The Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures received the 2004 Departmental Excellence Award.
Dear Friends,

In many ways this is proving to be a reassuringly normal year. It is normal firstly because of the high levels of activity we have come to expect in all areas of our collective life, whether in the undergraduate classroom, in our flourishing Graduate Program, in the extraordinary numbers of lectures, seminars, conferences, and other intellectual events occurring in and around the Department, or in the many other ways in which our teaching and scholarly involvement occurs. Life in Michigan GDS, no less than in the College of LSA and the University more generally, involves a constant effervescence of ideas, conversation, and activity. But it is a normal year too because after a previous year which saw an exceptionally high number of leaves we have virtually a full contingent of faculty back “at home.” It’s wonderful to share in the resulting esprit.

During the summer we were delighted to receive the approval of the College for our Long-Range Plan, which rewarded our continuing accomplishments with a significant increment to our faculty strength. In conjunction with the senior search currently proceeding, this will allow us in the coming years to continue building to our strengths. In receiving such positive feedback from both the College Executive Committee and the Dean’s office, we can take great pleasure in a job well done.

On the administrative front of things Johannes von Moltke continues in his position as Associate Chair, for which we all owe him an extraordinary debt. We are delighted to welcome Johanna Eriksson back to the Department after her two-year leave of absence in Sweden. The strength of our Undergraduate Program continues unabated, reflected especially in the continuing upward trend of majors and minors, which has now been sustained over more than half a decade. For this unbroken record of success we remain especially indebted to the tireless efforts of our two coordinators, Hartmut Rastalsky and Kalli Federhofer. At the same time the seemingly limitless expansion of student numbers begins to place an impossible strain on our advising machinery (aka Kalli), and so during the present year we’re exploring ways of redistributing those responsibilities among the faculty. In the Graduate Program we saw both a further strengthening of the application pool and an excellent outcome to admissions. We have been delighted to welcome our new graduate students: Nick Block, Sarah Jackson, Solveig Heinz, Seth Howes, and Susan Buzzelli. And at the “exit” stage of the Program, we congratulated Jon Wipplinger and Avi Kempinski on the successful award of their Ph.D.s

We are lucky once again to welcome a number of visitors to the Department. They include Pascal Grosse, who is returning to teach jointly with History during the Fall Term; our Mellon Fellow, Anna Guillemin, who joins us for a two-year postdoctoral appointment; Hana Worthen, who joins us on a postdoctoral basis as Research Investigator for the coming academic year and possibly longer, depending on her preferred departmental affiliation; and Catherine Drittenbass, our latest visitor from Lausanne. Finally, I would also like to introduce the new visiting DAAD Professor Lars Rensmann. Though currently situated in Political Science, Lars will certainly be spending a great deal of his time over in the MLB.

As I approach the close of my term as Chair, I’m reminded once again of the extraordinary opportunities this Department continues to provide for critical learning, innovative scholarship, warm and challenging collegiality, and collective endeavor in the mission of the University. Michigan GDS is a remarkable place!

Geoff Eley

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Rochester Adams’ German Language Students Lead the World

Meet Janie Barner, German Language teacher at Rochester Adams High School. This year Janie’s students achieved exemplary school status in the AP Report to the Nation—for schools of 800 and over (approximately 15,000 worldwide) they had the best results in the world!

With a double-major in German and Political Science, Janie graduated from U-M in 1985. She began teaching high school German 16 years ago, and has been at Rochester Adams the entire time. Each fall she brings 40–50 of her German students to campus to attend German classes, meet faculty, and tour the campus. On average 10–15 of her students take our placement exam, and continue their studies in German language at the University of Michigan.

The students’ knowledge of German was clear, as they eagerly responded to inquiries from Kalli Federhofer and Johannes von Moltke. Janie’s commitment and enthusiasm leaves an indelible mark on her students and our department.

On October 4th, the department presented Janie Barner with German Teacher of the Year Award. This award recognizes Janie for her outstanding dedication to the study of German language, and to her World Class students. We applaud her inexhaustible commitment to both.

