A Word from the Chair:

Dear Graduates of GREAL,

Greetings from the Department of German, Russian, and East Asian Languages plus Hebrew at Miami University. We are pleased to send you GREAL's second newsletter which is already reaching a wider audience. Our first newsletter in January brought responses not only from those on our mailing list but from other graduates to whom it got passed on. Many of you wrote to us telling us what you are now doing career-wise and we will be including that information in this and other issues of the newsletter. Keep the responses coming!

In addition to such updates, this newsletter brings you more news about what is happening in the various language sections of GREAL, the special programs we are offering, and what faculty members in the department are doing.

Our East Asian Languages section is very active, having completed another successful summer program at Mishima under the direction of Dr. Mieko Ono. Dr. Noriko Reider and Dr. Liang Shi designed and taught a dual-instructor course in Japanese and Chinese literature, a successful addition to last spring's schedule.

A highlight of the Russian program was the newly initiated, four-week summer program in Novgorod, Russia. And the big focus on the German program this year is "Fokus Deutsch," a new PBS television course for teaching German created by Dr. Robert Di Donato. Look for it in your local viewing area. The German Floor is filled to overflowing this year and has a new director, Beate Schröter, as well as a co-director, Zsusanna Tatar.

Many thanks to you for your heartwarming responses to our first newsletter . . . and a special note of thanks to those of you who have sent contributions to GREAL. All of the money you contribute goes to fund student awards and activities in the various GREAL languages. If you wish, you can designate which of the GREAL languages you would like to support when making a donation.

Enough for now - details of these stories and others you will find throughout the newsletter. -- Happy reading!
Feature Story: **FOKUS DEUTSCH**

Featured prominently on the first page of The Miami University Report of October 21 was the following article about our own Robert DiDonato:

Miami University professor and chair of German, Russian, and East Asian Languages Robert DiDonato has created a new instructional German video series with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.


"This series uses up-to-date visual images through a kind of soap opera story line, authentic cultural materials and commentaries to immerse students in the world of German," said DiDonato. It's a comprehension culture-based approach." DiDonato is chief academic adviser and series developer and also acts in the series.

The video and texts work equally well for either classroom use or for home-based learners following the series on television. "Fokus Deutsch" is premiering on WGBH Boston (Channel 45) now through Dec. 7.

DiDonato is using the series in a section of beginning German this semester. "It makes it more interesting when there are characters to talk about," he said, "and you can follow the daily events of their lives on the screen." The series is broadcast locally on MU Channel 25, 2 and 8 p.m., Fridays through Mondays.

Funding for the series was provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's Annenberg/CPB Project, WGBH Boston and the Goethe Institute. German footage was used through a partnership with InterNationes, a producer of German-language teaching materials.

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**PROGRAMS**

**JAPANESE PROGRAM**

Japanese Proficiency Test
Susan Ponder passed Level 4 of the Japanese proficiency test, which was conducted by the Japan Foundation last December in over 35 countries worldwide. Susan graduated with a Japanese minor this May.

**Summer Program**

The Fifth Japanese Summer School in Mishima was held from May 17 to June 25 at Nihon University Mishima campus (Shizuoka, Japan).

Ten Miami students enrolled in the program.

The teaching staff was Mieko Ono (Director, 277w/377w/477w: US-Japan Joint Seminar), Akiko Takagi (401w/402w: Fourth year Japanese), Yuko Iwasaki (301w/302w), Hideki Saigo (201w/202w), Yumi Akuzawa (101w/102w).

**Midwest Japan Seminar:**

The seminar was held on January 30 and attended by about forty Japanologists from various institutions in the Midwest.

**Invited Speaker:**

Dr. Shelly Quinn, Ohio State University, was invited to talk on Noh theater on April 10.

**Teaching jobs in Japan**
Marie Richardson, Laura Dickson, Andrew Jernigan and Roy Oliver have received teaching assistantships in Japan through the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) Program. Richard Hacker also got a teaching assistantship through Earlham College’s "Teaching English in Japan" program.

**Japanese Culture and Language Club:**

Over two hundred people attended and celebrated the New Year (year of the Rabbit) with traditional New Year's cuisine, music, dance and other cultural activities.

