

GLLS

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Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our second issue of the newly designed Newsletter. I am once again delighted to share with you the news of our Department's accomplishments since the last time I wrote.

In common with the rest of the University, we continue facing the challenge of severe budgetary shortages at a time when social, cultural, and political pressures on the academic world are becoming ever more urgent and extreme. Maintaining the integrity of a first-class system of higher education is becoming more vital to our society than perhaps ever before. I know that I speak for all of my colleagues and staff in the Department in affirming our commitment to the importance of that ideal. We intend sparing no efforts in seeking to strengthen the excellence of our undergraduate programs, building our unique graduate program in German Studies, and supporting the scholarship of our distinguished faculty. I genuinely believe that our Department sets the gold standard in this respect – not only for other units in the College of LS&A, but also for German departments around the United States. The booming enrollments of our undergraduate program, sustained not just by the excellence of our instruction, but also by the dynamism of our recruitment initiatives



and the effectiveness of our advising, remain the envy of German departments elsewhere. The national reputation of “the Michigan model”—as a new interdisciplinary approach to German Studies—grows from strength to strength. The cross-disciplinary range of our distinguished faculty remains unique.

In many respects this has been a rather uneventful term, in large part because such a large number of my colleagues have been away on much-needed research leave. In addition, Helmut Puff is spending the current year as the University's Resident Director of the Academic Year in Freiburg. The upside of this perennial phenomenon, fortunately, is the opportunity to welcome some distinguished faculty as visitors to the Department. Currently they include Professor Pascal Grosse from the Humboldt University of Berlin, an internationally renowned historian of colonialism, medical historian, and neurosurgeon, who is now teaching for his third term at Michigan. In the Winter Term 2006 we are delighted to be welcoming two distinguished visitors from Sweden, Professors Sara Danius and Stefan Jonsson, who will be teaching in our German and Scandinavian literature programs. Finally, we also benefit enormously from the presence in the Department of two postdoctoral fellows, Ulrike Peters Nichols and Susi Vees-Gulani.

I am pleased to report that during the summer we submitted our Long-Range Plan to the College of LS&A, whose Executive Committee will shortly be sending us its reactions. Everything involved in producing the Long-Range Plan consumed a considerable part of last academic year and afforded excellent opportunity for taking stock of all we have now achieved. The process of preparing the Plan has also laid the foundations of further advance. Though at times extremely exhausting, all the work involved – and the intense exchanging of ideas – helped bring us together wonderfully as a Department. The sustained efforts of both the faculty and our superb members of staff were essential to this success.

With so many of our colleagues either on research leave or performing duties off campus, this Fall term has been administratively rather a complicated one. Johannes von Moltke has agreed to succeed Scott Spector as my Associate Chair, and he will take up these duties on returning from Germany in January 2006. In the meantime Silke Weineck has been generously performing the role of Graduate Advisor. Andrei Markovits has been continuing Fred Amrine's fine work as Department Development Officer.

So we entered this new academic year in a mood of confidence and considered optimism. We are proud of the excellence of the education we can offer to our varied constituencies of undergraduates, and we are proud of the scholarly excellence of our faculty. Those twin values will always go together.


Geoff Eley
ghe@umich.edu

Community Connection

De Vries–VanderKooy Lecture 2005 Presents Jonathan Israel

by Ton Broos

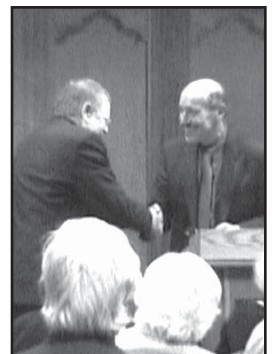
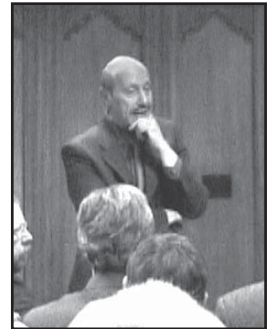
The tenth annual DeVries–VanderKooy Memorial Lecture organized by Dutch Studies was a memorable event. The organizers had been able to invite a most famous scholar, Jonathan Israel, who, according to this author, is *the* authority on Dutch history of the golden age. He has been associated for the last four years with the prestigious Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton, once the home of Albert Einstein. Besides his many travels around the world, he spends much of his time in London, as he used to teach at University College. The plaque on our departmental wall to commemorate the evening, mentions him as ‘historian and philosopher’, and it is in the latter capacity that nowadays he occupies himself in his scholarly endeavors. Still, his works on Dutch history attracted the attention of historians of the 17th and 18th century. He told us that his interest in the Low Countries started with his expertise in Spanish historical documents leading him to the 80 Years War (1568-1648) between these two historical powers. This led to his monumental work *‘The Dutch Republic. Its Rise, Greatness, and Fall 1477-1806’*, already a classic in its field.

