The 2009 CENES Graduate Student conference set itself a very broad focus in order to ideally include a wide variety of perspectives and approaches. Over the two days, participants heard and saw presentations from a very diverse group of young scholars from Canada, the United States, the UK and Germany, who presented them with a number of very different national, historical and theoretical takes on the overarching question of how and why organized physical exercise and politics seem so inextricably intertwined on so many levels.

The program was led off by keynote speaker Dr. Andrei Markovits (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor). Andrei Markovits has published widely on German and European labour and social movements, German-Jewish relations, Germany’s role in the new Europe, Anti-Americanism and Anti-Semitism in Europe, and the comparative sociology of modern sports cultures. For this conference’s keynote, Dr. Markovits spoke on the effect of “glocalization” (Robertson) in relationship to contemporary popular sports under the title “Global Players, Local Cultures: Sports and Cosmopolitanism in Europe and North America.” He argued that, while a tenet of the myriad criticisms of globalization is that this process...

[continued on p. 3]

**UBC German Students Donate Money to Help Haitians**

In conversational German (Germ 313), talking in German about current events is part of the curriculum, as is the topic of Global Citizenship. On January 18, when the students were brainstorming about ideas on how to make local and global communities stronger, fairer, better, the people from Haiti and the devastating earthquake were on their minds. So it was decided that the students would make a collective donation to support the relief efforts undertaken by CARE Canada (as one of the recognized organizations involved). The instructor promised that she would give two dollars for every dollar the students gave. $174.51 was collected in class to which the promised $349.02 was added, so that a total of $523.53 could be donated to CARE Canada. Because the Canadian government matches each donation, this student initiative provided over one thousand dollars. CARE Canada is using this and other donations to distribute water purification tablets, Hygiene Kits, food, water, IV solutions, and other medications to the people of Haiti through their more than 600 aid workers in the disaster area.
Message from the Head: A Letter to the President

Dear President Toop,

As Head of the Department of Central, Eastern and Northern European Studies, it is my pleasure to write in support of your strategic plan for UBC and the two draft documents about international engagement and intercultural understanding. The ability to "operate between languages" (Modern Language Association) and to comprehend the narratives of other cultures is of vital importance in an age of global concern and peaceful competition. To this end, research and teaching in the Department of Central, Eastern and Northern European Studies (CENES) focus on three disciplines anchored in the European world: German Studies, Slavic Studies, and Scandinavian Studies. These disciplines also constitute the foundation of our interdisciplinary and intercultural curriculum. At its core are our very successful CENES courses and the Program in Modern European Studies. This distinctive component of our learning environment is designed to provide an integrated view of the past and future of Central, Eastern and Northern Europe. Together, our discipline-specific, cross-disciplinary and intercultural approaches, research and teaching of foreign languages allow our students to engage deeply with the cultures of this area.

The German Program in the Department of Central, Eastern and Northern European Studies—which for a number of years now has consistently posted the highest enrolments of all German programs in Canada—is one of only five such programs in the country that offer a B.A. (Major and Honours), an M.A. and a Ph.D. in German. Recent graduates now hold positions in Canada and the United States. What makes our program truly stand out, however, is the degree to which we have achieved, both in terms of teaching and of research, a fusion of the traditional nation-based approach with interdisciplinary approaches. True to our Department’s name, faculty have successfully extended their teaching and research activities to the literatures and cultures of Scandinavia and the Baltic region as well as the cultural ties between Germany and Eastern Europe. Also, more than any other of our Canadian sister Departments, we are committed to new interdisciplinary approaches that go far beyond traditional literary scholarship. Among our scholarly interests are collective identity and gender construction, intercultural communication, nation and migration, theories of media and performativity, questions of philosophy and hermeneutics, issues such as critical animal studies and posthumanism.

In addition to the non-Slavic literatures and cultures of East Central Europe, Russian and Polish language and literature are taught at UBC, as they have been for the past fifty years during epochal changes. Since the end of the Cold War, openness towards Russia and its West Slavic neighbours, who are now Canada’s allies, has become even more important. Knowledge of Slavic languages, literatures and cultures must therefore remain a priority. It is essential for more effective intercultural communication and peaceful competition between nations. Slavic Studies at UBC, which includes a Minor in Russian, fulfills this indispensable function.