**Contribution to the library fund**

A check of $765 was donated to the King Library. This amount is to be used to subscribe two Japanese Journals, Honyaku no Sekai and Bungei-shinju. The contributors are members of the Alumni Association of Japan Chapter, Mr. Sukeo Kanabayashi (Representative), Mr. Jirou Sugiyama, Mr. Tomoaki Ohtani, Mr. Shouzou Ohki, Mr. Yuuki Nagasaki, Mr. Shigeru Morishita, Mr. Hioyasu Kunieda, Mr. Seiki Takahashi, Mr. Ryuuichi Musumi, Mr. Yasunao Takahashi, Mr. Kaizaburoo Ii, Mr. Noboru Tsuruoka, Mr. Takanori Sakamoto and Ms. Yoshie Akatsu.

**Award Ceremony (April 30) for the Academic Year 1998-99:**

Last year’s outstanding students were: Gary Spencer (first year Japanese); Allison Michelle (second year); Anna Kirklin (third year); and Lanie Lemons (fourth year). Students graduated with Japanese minor in May were: Barker, Berline, Jernigen, Lemons, Meyer, Mossey, Peterson, Pirtinen, Polen, Ponder, Richardson, Schard and Staley.

**RUSSIAN PROGRAM**

During the summer of 1999 the Russian program initiated a four-week summer program in Novgorod, Russia. The pilot program, directed by Robert Bowie, had twelve participants and was a great success: students benefited from small, well-taught courses, homestays with Russian families, and cultural excursions within Novgorod and to other Russian cities.

**Summer '99 in Novgorod**
The faculty plan to continue to conduct this program.

Dr. Bowie has now retired from Miami University. He is spending the current academic year on a Teaching Fulbright at Novgorod University.

In the Spring semester, Paul Mitchell will be teaching a new honors course on the Russian writer and society.

GERMAN PROGRAM

Summer Program in Heidelberg/Berlin

Niko Euba and Peter Carels spent seven weeks in Germany with seventeen students from Miami, one each from Michigan, Georgia and South Carolina. Highlights of the trip included a tour of underground Nürnberg, a visit to the Landtag in Erfurt, Capital of Thuringia, also a brewery tour in that city, and a matinee performance of "Draussen vor der Tür" in Heidelberg. We welcomed to the staff Thorsten Erik Mayer, who accompanied the students on numerous outings in the Heidelberg area. Visiting the group at various places along the way were recent graduates Tim Smith, Natalie Brooke, Paul Ryan, Joe Neumeyer and Micheal Brown.

Author Visits Campus

The noted Austrian writer Renate Welsh visited the Oxford Campus October 3-5, visiting Dr. Bachem's class on German prose and giving a well-attended reading of her partially autobiographical novel "Das Lufthaus" in a beautifully decorated Wells Hall lounge. Welsh, primarily known for her writings for young readers, has successfully expanded her readership with this and other works especially dealing with forgotten figures from history, including Konstanze Mozart and Austrian resistance fighters. --- On November 18 at 7:00 another author will be visiting to read from his works: current Bowling Green State University author in residence Reinhold Batberger.
German Play - "Saus und Braus"

We dusted off Tieck's "Symphonie" and played it again, along with "Colombin" and "Christoph Columbus," not done here since the mid-70's. New features included Saxonian and Thuringian dialect pieces coached by current visiting staffer Beate Schröter (Univ. Jena), and three comic sketches written by senior German major Natalie Brooke. Twenty-four people took part in the production, all of them appearing on stage.

Thomas Breuer and his one-man-show "Quatsch, ich mein's ernst!"

The Ratskeller in the Clawson Hall basement was re-converted to its familiar German Play cabaret look this September to house the performance of comedian/author Thomas C. Breuer's stand-up routine. Over sixty were on hand to take in the merriment by this Heidelberg-based word wizard and observer of the oddities of contemporary life in Germany and the USA. This was Breuer's third visit to the campus in this decade.

German Prizes at the Awards Ceremony in May 1999

The following students were awarded these prizes last spring at the annual awards ceremony:

Jacques Breitenbucher Scholar-Leader Scholarship -- Christine Klug
Gisela E. Bahr Outstanding Graduating Senior in German -- Natalie Brooke
Marion Lee Miller Book Prizes for Excellence in German -- Erin Brown, Cynthia Roberts, Carolyn Semberg, Benjamin Poston, Mary Snyder

The German Floor in Wells Hall 1999

33 students are part of the German program in Wells, with three more on a waiting list for next semester. The students this year are excited about the opportunity of such a community, they refuse to speak English with us on the floor! We also have students who do not speak German, but want to live in the Floor because of the exposure to the culture within the program. We plan a field trip to Oldenburg, Indiana, with the WIMSE (Women in Mathematics, Sciences, and Engineering) program for next spring to give us possibility to gain knowledge from each other. German/Austrian nuns settled in Oldenburg, and now they work on Michaela Farm with new environmental farming methods. In October we also had the Oktoberfest in Wells, which exposed the Oxford community and Wells to German culture such as music, food, German games.