Andy Markovits on Tour with the World Cup

In June 2006 Andrei Markovits was named Gambrinus Visiting Professor for Soccer and Sport Studies at the University of Dortmund. Throughout the duration of the World Cup—and in the course of this honor—he delivered four lectures at the University of Dortmund, one lecture in Frankfurt, Tuebingen, Stuttgart, Hamburg, Basel (Switzerland), and two in Vienna and Berlin. Out of the sixty-four World Cup matches, he had the good fortune to attend sixteen, including the semi-final match between Germany and Italy.

Associate Professor Robin Queen

Robin Queen began her research on language variation in German-speaking Europe at a very young age. As a child born to American parents living in Germany, Queen’s first recognizable word is reported to have been “bitte” followed closely by the northern German variant of “gut” (pronounced roughly ‘yut’). A later exchange year to the Bernese countryside of Switzerland immersed her in the details of Bäárndüütsch, the dialect of German she still feels most comfortable using (beyond “standard” German). It was during that year that a passion for understanding something about the nature of German dialects and the relationship of language to other aspects of human life took strong root, a passion that has never dimmed.

As an undergraduate at Georgetown University, Queen studied German, linguistics, and theology, graduating as the valedictorian of the School of Languages and Linguistics in 1990. She began graduate work in Linguistics at the University of Texas where she completed her PhD in 1996 with a dissertation examining language variation and change among 2nd and 3rd generation Turks in Germany. Beginning in the fall of 1996, she taught in the English department at Kent State University and came to the University of Michigan in the fall of 1999 where she currently holds a joint position in the Departments of Linguistics and Germanic, Dutch and Scandinavian Studies. Queen was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at the end of the 2005–2006 academic year.

Queen’s dissertation research focused primarily on intonational change as one particular kind of contact-related language change and demonstrated mutual influence from German and Turkish on the intonational grammars of the young bilinguals with whom she worked. She has recently conducted a follow-up study of German-Turkish bilinguals that shows the continued development of contact-related language changes. In addition to her work on language contact and change in the context of multilingualism in German-speaking Europe, Queen has also done research on how linguistic variation in American mainstream films is dubbed into German and other aspects of language in the mass media in both German and English speaking contexts. She is currently researching the representation of the language of Turkish bilinguals in German in various mainstream films, such as the recent Fatih Akin film, Gegen die Wand. Finally, she is well-known for her scholarship on the relationships between language, gender, and sexuality. In that work, she has been especially focused on questions related to the linguistic expression of sexual identity among lesbians. In a turn to something completely different, she and Andrei Markovits are currently working on a project called the New Discourse of Dogs, a project that examines the changing ways in which humans in the industrialized world envision (and talk about) their relationships with dogs.

Queen has received several grants and fellowships to support her research, including two research fellowships from the German Academic Exchange Agency. She has co-organized several conferences, such as the German Language Association Conference, held at the University of Michigan in May 2004, and New Ways of Analyzing Variation, also held at the University of Michigan in September 2004. She is currently the co-editor, with Anne Curzan, of the Journal of English Linguistics. In her non-academic life, she is avidly involved in sheep herding, agility, and flyball with her four Border Collies and one beloved mutt.
Interview with Associate Professor Helmut Puff

Helmut, you directed Academic Year in Freiburg during the year 2005–06. This required you to live in Germany for a year, submerging yourself in the needs of 40 undergraduates. What inspired you to embark on such a task?

For me, it was a self-motivating move. The program I directed has become an expertly run operation over the years. In so many ways, I could rely on the work of my predecessors, and at the same time shape the program. I wanted to ensure that our students benefited from the unique opportunities offered by spending a year abroad—an experience I had myself when coming to the US as an exchange student in my early 20s. In Freiburg, I had a great deal more involvement beyond teaching—among other things, helping students through their academic and personal experiences and, in some cases, also through their crises. The directorship presented me with an entirely different set of challenges from my role here on the Ann Arbor campus. It was a truly invigorating year.