Scandinavian culture and languages have been taught at the University of British Columbia for many decades. As a consequence of the rapidly growing interest in Scandinavian culture in the 1970s, fostered by the Swedish language program, courses in Scandinavian literature in English translation soon joined the ongoing Old Norse seminar to give the Department a succession of courses on Scandinavian literature topics that added up to a reasonably comprehensive coverage of the field. In 2001, the Danish government approached the university about the possibility of establishing a Danish lectureship at UBC. These negotiations were successful and for the last six years, the Department has had the only government-sponsored full-time Danish lecturer in Canada, who teaches Danish language courses and courses in Danish culture. Our Scandinavian courses dovetail into Canada’s interest in the North and contribute to a deeper understanding of this vital area.

Our undergraduate courses on the literatures and peoples of Central, Eastern and Northern Europe and our interdisciplinary Program in Modern European Studies clearly signal our approach to presenting an integrated view of the European world. By examining works of Danish, Icelandic, Swedish, Finnish, Russian, Estonian, Polish, and German literature, we present our students with a microcosm of Europe. To deepen and broaden its significance even more, in many of our highly successful literature in translation courses we link the study of European literatures to the study of other cultural forms such as music, media, philosophy, the environment and politics. Current interdisciplinary research projects in the Department also contribute to the scholarly foundation of this important segment of our curriculum. They include investigations of body images that travel through the arts and sciences, inter-language pragmatics, the shaping of emotions by various media forms, and the intersection of luxury, economy and gender. One of our most innovative new interdisciplinary courses brings foreign literature and theatre students together to read, analyze and perform plays. Such teaching collaborations with other academic units on campus enhance the prestige the Department enjoys among its peers.

In this spirit, we fully support the proposals outlined in the strategic plan and efforts to increase cross-cultural diversity in the curriculum, expand relationships with institutions in Europe, provide more study- and work-abroad opportunities, and actively encourage proficiency in foreign languages beyond currently required levels. Deep understanding of other cultures, countries and languages is at the heart of our work in the Department of Central, Eastern and Northern European Studies.

Sincerely,
Thomas Salumets
CENES Department Head
International CENES Graduate Student Conference (continued)

... allegedly destroys the "local", it has instead accentuated its shape and context, thereby producing a "glocal" dimension of international professional sports.

Following the keynote, the first panel, entitled "Score and Peace – Revisiting the Olympic Myth," consisted of three presentations. First off, Benjamin James Dettmar (Michigan State University) presented his paper "Whitewash: Detroit's ethnic population and the city's bid for the Summer Olympics 1944-1972." This paper considered Detroit's numerous failed bids for the Summer Olympics and how the Detroiter reacted to the prospect of the Olympics coming to their city in a time of economic and racial volatility. Dettmar discussed the question as to whether Detroit marketed itself as a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic city or if it whitewashed its ethnic population altogether in its bid. Then followed Peter Libero (University of Maryland, College Park) and his paper "Explaining Miracles and Nightmares: Identity, Politics and Olympic Upsets." Considering the 1980 "Miracle on Ice" U.S. Men's Olympic Hockey Team that won the gold medal over the powerful Soviet Union and the 2004 Olympic Men's Basketball team that was surprisingly defeated in the semi-finals, Libero explained how players on both sides of the games were judged not simply on the basis of their play, but how their play reflected their cultures and times, and how success and failure was taken to be an indication of the nation's foreign policy. Finally in this panel, Mari Tanaka (UBC-O) discussed "(Mis)representations and Appropriations of Indigenous Cultures in Popular Narratives. Winter Olympics Vancouver 2010." Tanaka's paper investigated how the commercialized images of Indigenous peoples and cultures - such as the use of an Inukshuk as the Games' logo and the mascots Miga, Sumi and Quatchi - continue the appropriation and consumption of Indigenous cultures that has shaped the interactions between Canada and its Indigenous peoples.

The second panel of the day was entitled "Competitive Hegemonies – Gender, Class, and Race in Sports." The first presenter in this panel was Barbara Antoniazzi (Frie University Berlin) with her paper: "'Great White Hope(s)' and 'Unforgivable Blackness': Boxing as a Signifier of the Progressive Era in the Case of Jack Johnson." This paper analyzed the rise and fall of the first African-American heavy weight champion of boxing, Jack Johnson, during the first half of the 20th century, arguing that Johnson's case highlighted the failings of the so-called 'Progressive Era' in the United States and how the state endorsed a racially based ideology of male power. The panel's second presentation was delivered by Holly Hamilton (Indiana University, Bloomington). Under the title "Myth and Consequence: East Germany (Freistellungen) as a method," Hamilton's paper examined the association between East German female Olympic Athletes and performance-enhancing drugs, and the resilient and enduring modern day myths that continue to associate the former with the latter.