We will have classical concerts in Wells this year. Dr. Lynda Hoffman-Jeep and Dr. Michael Bachem will give lectures and poetry readings in late fall, Dr. Ruth Sanders invited the German Floor for a barbecue in her house. We have a lot of support from the faculty of the German Department concerning Stammtisch (our dinner table with students three times a week) and Kaffestunde (coffeehouse). Delta Phi Alpha (German Honorary) and the German Floor work closely together for all activities. All in all, Wells is an amazing community, and the students and faculty members enjoy each other very much. -- Beate Schröter
STAFF NEWS

With the support of the Hampton Fund, Audrone Willeke spent a month in Germany in summer 1999 to further her acquaintance with recent developments in German theater. She participated in a week-long theater seminar organized by the Goethe Institute in Berlin. The seminar included attendance at theater performances as well as discussions with directors, actors and theater critics. She also worked at the archive of dramatist Georg Kaiser at the Berlin Academy of Arts and presented an invited paper at the Georg Kaiser Symposium. During her stay in Germany she was able to see a number of plays that she often includes in her courses at Miami University, such as Lessing's "Minna von Barnhelm" and Brecht's "Three-Penny Opera." In Weimar she had the rare opportunity to see "Faust I" and "Faust II" performed in one evening—a six-hour marathon in celebration of Goethe's 250th birthday.

John M. Jeep has recently finished editing a first, 3,311 page manuscript version of "Medieval Germany: An Encyclopedia," for Garland Publishing. Recent publications include studies of "Friendship among Women" in eleventh-century Germany and alliterating word-pairs in early Middle High German, in Gottfried von Straßburg, and in the "Nibelungenlied." He directed the Austrian Scholars Program 1999 and will, as in 1998, co-direct the Heidelberg/Jena/Berlin Intensive German Summer Program 2000. Jeep paid a visit to his Austrian host family from 1972-73 and hosted his exchange grandchild Natasha-Gabriela Mayr during much of 1999.

After seven years with us, Nickolaus Euba is now teaching German at the University of South Carolina, from where he wrote recently:

"Things are going very well, so far. I found a spacious 2-bedroom apartment about 5 minutes driving distance from campus on the edge of a nice residential neighbourhood. . . . Believe it or not: I'm thinking of you, of Oxford, of Miami...It's been (and still is) a big transition, not completely undesirable, but significant.

"I'm currently teaching 4 classes (@3 credits) which is the regular teaching load for instructors. Two are the equivalent of Miami's 111, one is a second-year course (students here are already beyond the requirement at that stage), and one is a Business German course for students in the MIBS (Master of International Business) program. I'm also serving on the curriculum committee, we're working on overhauling pretty much everything on the undergraduate level.

"Last not least - who else could be advising the German club but me??? Good thing that we have Stammtisch in a Bar at night, so I can avoid the dining halls. It's pretty busy, especially since I still have to learn all the ins and outs. But all colleagues are most helpful, so I have no reason to complain. Greetings from the south, y'all!" -- Niko

Mine Eren has completed her PhD in German at Brown and has joined the faculty at OSU.

NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNI

Russian Program:

Jane Collette:
In 1995-1996 Jane Collette interned at the Eurasia Foundation in Moscow. Her work involved
grant-making for Russian organizations pursuing democratic, economic, and legal reform.

Anthony Gallager:

He taught English in Japan from 1995 to 1997 and travelled extensively in Southeast Asia and Russia, where he had a business internship in the winter of 1997-1998 in the city of Tver. Anthony is now back in his hometown of Chicago working for an investment management firm.

Jeff and Ria Nieboer (formerly Kawashima):

had a son, Scott James on May 8, 1998. The Nieboers are living in Holland, Michigan.

Stacey Skoczen:

Stacey, who spent time in the Peace Corps in Ukraine following graduation, is now working for Marriott Hotels and applying to law school.

German Program

Kathryn Black Zigmont (1960):

The Army assigned her to teach German in Baumholder Germany after she had left Miami with a German major where she won country-wide honors as teacher of the year. She retired from teaching last year, but has been looking for conversation partners in the Warren, NJ area.

Madeleine Sulyi Knapp Disney <mdisney@seidata.com> (1963):

She has taught high school German for the past eleven years in nearby Brookville, Indiana after having earned her M.Ed. in German at Ball State in 1982. A frequent visitor (with students) to our annual cabaret performances, she also maintains correspondence with a large circle of friends and relatives all over Europe, Asia, and South America.