AYF brings students from four American universities to Freiburg. The program actively encourages students to experience Germany among Germans—not as visitors from abroad or as tourists. For example, the students are assigned rooms in dorms located throughout the city; almost all of their classes are taught in German; and they will inevitably connect with German fellow students through their studies and extracurricular activities. I feel this program is beautifully set up to integrate students into their host culture. With its stunning location next to the Black Forest, Freiburg is ideally suited to draw in students. By the second semester, almost all our students are very confident, and thoroughly enjoy their new environment—it’s an amazing transformation to watch and be part of.

Helmut, you grew up in Germany. Tell us how you became interested in history, languages, and cultures.

Both of my parents are German. My father worked as a chemist and business man whose professional contacts stretched over several continents. Relatives from my mother’s side of the family are scattered throughout the world. Frequently, we had guests from other countries at home—countries such as Japan, England, Israel, and the US. As a child, I remember hearing conversations in languages I didn’t understand. Witnessing this was a kind of magic for me.

Though the town I grew up in is small, its history reaches back to the Celts and Romans. Germany being a decentralized country means that cities with theaters, opera houses, and museums were always within reach. Through my piano teacher and my interest in music, for instance, I met an amazing array of musicians from different backgrounds. I would go to events as often as I could and drink it all in.

In school I studied English, Latin, and French. Later, I took up Italian and, for a year, Russian—a language I want to pursue and learn more about in the future.

What is your current research?

In fact, I am writing a book that has much to do with the stories I heard when growing up. I am investigating the ways in which Germans commemorated the air raids that turned many German cities to rubble during WW II. While after 1945 putting words to the loss of lives and the built environment was considered largely inappropriate in light of Germany’s Nazi past and the Holocaust, there were non-verbal ways to remind citizens of what had been lost. In particular, I will discuss memorials and museum displays. But I also want to trace the origins of these ‘visual discourses’ back in time.

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Turkish–German Studies at U–M

Turkish-German Studies is a new field in the humanities and social sciences that researches and documents issues related to Turkish-German relations in both their historic and present forms. Of importance to the field is the impact of Turkish migrants on the German cultural landscape, a phenomenon that is increasingly the focus of new research across a number of disciplines. Rather than indicating a hybrid culture caught in between two nations, the hyphen in ‘Turkish-German’ serves as a point of departure for an investigation into the history of relations between Turkey and Germany and into the formation of German and Turkish national and ethnic communities.

Turkish-German Studies engages specifically with the construction of ethnic identity and its relationship to culture and religion. It is interested in how class, gender, religious, and cultural relations function as race relations in the postwar period. One of the goals of this field, for example, is to show what contributed to the rise of racial violence in Germany in the 1990s and discuss how these incidents provoked legal changes to migration, the right to asylum, and the conditions under which immigrants are naturalized. Turkish-German Studies pursues questions concerning the nexus between nation, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, and religion in postwar Germany.

The study of Turkish-German intersections calls for a multidisciplinary approach that encourages academic collaboration between specialists in German studies, Turkish studies, history, literary criticism, anthropology, cultural studies, gender studies, linguistics, political sciences, and sociology. The field evaluates various approaches to cultural productions by ethnic communities in Germany and its implications for the concept of German culture. Turkish-German Studies promises to be instructive for scholarship on world-wide migration, transnationalism, cosmopolitanism, globalization, and identity politics in other national contexts.

In addition to the Turkish-German focus, the field is understood as a forum for debate about broader processes of transnational migration and racialization in the modern German context. More than showing the ways in which Turkish-Germans are constructed as fundamentally different, Turkish-German Studies emphasizes the diversity of artistic expressions that stems from other communities which are marked by the history of migration and exile: ethnic Germans, African-Germans, Arab-

continued next page
Associate Professor Helmut Puff — continued from page 5

How have you incorporated your research with your teaching?
I am interested in enabling my students to read the material environment that surrounds us through a historical lens. Taking in the environment—architecture, cityscapes, landscapes—helps us to foster a dialogue between the past and the present. While in Freiburg, I wanted AYF students to get out into the community and the surrounding regions, to experience the towns, buildings, terrains, and engage them intellectually.