The second day began with a panel entitled "Spectators and Sporting Goods – The Social Psychology and Political Economy of Sports," with its first presenter being Julian Ammirante (York University). Following the question "Why Should We Really Study Sports?", Ammirante's paper explored some of the more tenable arguments and issues surrounding the conceptualization of sport as an entertainment industry in the Social Sciences and its particular relationship popular culture under the phase of globalization. He outlined a preliminary theoretical and methodological model for an analysis that considers the impact of globalization through major-league spectator sport on the intersection between production, politics and consumption.

The second presentation in this panel came from Scott Innis (UBC-V), whose paper "Tim Horton, Tim Hortons, and Hockey Night in Kandahar: Towards a Post-modern Canadian Imperialism" analysed the recent convergence of NHL hockey, the Tim Hortons doughnut chain, and Canada's role as an international peacekeeper as enduring symbols of mainstream Canadian identity. Innis argued that the publicly and privately subsidized deployment of timbits and hockey trophies (respectively) to Central Asia represent artificial attempts at cultural synergy gesturing to a profound national anxiety. The last speaker in this panel, Nathan Kalman-Lamb (York University), discussed "Fandom at a Fever Pitch: Nick Hornby, Bill Simmons and Imagined Athletic Communities." The paper interrogated some of the reasons why spectator sport has become such a compelling form of distraction and, by conceptualizing communities of fans as 'imagined communities', argued that in societies marked by capitalist alienation and isolation, desire for community prompts individuals to turn to the pre-fabricated communities of professional sport.

The final panel of the conference was titled "The German Ideology – Sports and Politics in the Weimar Republic and the Third Reich." Jochen Hung (University of London) delivered the first paper, entitled "'Not thinking of the sun, but tanned by it': Sport, Politics and Anti-Intellectualism in the Weimar Republic." Hung's presentation retraced the entry of sport into mass culture during the Weimar Republic and its subsequent politicisation, positing that all political appropriations of the sport phenomenon in this historical context shared an anti-intellectualism, welcoming the 'Ungeistigkeit' of physical exercise, which was then incorporated into National Socialist ideology and later played an important role in the cultural and education policy of the Third Reich. Our second and final panelist, Veronika Springmann (Carl-von-Ossietzky University, Oldenburg), could unfortunately not attend the conference in person for health reasons. Her presentation, entitled "Criminals and Calisthenics: Physical Exercise as a Corrective," was delivered in her place by Lydia Jones. The paper described how the Weimar Republic penal system introduced calisthenics or physical exercise (so-called 'Freiübungen' or 'Leibesübungen') as a method of disciplining the man and woman criminals, which the criminal subject should be reformed by means of bodily exercise. Explicit physical fitness was not intended. Springmann's paper ultimately asked
the question whether, and if so, how, a detailed look at a common prison practice can give us insight into the societal perception of cri-minals in the Weimar Republic.

The program came to an end with the plenary address given by Dr. Matthew Pollard (University of Victoria), who analysed Leni Riefenstahl’s Olympic and other films. By taking into account the origins of film in the photograph, the presentation on “Riefenstahl’s Motion / Pictures” stressed that setting up and composing the perfect shot was almost a determining aspect of Leni Riefenstahl’s work. With a series of visual presentations, Dr. Pollard then went on to illustrated how Riefenstahl’s hungry gaze is, after all, not that of a filmmaker visualizing pictures in motion (taking the term “motion picture” literally), but that of a photographer freezing and staging that one perfect image in eternal stillness. By tracing Riefenstahl’s journey from image to film to photo, his paper made the statement that Riefenstahl’s artistic talent seduced and was seduced by Die Macht der Bilder.

As the organizers of this conference, Jeremy Redlich and Guido Schenkel would like to thank the event’s sponsors, without whom this event would not have been possible. There is, first and foremost, the Department of Central, Eastern and Northern European Studies as well as the Ziegler Fund, both of whom contributed generously to our budget. Furthermore, thanks go out to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and UBC’s 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Secretariat for their contributions as well as St. John’s College for providing accommodation for our guests. These contributions ensured the realization of the conference, which all participants perceived as a great success.