Charles E. Arganbright:

He writes to recall his classes with Jacques Breitenbucher over thirty years ago. He has had the opportunity to use his German while traveling abroad or occasionally in conversation with Germans in our country.

Rebecca (Flowers) Farr <rafarr@erols.com> (1980):

Becky started a long, newsy letter with: "Gestern fand ich im Post das GREAL Newsletter. Vielen Dank dafuer...ich freue mich, dass Sie meine richtige Addresse noch haben. But since I am a little rusty, [not bad after 19 yrs.led.}"I will switch to English. I am sorry to say I don't get much opportunity to use my languages...it would be great, but the right circumstances have just not occured to make that happen.

"I got a BA in German and BS in physics at MU in 1980. I also took three years of
Russian. I have not added any other degrees, although I've taken various courses with several universities since then. . . . I married Jay Farr right after graduation in July 1980 and we now have one son, James, who [turned] 7 in May.

Becky, most recently at Goddard in Maryland, was hoping for a transfer to Huntsville, AL.

**Kim Davies Traum** <ktraum@advanstar.com> (1984):

After an M.A. in German at Illinois State and a Fulbright year in Frankfurt the next year, she went on to a BFA in graphic design at Kent State in 1994. She still uses German in her design job with Advanstar Communications in Cleveland, translating materials from German publications and corresponding with contributing authors from German-speaking countries. She lives with her husband Matt in Lakewood.

**Klaus Hornell** (1987):

Klaus wrote recently from L.A., where he and his Chinese-born wife are located. They lived for three years in Taiwan, and since then Klaus has been involved in international sales and marketing. He is also still involved in the German Trachtenverein movement. He is fluent in both Chinese and German.

**Anthony Frey** (1988):

"I graduated from Miami in '88, went to flight school in Pensacola, FL, Sacramento, CA, and Jacksonville, FL. From there I married and went to Brunswick, ME to my first (and only) squadron. In '93 we moved to Puerto Rico for 3 years. Then in '96 we moved to Everett, WA, just north of Seattle where I was stationed aboard USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (nuclear powered aircraft carrier).

"Toward the end of '98 I decided to exit the Navy and get a real life, so I landed a job here "in der Naehe von" Charleston, SC. I am a government contractor supporting the Navy, so it's some of the same stuff. We have 5 children. The biggest news, in my opinion, is that we are getting ready to move into our first (new) home. " The move is now complete.

**Randy Wheeler** (1990):

He now serves as an account manager for Information Resources in Düsseldorf, Germany.

**Mark Wiltshire** (1992):

"Ich bin seit 6 Jahren in Europa, 5 davon in Frankfurt im Bankgewerbe tätig. Falls Sie oder andere MU Studenten oder Professoren nach Deutschland reisen, leiste ich gerne Unterstützung. Sie kennen mich unter folgende e-mail erreichen: mark.wiltshire@commerzbankib.com."

**Andrew Werner:**

Now living and working in Charlotte, NC, Andy is one of three former graduate
students who participated as staff members during the memorable summer '89 Heidelberg/Berlin workshop. The other two follow:

Xiao Liu:

Wrote recently, "This is Xiao Liu (Shaw Lou). Somehow, somebody found my address in San Jose, and sent me a copy of the recently published GREAL newsletter, which brought back the most wonderful memorable time I had with the professors and fellow students in Irvin Hall. I am really very, happy to hear from you. This is first time I heard anything about GREAL since 1995.

"About 5 years ago, I accepted a job in a New Jersey company, which sent me back to China to set up and manage a sensor manufacturing operations . . . I came back to States back last October. Since then, I have been working for a telecommunication company (Local Access Network), which does a great deal of business with mainland China. I am the Program Manager coordinating the activities of engineering, manufacturing and technical service support in the field of China. I like Silicon Valley . . .

"Recently, I have been practicing German (I am probably only at survival or intermediate level) with a co-worker from Switzerland. I hope it will help."

Dan Thornton <thor@email.unc.edu> (M.A.1992)

Defended his dissertation, "Dualities: The Unreconciled Past in Dutch and Austrian Literature of the 1980s," 10/21/99 at the University of North Carolina, and is looking forward to grant-supported work on a book about contemporary fiction by Dutch-Jewish authors.

Katherine Cassidy (1991):

Katy reports being employed in elementary education in the Dallas area.