In Germany, there are so many reminders of things past—of history. I don’t believe that history teaches us how to respond to today’s challenges. But it does teach us to be circumspect in our decisions and view ourselves as that which we are, connected with people, events, and things of the past.

Turkish–German Studies — continued from page 6

Germans, Jewish-Germans and Romani-Germans. Research in the field highlights the interrelationship between these groups without confining itself to a restricted notion of identity politics.

The University of Michigan hired a significant number of faculty who specialize in Turkish–German Studies, a field that has become one of the most stimulating in German Studies. Recognizing this unique opportunity, twelve faculty members and graduate students in German, Comparative Literature, Anthropology, Sociology, History, Political Science, Architecture, Linguistics, Near Eastern Studies, the Center for African and African-American Studies, the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies, and the Residential College founded the Turkish-German Studies Group in the Fall of 2001. The Turkish-German Studies Group at the University of Michigan, the first of its kind in the international academic scene, brings together scholars not only concerned with the impact of Turkish migration to Germany, but also with German encounters in the Ottoman Empire and modern Turkey.

The group builds the foundations for a sustained dialogue between scholars, artists, and academics at the University of Michigan and those in Europe. This is particularly important given the distinctive configuration of scholars at the University of Michigan and the dearth of this type of collaboration at either German or Turkish Universities. The group is unique in both the range of expertise represented by the group and in the ways in which it seeks to explore dimensions of on-going cultural and linguistic contact between Germany and Turkey. It is also unique in its dedication to a sustained, international conversation about Turkish German issues that involves a broad cross-section of people outside the academy, including writers, artists, and political activists.

The group was conceived as a forum for sharing ideas and presenting work in progress and has sustained regular lively and multidisciplinary exchanges between group members and guests over the past three years. With the support of a broad range of departments, centers, and programs, the group organized lecture series and workshops with writers and academics including German Studies scholars Leslie Adelson (Cornell University) and Nina Berman (Ohio State University), anthropologist Jenny White (Boston University), author and journalist Zafer Senocak, and filmmakers Neco Çelik and Branwen Okpako. As part of this year’s lecture series, Venkat Mani (Wisconsin-Madison) will speak on December 8. The title of his talk is “Manliness and Cruelty. Kutlug Ataman’s Lola und Bilidikid.”
11th Annual DeVries–VanderKooy Memorial Lecture
Presents Susan Kuretsky

Rembrandt is as much a household name to Dutch persons as Washington or Lincoln is to Americans. To show alternate perspectives and point out new discoveries in the works of such an icon to an audience of Dutch enthusiasts is quite a remarkable feat. But that is exactly what professor Susan Kuretsky did when she delivered the Eleventh DeVries–VanderKooy Memorial lecture on October 18. Susan Kuretsky is the Sarah Gibson Blanding Professor of Art at Vassar College and not a stranger to southwest Michigan—she collaborated on the catalogue of Dutch holdings in the Detroit Institute of Art, and she is well known among art historians for her book *Time and Transformation*. The title of her talk was “Nothing to Hide: Reflections on Rembrandt’s Creative Process.”

Rembrandt was a prolific artist, producing an estimated 250 paintings, 290 etchings, and 1,000 drawings. Susan Kuretsky showed us only a fragment of these, but her selections and insightful comments, were both delightful and knowledgeable. Rembrandt embraced the 17th century technology of printmaking. By revisiting his plates again and again, adding to them each time, he could produce a printed record of the artists’ process. An example of this unique Rembrandt utilization of the etching and printing process can be seen in a series of self-portraits. With Rembrandt’s gaze fixed steadily on the viewer—elements around him appear and disappear, as the ground of the etching develops more detail; landscape appears through a window, his figure and clothing take on more depth, text is incorporated, then removed. This is how Rembrandt shared his artistic process then and now. Often he would include himself in paintings, either as part of a crowd, or directly interacting with the subject. No one in the audience can look at the *Nightwatch* again without seeing Rembrandt’s face peeping out from behind the crowd of militiamen.