At his lecture, Dr. Israel proved his erudite scholarship when talking about the group of radical thinkers around the famous Dutch Philosopher Spinoza. As shown in his great historical work *‘Radical Enlightenment’*, he once again propagated the notion that the Dutch Republic can be said to have led the way in the shaping of the European Radical

Enlightenment and that Spinoza was the foremost philosopher of democratic thinking, equality, secular values and universality. It was very rewarding for Professor Israel to meet with colleagues from History and Judaic Studies. He was also invited to a graduate seminar with students of Professor Curley in the Philosophy department.

The high quality of the speakers every year brings excitement to the Michigan campus for the DeVries–VanderKooy Memorial Lecture and its variety of topics. One could mention for instance Holocaust survivors Ina Soep and her husband Jaap Polak. There were memorable evenings with Leo Vroman, famous Dutch poet and biologist, and Monty Beekman a scholar of Dutch Indies Literature. We had remarkable visitors from the Netherlands in Corrie Hermann, member of the Dutch Parliament and Richard Lauwaars, a supreme Court justice, not forgetting Marion Pritchard who saved so many Jewish children in World War II. Three years ago, Charles Gehring, the director of the New Netherlands Project in Albany gave us a picture of New Amsterdam and a year later we welcomed Robert Swierenga, author of *‘The Dutch in Chicago’* and an authority on Dutch immigration to the U.S. Philo Bregstein was our speaker in 2005 who discussed his work *‘Jewish Amsterdam’*.

We are looking forward to seeing you at next year’s lecture. Please join us!



Spinoza and Other Dutch Intellectual Rebels of the Late Golden Age (1650–1720) was the subject of the 2005 DeVries–VanderKooy Memorial Lecture.

A video of this presentation is available.
Please contact Ton Broos at (734) 764-5370,
or email him at tonbroos@umich.edu



www.lsa.umich.edu/german/dutch/supportdutch/

2004
Departmental
Excellence
Award

Faculty of Excellence

A Tribute to Professor Robert Kyes—Scholar and Teacher

Professor Kyes joined the faculty at the U-M in 1964. Born and raised in Michigan, Professor Kyes has lived most of his life in Ann Arbor. He is on retirement furlough for the 2005 calendar year. He will begin the official retirement phase of his life in January, 2006. When I asked about how he became interested in German, he replied, "My interest in German began when I was a freshman at U-M, hoping to major in chemistry. Chemistry majors in those days had to take German, so I signed up for German as well. The more chemistry courses I took, the less I liked it—but with every German course my interest in German language and literature grew, and in my fourth semester I decided to drop chemistry and major in German. My German 232 teacher, Prof. Frank Braun, was the inspiration for this decision."

You've been teaching for more than 40 years—tell me about the changes you've witnessed.

I think it's a little sad to see interest in historical and comparative Germanic linguistics disappearing. But on the other hand, it's being replaced with an interdisciplinary outlook that is more attractive for both graduate and undergraduate students. With interdisciplinary options, students have a multitude of areas in which they can specialize. It is evident as well in the number of professors that have joint appointments with other departments, such as Linguistics, History, Film Studies, Political Science, Sociology, etc.

I would also speculate that this is the main reason our enrollment has been steadily increasing. I think we are way ahead of German Studies programs at other universities, mainly because of our interdisciplinary curriculum. I continue to be pleased with the caliber of our students, they're always interested, curious, and eager to learn. Many of my past students have been in touch, and continue to stay in touch via email. It's really exciting to hear about what they are doing with their lives. Some of them have continued studying German, earning Ph.D.'s, and eventually teaching in high schools and universities themselves.

Aside from teaching, what projects are you currently working on?

I am working on two major book projects now, and will continue to work on them after I fully retire in January. They are 'Old Saxon: Grammar and Texts' and 'Die deutsche Sprache von den Anfängen bis zur Gegenwart' (for American undergraduate students). I have found these to be really useful in my classes, and plan to publish them as textbooks.