Erin Donovan Conrad <erin.conrad@ogilvy.com> (1993):

Writing to recall the Heidelberg/Berlin trip in the summer of 1991, Erin says "it was the best thing I ever did." She's living with her husband of four years in Detroit. "Oddly enough it was my German skills that got me the in with an agency here. I began at Ross Roy Communications working on the Chrysler International Account and I was using my German daily. But I have since moved on and . . no more German right now and I miss it dearly."

Kristina L. Campbell Zülicke (1993):

Stopped by for a visit last semester on a visit from Karlsruhe, where she has been living with her German husband.

William Weisenburger (1994):

Bill just showed up in Irvin for a quick visit last week. He's recently taken his beer brewing skills from New Orleans to York, PA, where he is "Braufuehrer" at the local
microbrewery. He and his wife live in a small rural community near the Mason-Dixon Line.

Virginia Cooper (1994):

Stopped by for a visit last semester on a visit from San Francisco, where she was inbetween jobs.

Heidi Ferguson:

and her German mate, Peter, are living in Heidelberg, where they have an extra apartment in which Niko Euba stayed during the Summer Program. They are involved in the telecommunications/computer field.

Susan Porter-Pintz (1995):

Susan Porter married Henry Pintz and is working in the global finance world in Columbus, where she and Henry have a home. "Work is going well. I am learning lots and getting some great knowledge. More than ever I know that knowledge truly is power. It opens doors and really takes you places. General knowledge too... not just sucess in a particular field but the ability to learn and anaylze what you have learned. MU is not heading in the wrong direction. There were times I really wondered why liberal education was important, but I see it every day, I love the learning. (Ok I sound like a liberal education poster child, but really it is so true. those who think, move; those who don't, get swept away.)"

Kevin Speers:

He's now studying at Georgetown after having worked for Procter and Gamble.

Kristin Phillips (1996):

Currently at the University of Vermont, Kristen is enrolled in a graduate program in college administration.

Nikki Grosklos <n.grosklos@cwix.com> (1996):

"Tell your students who may be interested in teaching German, there really are many job opportunities, a lot more than I imagined there would be, especially if you can move away. " Nikki finished her Masters at OSU and is now teaching FLEX German at Olentangy Middle School, near Delaware, OH.

Sean Killian (1997):

"Ich wurde zum Euromasters Programm akzeptiert. Im September studiere ich bis Dezember bei University of Bath, England, und dann weiter noch 9 Monate bei Humboldt Universität zu Berlin." This follows a year of teaching English at an Austrian gymnasium under the auspices of the Fulbright Program.

Charmaine Marosi <am2edit@nowonline.net>(1997):
Charmaine is currently doing editorial work in Cleveland for a magazine that covers the appliance industry.

David Michel <dsmichel@yahoo.com>(1997):

After jobbing a while in the Louisville area, David writes, "At long last, I got a real job. It is at Mazer, near the Dayton Airport. I will work as a proofreader."

Joe Neumayer (1998):

After a summer in Germany and at the Concordia Language Camp in MN, now teaches German and Biology in the Chicago area, will coach JV swimming as well. He loves his colleagues and students!

Tom Stefaniuk <stefaniuktom@hotmail.com> (1998):

Fulbright Teaching Awardee Thomas Stefaniuk writes: "Things are going quite well here in Linz. My job is great. I really enjoy working with the teenagers (16-18 year olds), even though it is at times difficult to get some of them to talk. The majority of the teachers I also like.

"I am in two gymnasien and work 12 hours a week (I'm not complaining), which leaves me a lot of free time. I spend most of this giving private tutoring, and playing basketball in the Linz club team (Bundesliga B: <www.oebv.or.at>), which is a lot of fun, (and a good way to combat the drinking of austrian beer, which, by the way, doesn't compare to german beer, in my opinion). And I'm even starting to understand the dialect to a good degree."

Ryan Paul <idsein@hotmail.com> (1999):

"After the summer spent in Ingolstadt [internship with Audi] (and galavanting across Italy, Austria, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Finland in August), I'm in Detroit, studying design at the Center for Creative Studies. Quite a switch from the Biology and German that I'm used to, but I'm adapting as quickly as possible."

Noah Bieczszad (1999):

Noah is interning in winemaking (Rheinland-Pfalz) through the Congress-Bundestag exchange.

Natalie Brooke (1999):

Fulbright has sent Natalie on a year's teaching assistantship to a gymnasium in Fulda.

If you don't see yourself listed, please send us a quick update and you'll be sure to be included in the newsletter next semester. You can look for it to appear in March.

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