Susan Kuretsky illustrated Rembrandt’s genius as he deftly outlined poverty in beggars and rat catchers—even using himself as the model. We were enchanted by a sketch of Rembrandt’s son, Titus, taking his first steps. Most thought provoking was a side-by-side comparison between the early- and late-career *Prodigal Son*.

Susan Kuretsky answered with flair and insight the questions about Rembrandt’s religious affiliation, his patronage, and his finances. We are happy to add her name to the DeVries–VanderKooy Memorial plaque and we thank our art history colleagues Celeste Brusati and Shelley Perlove.

Happy 400th birthday Rembrandt van Rijn, or, as we say in Dutch, “Lang zal hij leven” Long may he live!

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Susan Kuretsky, Ton Broos, and Shelley Perlove, Professor of Art History, U-M Dearborn

Jan DeVries, a Dutch physician with the World Health Organization who taught at the University of Michigan, and Meindert VanderKooy, Director of Plant Operations at U-M, were instrumental in the formation of the Netherlands America University League in Ann Arbor. In honor of their extraordinary efforts to promote the study of the language and culture of the Low Countries, the DeVries–VanderKooy Memorial Lecture has been held annually since 1996.
The Experience of Studying Abroad

I participated in two exchange programs in Sweden. During the fall of 2005, I studied at Uppsala University, and during the winter term I studied at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm.

I started studying Swedish my first semester at Michigan. I was interested in the language and decided to take the first Swedish class just for fun —and that was exactly what it turned out to be! I had a wonderful teacher and really enjoyed studying Swedish. After four semesters of Swedish, I decided that I would study abroad to improve my language skills.

The University of Michigan’s exchange with Uppsala University is arranged by the Office of International Programs. Thankfully I was awarded a scholarship by the OIP for my semester in Uppsala; and was also given a scholarship by the Detroit Swedish Foundation. While at Uppsala I studied a variety of subjects: political science, history, ethnology, and Swedish. I took most of my classes with other exchange students, and lived in student housing with a mixture of Swedish and foreign students. It was a great experience to meet students from all over the world. In addition, I also had a fair amount of time to travel within Sweden.

During the winter semester, I switched to the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm. This exchange was through the International Programs in Engineering office. I went to KTH with one other Michigan student. I was able to take interesting engineering classes, taught in Swedish, and I could apply several classes towards my major. I really enjoyed getting to meet Swedish engineering students.

I am very glad to have had the opportunity to study abroad. I plan to continue to study Swedish at Michigan with a Scandinavian Studies minor. I would definitely like to return to Sweden someday. I would finally like to add tack så mycket to my Swedish teacher, Maria Gull, who was a truly inspiring teacher.
Giving What You’ve Got

As you’re aware, we depend on our donors for assisting with our continual curriculum innovations and drive for interdisciplinarity. Our department is at the forefront of German departments around the globe, and it continues to attract and retain the best faculty as well as outstanding graduate and undergraduate students. Monetary donations are a critical component to the future of the department, but there is another element that is equally critical—namely, the involvement and support of the community. One example is the myriad of services that one local bookseller uniquely provides.

Shaman Drum Bookstore opened in 1980. Its founder wanted the sense among the university community to be that this was their store. From the beginning, Karl Pohrt has sponsored numerous readings by U-M faculty and other authors, hires many U-M graduates and undergraduates onto his staff, and works hard at making the bookshop a crossroads of intellectual and cultural life in Ann Arbor. Shaman Drum creates a bridge between the university and the community, giving academic innovations a venue in which they can be presented, perused, and purchased.