On the non-academic side, I plan to spend a lot of time gardening—under my wife's supervision, of course. We are converting three acres of lawn into meadow—it's really amazing the number and type of animals we've seen; coyotes, fox, deer.

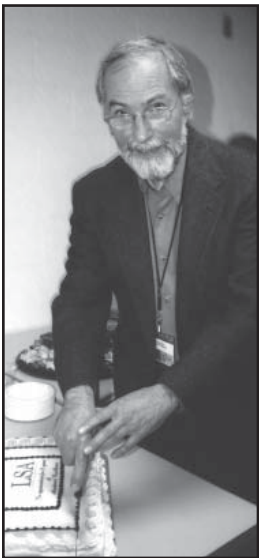
Our travel plans include Alaska, Botswana, and frequent trips to Austria.

Share with us some of your fondest memories.

One of my fondest memories is my retirement party, held during the 2004 Germanic Linguistics Conference here at the University of Michigan, where some very nice things were said about me, and I was given two wonderful going-away gifts: a facsimile copy of the 9th century 'Hildebrandslied', and a bottle of Runestone wine, produced and bottled by Claiborne Thompson, former Chair of this department and Professor of Old Norse Studies, now residing in California. The 'Hildebrandslied' has always held a position of honor and special attention in my courses on Old High German. The label on the wine bottle shows an ancient runic inscription reading: 'This wine was made by Claiborne and Frederika'.

Another is the Festschrift in my honor prepared by former students and colleagues, a special issue of the American Journal of Germanic Linguistics and Literatures, in the spring of 2000.

And of course my fondest memories include every one of my former students, many of whom have gone on to become scholars in Germanic linguistics or medieval literature at other universities. All of whom have enriched my life beyond measure.



Professor Bob Kyes at his retirement party
May 2004

Bob Kyes is an inspiration to students and colleagues alike for his tireless dedication to the teaching of the German language and to research on the history of the language.

Robin Queen,
Asst. Professor

Award–Winning Professor Geoff Eley

Born and educated in England, Geoff Eley taught at the University of Cambridge before joining the Michigan History Department in 1979. Associate Professor in 1981 and Professor in 1986, he is now Sylvia L. Thrupp Collegiate Professor of Comparative History. Actively associated with the Germanic Languages and Literatures Department from the onset, he worked closely with previous Chair Fred Amrine and other faculty in developing a new long-term vision for the Department. A leading German historian of his generation, he has long been associated with an interdisciplinary ideal of German Studies. He became Chair of the Germanic Department in 2004.

Eley's first book, *Reshaping the German Right: Radical Nationalism and Political Change after Bismarck*, was published in 1980. That same year he coauthored *The Peculiarities of German History* with his friend David Blackbourn, a book which decisively changed how historians think about the German past. He has since published two further books on German history, while editing several volumes on new approaches to the German past. He also edits a book series for University of Michigan Press, Social History, Popular Culture, and Politics in Germany, which since 1988 counts some fifty titles. He has served for many years on the boards of Social History, New German Critique, German History, and WerkstattGeschichte

In 2002 Eley published *Forging Democracy, a general history of the Left in Europe*. He has coedited anthologies on nationalism and on contemporary social theory. These projects grew from the inter-

disciplinary Program on the Comparative Study of Social Transformations (CSST), founded at Michigan in 1987, which Eley directed during the 1990s. His most recent book, *A Crooked Line: From Cultural History to the History of Society*, on changes in historical studies since the 1960s, appeared in 2005.

Eley plays soccer in the Ann Arbor Soccer Association and at the Wide World of Sports. He reads fiction voraciously, alternating between mysteries and "serious" novels. He watches films compulsively and in fall 2002 directed Film and Video Studies (now



Screen Arts and Cultures). He reads the Guardian every morning online, enjoys good food and wine, loves the Pacific Northwest, feels like an ornithologist manqué, and remembers a time when socialism seemed feasible. He has two adult daughters living and working in Chicago and Northampton. He lives in Ann Arbor with fellow historian Gina Morantz-Sanchez and their dog Bagel.

Geoff Eley signing his most recent book, *A Crooked Line*, at Shaman Drum bookstore, Ann Arbor.

Professor Eley received the 2005 John H. D'Arms Award for Distinguished Graduate Mentoring in the Humanities from the Rackham Graduate School.

In 2003–2004 he received the Guggenheim Fellowship.