An audio recording of the entire conference will be made available as a podcast in the near future.

**Visitors at CENES in 2009**

**Ludmila Shtern**

On September 23, 2009, the Department of CENES was pleased to welcome Prof. Ludmila Shtern, Resident Scholar at Brandeis University in Boston, Massachusetts, for a fascinating lecture on the Russian Nobel Prize winning poet Joseph Brodsky. Prof. Shtern, who has published fiction and non-fiction in Russian and English and had her works translated into Italian, Dutch and Hungarian, spoke of the numerous difficulties the dissident Brodsky faced in having his works published in Communist Russia. It was his forced exile out of the USSR in the 1970s that really allowed Brodsky to publish and flourish as a poet, as he settled in America, was appointed to numerous teaching positions in renowned American universities, won the Nobel Prize for Literature and was named Poet Laureate of the United States. Prof. Shtern, who was personally acquainted with Brodsky, has recently published in English a book on this fascinating literary figure titled *Brodsky: A Personal Memoir*.

**Guntis Šmidtchens**

On November 13th, 2009, the Department was proud to welcome Prof. Guntis Šmidtchens of the Department of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Washington, who presented “Singing and Nonviolence in the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian ‘Singing Revolution’” to a packed room of undergraduate students, graduate students and faculty. Prof. Šmidtchens, a folklorist, is also an expert on nonviolent political action, and thus in his presentation combined these two interests by considering what role national songs played in the nonviolent Baltic Independence movement of the late 80s and early 90s. By looking at particular national songs from Estonia and Lithuania, and by referencing the successful documentary *The Singing Revolution*, Prof. Šmidtchens investigated how songs became weapons for hundreds of thousands of dissenting Baltic protesters, and how this peaceful defiance aided in driving out Soviet troops with only minimal bloodshed. For more information on Prof. Šmidtchens related work, see his article “National Heroic Narratives in the Baltics as a Source for Nonviolent Political Action” in the fall 2007 issue of *Slavic Review: Interdisciplinary Quarterly of Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies*.

**German Studies Graduate Working Group**

The brand new *German Studies Graduate Working Group* is a student led initiative which aims to facilitate a lively research environment by creating an informal venue in which to discuss current projects. Our main objective is to create a supportive space to discuss research challenges and questions, practice presenting results, and, given our linguistic diversity, offer an opportunity to get multiple opinions on translation and editing concerns. The group is further meant to complement and improve the departmentally-sanctioned Colloquium Series. We have also found the monthly meetings to be a good venue for identifying and addressing questions regarding, for example, departmental and university procedure, teaching, and upcoming events. We are interested in exploring opportunities for faculty and community involvement and collaboration in this initiative. If you have input, feedback, suggestions or ideas for cooperation, we’d love to hear from you!
Ziegler Visiting Speaker Series

On January 26, 2009, Bozena Shallcross, author of the recent book The Holocaust Object, began the second term of the 2008/2009 Ziegler Visiting Speaker Series with a talk that eerily connected the civilized and the uncivilized: soap and the Holocaust. She spoke to the incidence of making soap with human fat rather than animal fat, which, she argued, perverts the trope of civilization to which soap, with its cleansing effect, belongs. She further argued that the Jewish body became a commodity when the bodies of individuals were slaughtered and made into soap.

Angelika Nix joined us on March 3, 2009, from the University of Freiburg, where she works in the field of Scandinavian Literature. In a fascinating presentation, Nix argued that cross-writing – writing geared toward both children and adults – forces readers and publishers to rethink the borders between children’s and adults’ literature. She examined cultural conceptions of childhood and adulthood, and noted parallels between the cultural construction of gender and the cultural construction of childhood and adulthood.

On February 11, 2009, the Department had the pleasure of welcoming distinguished writer Yoko Tawada to UBC. The recipient of numerous literary prizes, including the Akutagawa-Sho in Japan, and the Goethe Medal in Germany, Tawada has published over 40 novels, dramas, and volumes of essays, poetry, and prose in German and Japanese. A number of her books have been translated into English. Tawada’s most recent novel is Schwager in Bordeaux (Brother-in-law in Bordeaux, 2008). Tawada is a truly international writer, who is equally active in Germany and Japan. She travels throughout Europe, Japan, and North America discussing her work. Tawada came to us from Stanford University, where she was writer-in-residence at the time. Both a creative artist and a scholar, Tawada holds a doctorate in German literature. Much of her work engages in a creative dialogue with the work of writers like Goethe, Kleist, Kafka, Celan, and others.

