on the Committee on Medieval Studies and as a Curator of the Milman Parry Collection of Oral Literature.

Professor Peter J. Burgard


Known for widely published studies on Luther, Caravaggio, Bernini, Opitz, Fleming, Gryphius, Hoffmannswalda, Grimmelshausen, Asam, Goethe, Herder, Lessing, Nietzsche, Ibsen, Mann, Kafka, Adorno, Professor Burgard teaches a spectrum of undergraduate and graduate courses in the German Department, the College Program in General Education and the Center for European Studies, ranging from the Cultural and Political History of Munich; Early Modern Cultural History; Baroque Art and Literature; Goethe; the Age of Goethe; Freud; the Ethics of Atheism; and Sexuality, Gender, and Language in Fin-de-siècle Literature and Art. Currently, he is planning a course for fall 2013: „Thomas Mann, Storyteller.” In addition, Professor Burgard enjoys teaching the German language on the advanced and intermediate levels. He will continue to direct and teach the Harvard Summer Program in Munich this year, which he founded as one of Harvard’s first curricular programs abroad.

Professor Judith Ryan

saw multiple projects come to fruition this year. Her 2012 book The Novel after Theory sheds new light on the development of the novel and the persistence of postmodern theory in forming an additional strand in those narratives. Her project examines works by major writers such as Don Delillo, Thomas Pynchon, J.M. Coetzee, Margaret Atwood, W.G. Sebald, and Umberto Eco. Her book, The Cambridge Introduction to German Poetry also appeared in 2012. In addition, she has recently published three articles on Rilke, Mallarmé and W.G. Sebald. During academic year 2012-13, she taught a General Education course, “Sacred and Secular Poetry,” under the rubric „Culture and Belief.” She also taught “The German Colonial Idea,” as well as a graduate seminar on „Experience and Remembrance in W.G. Sebald.”

Professor Maria Tatar

focuses on modern German culture, folklore, and children’s literature. Her most recent work, The Annotated Peter Pan, commemorates 100 years of J.M. Barrie’s novel Peter and Wendy. She has written books about Weimar culture, the Brothers Grimm, Hans Christian Andersen, and childhood reading. The recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, she has written for the New York Times, the New Republic, and the Harvard Crimson. Her work has been featured on the Today Show and in Harvard Magazine. Professor Tatar’s popular undergraduate courses and seminars include: „Fairy Tale and Fantasy Literature;“ „History and Theory of Folklore and Mythology;“ „What is? Alice in Wonderland, Peter Pan, and the Literary Culture of Childhood;“ and a graduate seminar „Storytelling Cultures: The Brothers Grimm and H.C. Andersen.”

Professor Eric Rentschler

is the author of numerous articles and five books on on film history, theory, and criticism, with particular emphasis on German cinema during the Weimar Republic, the Third Reich, and the post-1945 and postwall era. He is currently working on two book projects: Haunted by Hitler: The Return of the Nazi Dead (to be published by Harvard University Press) and Courses in Time: Film in the Federal Republic of Germany, 1962–1989 (to be published by Columbia University Press). He teaches in the Department of Visual and Environmental Studies and the German Department, offering courses such as „From Postwar to Postwall German Cinema 1945-1989;“ „A Nazi Cinema The Art and Politics of Illusion;“ „Cinema and Nation;“ „Film Studies Workshop.”
STUDENT NEWS AND PROFILES

Seth Peabody (PhD candidate)

His research examines mountain environments in 20th-century German literature and film. Using the combined lenses of American ecocriticism, Gernot Böhme's notion of atmospheres, and discourse analysis, Seth's project explores the relationship between the changing physical environment of modernity and the way it is represented and perceived. His dissertation will include works by Thomas Mann, Hermann Broch, Elfriede Jelinek, as well as the mountain films of Schroffenstein, and Law in Kleist’s “Flaws, Mistakes, Misreadings: Error and the Human Sciences in Drama around 1800” (2011). Her research interests include film history, the oral tradition in European and American literature, and American nature writing. He has studied at the University of Hamburg and worked in Lower Austria and Salzburg. Aside from his research and teaching, he also coordinates Harvard graduate student athletics as a Dudley Fellow.

Jillian DeMair (PhD 2013)

has recently graduated. Her research focuses on literature of the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the German Novelle and other narrative forms, intersections of geology and literature, issues of place and belonging, poetry, and narrative theory, especially framed and embedded fiction. Jillian spent the 2011-2012 academic year at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich on a Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship and recently presented a paper entitled “Narrative Frames and Homeland Boundaries: Authentic Representation in Raabe’s Stopfkuchen” at the 2012 German Studies Association conference.

Nicole Burgoyne (PhD 2014)

A fourth year graduate student, Nicole Burgoyne has recently passed her qualifying exams. Her dissertation will combine her interests in the autobiographical form and the political context of literature, especially Communist regimes 1949-1989, to explore four authors who wrote in German: Christa Wolf, Wolfgang Hilbig, Herta Müller, and W.G. Sebald. She explores the effects of institutional and psychological censorship on each. Nicole Burgoyne has studied in Berlin, Dresden, Bamberg, Passau, and Vienna, the longest of which was her year as a combined research and teaching Fulbright grante in Vienna.