Technology Surges in German 425

For students in Mike Putnam's Advanced German class, *Moderne Deutsche Jugendkultur*, using the internet to chat online and post pictures is deeper than a recreational activity; it is forming a bridge between two cultures.

Employing the internet as a resource, Post-Doctoral Lecturer Mike Putnam and his counterpart Martina Kaltenbacher, a teacher at Leibniz Gymnasium in Kreuzberg (Berlin), Germany, have partnered their classes online—allowing students to meet each other and learn first-hand how their German and American peers use language. At



Students from Mike Putnam's *Moderne Deutsche Jugendkultur* class use the internet to connect with their peers in Berlin.

first it doesn't seem like such a big deal, but when you consider how we have historically taught students about a culture and its language—through textbooks, and the rare and costly event of visiting, or having a visitor from, a different country—the implementation of technology as an addition to further cultural exchange is quite handy. For Putnam's students, this purposeful electronic community provides a two-way connection for both the American and German students to learn about the others' culture and use of language.

On their classroom website, the students have profiles that describe their interests and hobbies and display photos. They can browse each others' profiles and communicate with one another via email or postings. "An important aspect of youth language is the terminology that they use between themselves. This just isn't available in textbooks, or even

with a young Lecturer like myself" states Michael. "Slang is as prevalent in other cultures as it is in American culture. And it's a great way for language students to connect." Putnam states that "slang is the development of a youth language. It gives perspective on how kids view themselves and their society." Having the ability to interact over the internet gives students the opportunity to see what language terminology they use between themselves and their peers, and what terminology they use to communicate to outside groups.

Most students don't chat real-time because of the 6-hour time difference, but the internet provides an ideal medium for language students to communicate with native speakers. And because they share similar experiences, the students are able to connect pretty quickly with each other—they either share a lot of the same interests or are eager to learn about someone else's. Putnam sees the online community as supplementary work to his classes. Students are still required to complete one written essay each week, as well as various readings. While Putnam demonstrated the structure of the web pages—chat forum, profile page, who's on, and class project pages—he was ecstatic to see more than 40 messages had been exchanged between students during the first four days of being live.

As site administrators, Putnam and Kaltenbacher are able to see the messages that the students post and monitor them for appropriateness. The most important advantage is being able to tailor-fit class discussions around current events. For example, the recent election for Chancellor, German perspectives on US politics, and of course, sports.

Putnam is pleased with the students' motivation and enthusiasm for the site. His observations indicate that students spend more time logged into

continued next page

"Email is great! But the time difference is a barrier," states Lecturer Mike Putnam

First Ever German–American Career Day

Four years ago, the Germanic Languages & Literatures Department and CDS International established a collaborative summer internship program to assist U-M students interested in internships in Germany. Each summer, 15-20 undergraduate and graduate students benefit from this wonderful opportunity to gain work experience and improve their German language skills while working with a company in Germany. The German-American Career Day complements this program and provides a platform for students to explore internship and employment opportunities with German companies here at home in Michigan.

Through the extraordinary efforts of Peggy Wunderwald–Jensen our very first German-American Career Day took place November 10. Sponsored by CDS International and GLL, this event was attended by more than one hundred students. Fifteen companies were represented, including Audi/Volkswagen, Benteler Automotive, DaimlerChrysler, Henkel Technologies, Karmann, and Siemens. Company representatives formed a panel where they spoke about their company, recruiting strategies and expectations from future employees in a global market.



Panelists (top) prepare to share insight into their company's recruitment and hiring strategies, as well as the exciting opportunities they have available abroad. CDS International (bottom) were available for consultation, as were 12 other companies and The Career Center from the University of Michigan.

Technology Surges... *continued from previous page*

this online community than they would with more traditional methods. He is quick to note however, that the purpose of this web community is not to replace what is taught in the classroom, but simply to enable students to use the skills that they have learned in the classroom for first-hand interaction with foreign peers. Primarily the students are getting to know one another; sending messages about sports, hobbies, and classes. They share photos and surprisingly the majority of messages are in a