This visit provided the opportunity to work with faculty from various departments and universities; Tawada’s visit included a full day of activities. In the morning, she read and discussed her texts over Skype with students and faculty from the Department of Critical Studies at UBC-Okanagan. This creative solution was the idea of Dr. Claude Desmarais from UBC-Okanagan, and was arranged by him and his colleagues Alwin Spies and Nina Langton.

The highlight of the visit was Tawada’s reading: At St. John’s College, she read from her work in English, German, and Japanese. She read from a number of works, including Where Europe Begins, Talisman, Raisin Eyes, Nine Fragments, Flight of the Moon, and others. The focus of the texts she read was on the borders and interplay of various languages. Language becomes a physical and bodily entity that is constantly changing, as the writer, reader, and listener travels through a web of words. Tawada’s reading style included an element of performance; she read from a white glove she wore on her hand; she showed and interpreted Kanji; she read from a CD she held up in front of her. The event brought together over 70 faculty and students from UBC, UBC-Okanagan, and SFU, and from the departments of Asian Studies and CENES.

The 2009/2010 season of the Ziegler Visiting Speaker Series commenced on September 15, 2009, with a presentation by internationally renowned dancer and choreographer Heiko Hennig. Her talk, “Dancing with Time – Reflections on Culture, Body and Politics in Dance since 1927,” was a narrative and analytical accompaniment to selected parts of the Trevor Peters documentary film Dancing with Time. This film, which appeared on ARTE and ZDF and was shown at the 2008 Vancouver Film Festival, documents Heike’s choreographic and directive work with dancers from four generations, and it is this intergenerational component of her choreography and direction that served as the focal point of Heike’s lecture. Heike currently resides in Leipzig where her ensemble, Heike Hennig and Co., continues to produce dance pieces that have been performed at major theatres across Germany, Europe and even China.

On October 15, 2009, the Department of CENES, in co-operation with St. John’s College, welcomed John Hoberman from the University of Texas as its second speaker in the Ziegler Visiting Lecture Series themed “Sport, Culture and Body Politics.” Dr. Hoberman, whose work in sports studies and sports journalism focuses on racial issues, politics and the history of doping, presented an intriguing lecture entitled “Grand Illusion: Sportive Nationalism and the Political Uses of Athletic Dynamism in Large and Small European Countries.” Using the upcoming Vancouver Olympics as a frame, in his lecture Dr. Hoberman questioned what sportive success can do for a nation, especially a small one, and...
interrogated the notion that succeeding in sport ultimately translates into succeeding in world economics. Dr. Hoberman’s most recent book, *Testosterone Dreams*, is a history of the use of hormone treatments for lifestyle and performance enhancement during the last century.

On November 16, 2009, the Ziegler Visiting Speaker Series, in cooperation with St. John’s College, was proud to welcome Jutta Eming one last time before she made the permanent move back to Berlin for a position at the Freie Universität. Dr. Eming presented an intriguing and thought-provoking paper entitled “Jousting for the Prize Phallus: Grotesque Aesthetics and Body Fragmentation in ‘The Nuns’ Tournament.’” The talk focused on a comical and carnivalesque scene of rivalry from the Medieval text *Das Nonnenturnier*, in which a group of nuns compete for the ultimate prize of knight’s severed, yet living, penis.

On January 14, 2010 the Department of CENES, in co-operation with St. John’s College and with co-sponsorship by the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Vancouver, proudly welcomed Bozena Karwowska as its final presenter for the 2009/2010 academic year. Dr. Karwowska, assistant professor in the Department of CENES at UBC, presented on “Poland and the 1936 Winter Olympics.” This paper focused on the famous Polish Olympic skiers Bronislaw Czech and Stanislaw Marusarz, their contributions to fostering Polish nationalism, and ultimately the role they played in Andrzezej Munk’s highly political and experimental documentary/feature film *Men of Blue Cross* from the 1950’s.