This year Karl Pohrt received the honor of a Distinguished University Professorship in his name—an unusual, but well-deserved honor. Geoff Eley has been appointed to that position, and his professorship, in consultation with the Dean, would be named after Karl Pohrt. Close friends from the beginning of the bookshop, they share similar views on higher education, society and culture, and the critical importance of the relationship between the university and the community.

A past President of the national organization of independent booksellers, the American Booksellers Association, Pohrt is currently president of the State Street Art Fair and was instrumental in starting the “Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads” program as well as the Ann Arbor Book Festival. He has served as a member of the Downtown Development Authority and the State Street Area Association.

Giving to the Department has increased ten-fold over the last five years, and 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 and designate one of the following funds on the envelope found in the center of this edition of the GDS newsletter.

- 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)
Scandinavian Gems — Karlström Shines On

Continuing Signe’s legacy are her son, Olof Karlström, and his wife Olivia Maynard. Supporting Signe’s beliefs in helping and inspiring others, and having great regard for the Scandinavian social system, Olof and Olivia are generous supporters of the School of Social Work, the School of Education, and the Law School. Helping to fund research in social and economic justice, poverty, diversity, family, community organization, and social welfare issues in Flint, Detroit, and other metropolitan areas, it is clear that they do all they can to make our local communities better places for everyone.

As part of the commitment to community involvement, the Signe Karlström Memorial Event was designed to showcase innovative and artistic presentations from a Scandinavian perspective. Through music, performance, and lectures, this event continues to inspire and enlighten the public. Past events include:

- The Rilke Ensemble (2000),
- The Night Walkers by Kristina Lugn (2001),
- Leif Janzon, Swedish Theater and Film Historian and Translator (2002),
- Scandinavian Chamber Music Concerts (2003),
- David Östlund, historian & Fulbright-lecturer, Stockholm University (2004), and
- Göran Therborn, Director of the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study in the Social Sciences, Uppsala, and University Professor of Sociology at Uppsala University (2006).

We are delighted that this endowment is able to continue in perpetuity and look forward to the next Signe Karlström Event. For additional details, please visit our website at www.lsa.umich.edu/german. If you would like to be notified of the next event, please email Johanna Eriksson, Scandinavian Studies Director at johannae@umich.edu.

Olof Karlström and Olivia Maynard have generously challenged the Department and its Scandinavian supporters—in consideration of Swedish language and culture. They are providing a matching gift to every contribution made to the Swedish Language Studies Fund or Endowment. This fund is used to support all aspects of the Scandinavian program including public events, books and material, as well as scholarships for student exchanges, internships and the spring study tour. Please consider making your donation count twice. This special agreement will remain in effect until December 31, 2008. If you would like additional information on donating to any of the Department’s programs, please contact Sheri Sytsema-Geiger at sytsema@umich.edu.

Signe Karlström was born in Sweden in 1906. She arrived in the US in 1922 and began her lifelong devotion to civic and charitable organizations in the Detroit area. She helped found the Jenny Lind Club; served as the Secretary and Program Coordinator of the Swedish Council; and was Knighted and received various honors and medals from the Kingdom of Sweden.

Signe was a great supporter of the Scandinavian Studies Program here at U-M. Her commitment to Scandinavian ideals continues with the annual Signe Karlström Event—inaugurated in her honor—one year after her death in 1988.
German Studies Colloquium

2007 Schedule

Friday, March 9:
Johannes Turk [University of Indiana]: “‘Der Einbruch der Zeit in das Spiel’: Carl Schmitt and the State of Theory After 1945.”

Friday, March 16:
Robert Buch [University of Chicago]: “Images of Violence.”

Friday, April 6:

Friday, April 13:
Peter Pulzer, Gladstone Professor of Politics, Emeritus [All Souls College at Oxford University]: “What was Special about German Anti-Semitism?”

Please note that dates or speakers may change. Check our website for updates.

Modern Language Association of America Book Prize to Johannes von Moltke

Johannes von Moltke has been named winner of the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Studies in Germanic Languages and Literatures for his book No Place Like Home: Locations of Heimat in German Cinema.