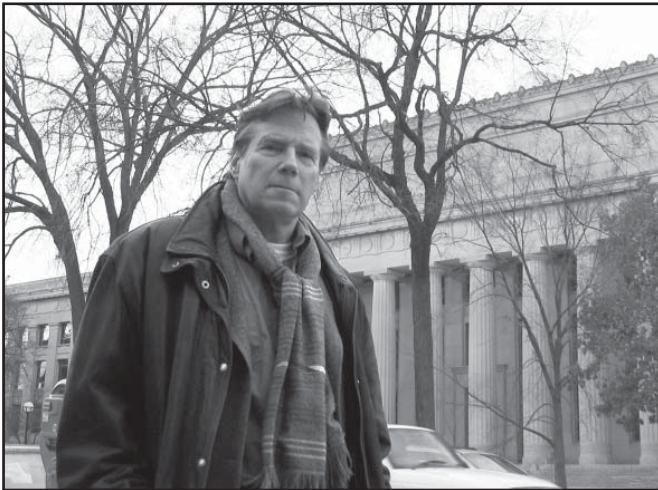
hybrid of both English and German. Students alternate between German and English languages as if it's the most natural thing in the world.

What do the students get out of it? What the students are learning is a true cultural perspective, what's it's like to really be there, in a different country, with the perspective of a peer. It provides students from both countries with real conversation skills because they are in steady contact with one another.

Chris Lorenz—Reading the Past / Writing the Future

Through the visiting Professor program we welcome Professor Chris Lorenz from Free University of Amsterdam. A professor of History, he specializes in the fields of historical theory, the relationship of history and the social sciences, the history of 19th and 20th century European historiography and on comparative history.

Professor Lorenz has taught history for more than twenty years, and has been a visiting professor in Germany, Austria, and S. Africa. Having moved



Professor Chris Lorenz' NHIST volume will be published in 2006.

to Ann Arbor in August, he plans to stay through the fall semester to teach 19th Century German and European Intellectual History and Thought (German 401/402, History 416/417), as well as continue the writing

and research for his other projects. In addition to teaching, he is focusing on two major projects: the European Science Foundation (ESF) project in National Historiographies in Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries in comparison (NHIST), visit www.uni-leipzig.de/zhs/esf-nhist/, and the effects of European integration on Dutch higher education policies in a comparative European framework. Please see hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/index.asp?pn=texte&id=209.

The NHIST project is in its second year of a five year schedule. Its aim is to produce a multi-volume overview of how the various representations of 'the nation' in Europe over the 19th and 20th century have been interacting with one another. Divid-

ed into four teams, more than 60 leading scholars from more than 20 European countries are collaborating in this project. Professor Lorenz is leader of Team 2 together with Stefan Berger (Manchester). This team is concentrating on national narratives and their interrelationship with ethnicity, religion, class and gender. The volume produced by this team will be out in 2006. Professor Lorenz is very enthusiastic about this project because this is the first time that an attempt has been made to chart both the similarities and the differences of national historiographical traditions on a Europe-wide basis as well as the interactions between national historical traditions. This project is simultaneously focusing on comparison and on processes of transfer in historiography.

Professor Lorenz is also engaged with the effects of the European integration on national systems of higher education in Europe. In his view the present EU-policies favor the transformation of universities into corporation-like organizations and the transformation of higher education from a right of citizens into a marketable commodity. This 'economization' of the educational system has profound negative influences on education as we know it. It is accompanied by the complete take over of the educational institutions by a managerial class that reduces all notions of quality into measurable quantities and that uses audits and 'Qualispeak' as its main instruments of control. Using the Netherlands as an example, he states that the faculty, now under policies enacted by the Bologna Declaration, have lost the power to determine the curriculum, and instead, managers now make all decisions about educational matters and priorities. Professor Lorenz presented his view at a lecture October 13, entitled "Higher Education Policies in the Netherlands before and after the Bologna Declaration". Professor Lorenz will come back to these issues in a lecture at Wayne State University, November 29th.

Contact Professor Lorenz at cfglor@umich.edu.

Scandinavian Studies

Welcome Visiting Professors Sara Danius and Stefan Jonsson

From Sara

It's late in the evening. Our five-year-old son, Leo, is fast asleep. To my left: a pile of papers waiting to be graded. To my right: an essay by Stendhal on laughter. On the radio: obscure Romanian songs. That's at least a snapshot of life over here.

Stefan and I feel honored that we have been invited to spend the winter semester at U-M. We very much look forward to getting to know students and faculty. We know that the department is dynamic and expansive, with an impressive scholarly profile. For us this is a great opportunity to reconnect with academic life in the US. We spent the greater part of the 1990s in the US, first as graduate students at Duke, then as postdoctoral scholars in L.A. At U-M, we will be teaching two courses each, and hope to make progress on our research projects.