*Dates for the upcoming Ziegler Lecture Series 2010/2011 can be found on the last page.*

---

**New Appointments**

**Dr. Ilinca Iurascu**

Ilinca Iurascu holds a B.A. from the University of Bucharest, where she studied Anglistik and Germanistik, and an M.A. in Gender Studies from the Central European University in Budapest. In 2008, she graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and received her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature with a dissertation on technological modernity and epistolary nostalgia in 19th century German realist fiction. Her teaching and research focus on nineteenth- and twentieth-century German and comparative literary and cultural studies, aesthetics, new media and social history. As a postdoctoral fellow of the Graduiertenkolleg „Medielle Historiographien“ at the Bauhaus-University in Weimar, she is currently completing a book-length study on postal networks in early German and European film. Ilinca will be joining the Department as tenure-track Assistant Professor in fall of 2010.

**Dr. Alison Beringer**

Alison Beringer received her Ph.D. in German from Princeton University. Her area of scholarly specialization is the transmission of vernacular Christian texts in illuminated manuscripts of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries; she is currently working on a fifteenth-century illuminated world chronicle manuscript. Most recently she combined her art historical and literary historical interests as a Reader for the Morgan Manuscripts Project at Princeton University’s Index of Christian Art. She has taught German language and literature as well as classical texts in translation at Colgate and Emory Universities. In her spare time, she enjoys birding and hiking, both in the medieval landscapes of Europe and closer to home. Alison joined the Department in fall 2009 for a two-year limited appointment as Assistant Professor.

---

**News from the Office**

Colleen O’Connor started at CENES in January 2009, and has assisted with financial processing, department correspondence, administration of the Comparative Literature Program, as well as various other tasks. Colleen is also responsible for the Department’s website. Originally from Alberta, she holds a B.A. in Music (Piano) from Portland State University and a Diploma in Music Writing from Grant MacEwan College. Colleen greatly enjoys practicing her German, which she studied for 4 years, with all patient members of the Department and she is also fluent in French.

*Welcome Colleen!*
CENES Lecturers: Introducing Newly Appointed Faculty

Petra Ganzenmueller
Petra teaches German language classes in the Department. As the coordinator of the Second-Year German Language Program, she is responsible for the pedagogical and administrative work of planning, implementing and maintaining all aspects of the Program. A UBC Commerce graduate, she also teaches Business German, having developed two modular business courses for students in the Humanities.

Lena Karlström
Lena came to the Department in 1993, leaving Stockholm where she combined teaching with freelance travel journalism. She teaches the Swedish language courses and the Scandinavian literature courses including the summer course in Scandinavian Drama and Film. Lena has also worked as a translator and written about contemporary Swedish migrant literature and film. She is currently focusing on her exciting new Scandinavian crime writing course.

Adelheid O’Brien
Adelheid holds a German Staatsexamen as well as a Bachelor’s and a Master’s degree in Education from UBC. Her specializations include Second Language Acquisition and Pedagogy, Curriculum and Course Development, Application of Technology in Modern Language Teaching and Teaching L2 Reading Comprehension and Technology Use. At CENES, Adelheid teaches a variety of courses within the German Language Program.

Olena Polissky
Olena joined the Department in 2005 and has been teaching Russian language courses since then. She holds a Master’s Degree from Kiev National Linguistics University, and has over 15 years of teaching experience. She has also taught a teacher-training program, and has given speeches on the Communicative Approach in teaching foreign languages.

Angelika Struch
Gela received her B.A. from the University of Victoria and also holds an M.A. and a Ph.D. from UBC. At CENES, she teaches first- and second-year German language courses and coordinates the first year of the German Language Program. She enjoys reading, music and walking, especially along Vancouver’s beaches.

Danish Lectureship Renewed
Established in 2003, the Danish Lectureship at UBC was recently renewed for another three years. The period covered by this renewal is September 2009 to April 2012 and the position will again be held by Mads Bunch (M.A. in Nordic Literature, University of Copenhagen). During his tenure at UBC, interest in Danish has increased dramatically boasting now the second highest enrolment in North America. The Danish visiting lecturer typically teaches a variety of courses on Danish language (beginning and intermediate) and Northern European culture on a full-time basis. The lecturer’s mandate also includes advising undergraduate and graduate students interested in foreign study in Denmark; contributing to the Department’s colloquium series; participating in the Department’s teacher-training orientation and workshops; and helping to promote and develop Danish and Northern European Studies at the University as a whole. The position is funded, in part, by the Danish Property and University Agency.