ALUMNI NEWS AND PROFILES

Pascale Lafountain (PhD 2011)

currently holds a position at Montclair State University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Modern Languages. After starting Harvard’s German PhD program, she became increasingly fascinated by gender and theatricality, both of which figured centrally in her dissertation, entitled “Flaws, Mistakes, Misreadings: Error and the Human Sciences in Drama around 1800” (2011). Her research interests center on gender, sexuality, performance, theories of body and mind, German literature from 1700-present, theater studies, and German film. She is currently working on a new article “Das Gefühl des Rechts”: Gesture, Evidence, and Law in Kleist’s Die Familie Schröffenstein,” which is being revised for a volume edited by Dieter Sevin at Vanderbilt University, to be published in 2012 by De Gruyter Press.

Thomas Herold (PhD 2010)

is an Assistant Professor of German Literature in the Modern Languages Department at Montclair State University (tenure track). His main focus is nineteenth- and twentieth-century German literature, German film, narrative theory, the intersections of literature and philosophy, as well as literature and anti-Semitism. He completed his dissertation at Harvard in 2010, entitled “Die Zeit des Romans oder Moderne Mimesis.” During his time as a graduate student and a college fellow at Harvard, he published more than ten articles and book reviews. Currently, he is working on two articles, tentatively called “Calendars and Calendar Studies,” and “Suddenness in Kleist and Musil.” He is also working on two book projects: Time and Narrative, or, Modern Mimesis and Religion Around Thomas Mann, which will be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in the series “Religion Around.”

Michael Saman (PhD 2010)

is currently an ACLS New Faculty Fellow in the Department of Germanic Languages at UCLA. He was initially appointed as a visiting assistant professor at Brown University, and he has taught at the College of William and Mary as well. His research centers on German literary and intellectual history of the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and he is also interested in the intersection of German and African intellectual culture. Michael recently published a volume of essays entitled Imagining Blackness in Germany and Austria (Michael Saman, Charlotte Szligyi, eds. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Inc. 2012).

David Kim (PhD 2008)

is an Assistant Professor of German and a member of the Core Faculty of Global Studies in the Arts and Humanities, and Affiliated Faculty with the Center for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies, the Peace and Justice Studies Program, and the Environmental Science and Policy Program at Michigan State University. His research areas include fin-de-siècle Vienna, contemporary German literature, critical theory, transnational adoption, human rights, and narratives of solidarity. His articles have been published in the German Studies Review, TRANSIT, Colloquia Germanica, Austrian Studies, Modern Austrian Literature, and Focus on German Studies. This academic year he has four new articles forthcoming.
SPRING EVENTS: A RETROSPECTIVE

- **February 7th, 2013:** German Author Thomas Meinecke & Dr. Daniel Bowles.

  German author, musician, and DJ Thomas Meinecke read from his novels on Thursday, February 7th in Barker 110 from 6–8 p.m. The event was free and open to the public and well attended. A discussion (in English) and a reception followed the reading.

- **February 14th, 2013:** Professor Nikolaus Wegmann: “Philology: A Never-Ending Story.”

  Professor Nikolaus Wegmann (Princeton University) spoke on “Philology: A Never-Ending Story” at 4pm on Thursday, February 14th, 2013 in Barker Center 359.

- **February 19th, 2013:** Professor Sigrid Weigel: „The Lightning Flash of Knowledge and the Time of Image.“

  Professor Sigrid Weigel (Institute of Literature, Technical University of Berlin) held a lecture on „The Lightning Flash of Knowledge and the Time of Image“ on February 19th, 2013 in the Science Centre.

- **March 14th, 2013:** Professor Maeve Cook.

  Professor Maeve Cooke, University College held a lecture on „Truth in Fiction: Kafka, Adorno -- and Beyond“ on Thursday, March 1rst, 2013.

- **April 23rd, 2013:** Professor Martin Puchner.

  Professor Martin Puchner, Department of English, Harvard University, spoke on “Wittgenstein’s Literary Heirs” on April 23, 2013 in Barker Center 114.

- **Professional Development Workshop: Thursday, February 21st, 2013.**

  Dr. Lutcavage held a professional training session for Graduate Students on „Teaching German Society, Culture and Politics“ on Thursday 21rst, 2013.

- **Professional Development Workshop: Thursday, March 3rd, 2013.**

  Professor Ryan and Dr. Parkes held a session for Graduate Students on Course Syllabi on Thursday, March 3rd, 2013.

- **Professional Development Workshop: Thursday, April 11th, 2013.**

  Professor Rentschler held a training session for Graduate Student on Job Letters and CV on Thursday, April 11th, 2013.

- **Friday Afternoon Graduate Student Training Sessions.**

  Professor Ryan conducted a weekly graduate workshop at which students presented and discussed academic papers and conference talks every Friday from 2-4 pm.

- **Thursday Afternoon Germanic Circle.**

  Graduate students came together every Thursday from 4-6 pm except on days scheduled for visiting speakers to discuss departmental matters and collaborate on other professional projects.

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**Editorial Information & Submission Guidelines**

Editor: Jillian DeMair & Miriam Wray  
Advisor: Judith Ryan  
Design: Miriam Wray

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Thanks for reading this and until the next issue!