From Stefan

Just before sitting down to do this self-presentation I finished writing a review of a new Swedish translation of Sebastian Haffner's *The Betrayed Revolution*. (*Die verratene Revolution*). This is the kind of work I do as cultural critic at the major daily in Sweden, Dagens Nyheter. I'm also a literary scholar and associate professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of Linköping, Sweden. It is in this capacity that I will be coming to Ann Arbor.

I'm grateful for this opportunity to reconnect with friends and colleagues. And we're excited about returning to the intellectual atmosphere of a great American campus. My wife Sara Danius and I graduated from the Program in Literature at Duke University in 1997 and then spent two years in Los Angeles, where I was fellow at the Getty Research Institute and completed a book about Robert Mulsil, *Subject Without Nation* (Duke UP, 2000).

I am associate professor in the Department of Literature at Uppsala University. I received my Ph.D. from the Literature Program at Duke in 1997. I also hold a doctoral degree from Uppsala, as well as an M.A. in Critical Theory from Nottingham University. In 2001–02, I was a Fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin. My publications include *The Senses of Modernism: Technology, Perception, and Aesthetics* (Cornell U. P., 2002) and a book on Gustave Flaubert, *The Prose of the World* (forthcoming).

Currently I am at work on a book on realism and the art of making things visible. Designed as a prehistory of modernism, the project takes a closer new look at the realist novel by inquiring into the strong affinity between realism and the visible aspects of the world.

While in Michigan I hope to bring a large research project a bit closer to completion, which deals with representations of masses and collectives in inter-war German and Austrian culture. I will teach a course on this material and am eager to discuss it with students and faculty. My most recent book is a kind of prototype for this project, *Three Revolutions: A Brief History of the People 1789, 1889, 1989*. I will also teach a course on post-war Scandinavian society and culture. Perhaps I can attract the students to some remarkable novels, films, and ideas that deserve wider attention than works from minor languages usually receive.

Sara Danius will be teaching Special Topics in English Translation: Realism, Mimesis, and Photography as well as Romanticism to Realism: Readings in Nineteenth Century Prose (German 449 and German 384).



Visiting Professor
Stefan Jonsson

Signe Karlström Memorial Lecture

— presents —

Göran Therborn, Director, Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study in the Social Sciences, University Professor of Sociology, Uppsala University **April 3–7, 2006**

Dear Friends and Alums

It is my great pleasure to address you for the first time in my capacity of our Department's *Development Officer*.

My dear friend and colleague, Fred Amrine, introduced me to you in his last letter to friends and alum. I am delighted to serve the Department and the University in my new role.

Let me state unequivocally, that our Department is doing wonderfully. We have been rechristened to "Department of German, Dutch and Scandinavian Studies" bespeaking the fact that we have become so much more than a standard literature and language department. We have taken Michigan's famous interdisciplinarity to new heights in every respect of our academic existence: research, as well as teaching of graduate and undergraduate students.

I know very well from Fred and — of course, first hand — what your wonderful financial support has meant to this Department during this phase of remarkable transition and transformation. But in order to maintain our cutting-edge status in the field, we will continue to need your generous financial support. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss any and all matters pertaining to your wishes and suggestions concerning the Department's future and your involvement in it. Believe me, we need you.

Please do stay in touch. We are always eager to hear from you.

With all good wishes,

Andrei S. Markovits
Karl W. Deutsch Collegiate Professor of
Comparative Politics and German Studies
andymark@umich.edu



Giving to the Department has increased ten-fold over the last five years, we are extremely grateful to our many supporters and benefactors for their trust and gifts of support. The quality and diversity of the programs and opportunities we provide for graduate and undergraduate students would not be possible without this support. Please join the Michigan Difference Campaign with your donation.

- Katharina and Kurt Bettsteller, Sr. (German-American history)
- Frank X. Braun (grad teaching prize)
- Bronson-Thomas (ugrad prizes)
- Alan P. Cottrell (grad support)
- Dutch Studies Fund
- Anne Frank Fund (Dutch course support)
- Marilyn Sibley Fries (study in Berlin)
- Otto Graf Endowment (grad support)
- Martin Haller (ugrad thesis prize)
- Werner and Elizabeth Hartmann (department library)
- V.C. Hubbs (study abroad in Freiburg)
- Max Kade (German language residence)
- Kothe-Hildner (ugrad prizes)
- Mechthild Medzihradsky (internships)
- Mun-Kyes (Germanic linguistics)
- Mildred N. Nelson (grad support)
- Arati Sharangpani (junior year abroad)
- Strategic Fund (unrestricted)
- Sturm Family Endowment (study, work abroad)
- Scandinavian Studies Fund
- George Valenta Endowment (Kade program)
- Hermann Weiss/Charles Parton (internships)
- Martijn Zwart Endowment (Dutch study abroad)

Mechthild Medzihradsky

Mechthild Medzihradsky was the Department secretary for more than 20 years. Her name appears lyrical and formidable — traits that Mechthild herself embodied.

Not able to have had the pleasure of meeting her personally—Ms. Medzihradsky passed away in 2001—I found during my inquiries about her, that at the moment I asked about her, eyes sparkled and mouth corners would lift into an easy, sly grin, as if preparing to tell an unbelievable story, one that is larger than life.

From others' memories, I learned of her sharp wit, outstanding professionalism, and unwavering determination. How she single-handedly created a legacy. Her gift was to place students into internships that not only provided vast experiences and self-discovery, but also suited both the student and employer, resulting in a beneficial situation for everyone.

A story that I heard a number of times was that Ms. Medzihradsky would frequently make calls at 2 a.m. to German companies in search of internship opportunities for our students. Being a native German, she spoke fluent German. That, in addition to her professional manner, made her very effective in securing internship opportunities.

Ms. Medzihradsky's internship legacy began in 1997 when she helped a student find an internship opportunity in a German-speaking country. Through careful research, her own insight and many transatlantic phone calls—a successful internship match was made. Other students soon sought similar assistance, and Ms. Medzihradsky gladly obliged. Thus began an effort that has helped more than 400 students find a wide variety of internships in several German-speaking countries.

Due to Mechthild's efforts the Department has one of the most successful German internship programs at an American University. Our students are strongly encouraged to participate in a program abroad during their course of study, and an internship provides invaluable work experience as well as cultural and language enhancement.

In 2001, an Internship Scholarship fund was started in honor of Mechthild Medzihradsky. With a current balance of \$4,000 the Department's goal is to increase the balance to \$10,000, creating an endowment which would allow scholarships to be awarded in perpetuity. These scholarships primarily assist students with flight and/or lodging expenses associated with their internship placement. Please consider the legacy that Mechthild began—donate to the Mechthild Medzihradsky fund today.



Mechthild Medzihradsky founded the Department's internship program.

As you consider your end-of-year contributions, we hope you will keep the Department in mind. You may have already received a separate letter highlighting how the Department has used your contributions over the past year, this letter included an envelope in which to enclose your gift for the coming year. You may also donate online, visit www.lsa.umich.edu/german/alumns/donate/ to learn more. As always, we appreciate your support.



As you consider making a cash gift to the Department by Dec. 31, here's news of a recent tax law change that may affect you. The Hurricane Katrina relief bill, which became law Sept. 23, is designed to encourage certain outright cash gifts made between Aug. 28 and Dec. 31, 2005. Highlights of the new law include:

- The contribution limit for certain outright gifts of cash has increased from 50% of adjusted gross income to 100% of adjusted gross income.
- These same outright gifts of cash are also exempt from the three-percent reduction in itemized deductions for individuals with an adjusted gross income over \$145,950.

**The Department of
Germanic Languages & Literatures**

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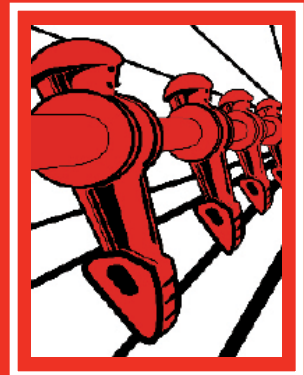
Development, featuring Mechthild Medzihradsky

Mechthild was a strong character in the Germanic Languages Department whom I remember very fondly! She helped me secure an internship in Heidelberg, Germany, after I had just completed my bachelor's degree in engineering. This internship was a great experience for me, because it not only helped me improve my German, but also helped me realize that I really enjoyed doing research. I remember her often times offering her sage advice by saying that I need to continue my education toward a professional degree, because "a master's degree is really the minimum nowadays". So, I took her advice and now I'm within a year of finishing my doctorate at Michigan. Thank you Mechthild!



Ben Sturm, Graduate Student,
Department of Nuclear Engineering and Radio Sciences

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