CENES Film Event
On January 27, the German Language Program showed the German film Das Wunder von Bern. This award-winning 2003 production by director Sonke Wortmann tells the story of a family in post-war Germany and the unexpected West German victory in the 1954 Soccer World Cup final in Bern, Switzerland. With various themes intersecting, this film provides a portrait of post-war German life and its struggles to come to terms with its past, present and future. PAD lecturer Steffi Lambert subsequently reviewed and discussed aspects of the film during the German Language Program’s weekly Conversational Meetings. The screening of the film was well-attended and enjoyed by our students.
2009 German Studies Under/Graduate Symposium

The 2008/2009 Winter term came to an exceptionally successful end with the first CENES Under/Graduate Research Symposium, which was organized by the students of Dr. Markus Hallensleben's new Research Methods course (German 408B/500A). The symposium was held at St. John’s College on April 9th, following the last day of classes, and was remarkably well attended by both faculty and students.

The research presentations, which the students had been developing throughout the term, covered a very broad spectrum of interests and disciplines. Opening the symposium were presentations by German PhD students Tamari Svanidze (“Die Gestaltung von Leben und Kunst bei Nietzsche und Thomas Mann”) and Dali Klibadze (“Misstrauen gegen die Existenz: Die Frische ‘Mein Name ist Gantenbein’”). German Honours and English Major student Sonja Seims presented “Die Familienwerte einer Kriegerkultur: Einehe und Keuschheit im Germanenbild bei Caesar und Tacitus,” and German Major student Starr Muckle presented “Xenophobia and Language as Explored by Turkish-German Author Zafer Şenocak.” Poster presentations were given by European Studies MA student Alexandra Tzovaras (“Integration and Second Generation Migrants in Germany”) and German Honours student Helen Dixon (“Americanization of the Holocaust”). Concluding the symposium were presentations by German Major student Devenne Drege (“Typografie im Nationalsozialismus: Die Macht visualisierter Wörter”) and German/Biology Double Major student Mario Cruz Cabrera (“The Moral Implications of Using Data from National Socialist Hypothermia Experiments”).

Special congratulations to Mario, who received the Alice H. Sheflton prize ($275) for his presentation. The students would also like to thank Dr. Hallensleben, whose enthusiasm and efficiency made the organization of this event possible.

Most importantly, our heartfelt thanks go out to the sponsors who made the continuation of this event possible for students in the years to come. A generous private contribution of $8,000 has been put towards an undergraduate research symposium fund by Dr. Caroline Rieger, Dr. Marketa Goetz-Stankiewicz, and Assistant Dean Norma Wieland. This donation was matched by the Dean of Arts, Dr. Nancy Gallini, and the Department of CENES, making a total of $25,000 in funding for future symposiums of this kind. For years to come, undergraduate students in the Department will be encouraged to develop and refine their research interests and given the rare opportunity to participate in this essential aspect of academic life. For the establishment of this fund, we are exceptionally grateful and appreciative of our private and institutional sponsors.

Graduate Colloquium Series 2008/2009

Guido Schenkel led off the 2008-2009 CENES Graduate Student Colloquium Series with his presentation “Wersind wir wieder? New German Nationalism and the Multicultural Paradigm Shift.” Guido’s presentation examined the post-reunification renaissance of German nationalism in a variety of contemporary public discourses. Focussing especially on the ‘Du bist Deutschland’ social marketing campaign of 2005, the presentation highlighted the recent multicultural paradigm shift in the definition of German national identity and its relation to neo-nationalist ideology.

Next up was Gorsharn Toor, whose presentation “Kindheitsmuster: The Bund Deutscher Mädel Revealed” highlighted that even though the Bund deutscher Mädel appeared to be a modern organization, giving girls independence and offering them leadership roles, its ultimate function was to prepare German girls to be good wives and mothers who would support Nazi ideology.

This was followed by Florian Gassner’s presentation “Greece Vs. König: The Fight over the ‘Literarische Bilder aus Rußland.’” Here Florian presented his research on the literary exchange between Russia and Western Europe in the early 19th century. His focus was the function of the historical novel in the effort to transmit an image of Russia to the West.

Next up was Lydia Jones’ presentation “Representations of Motherhood in Contemporary German Literature,” which examined the representation of two mother figures: the first in Julia Franck’s Die Mittagsfrau; and the second in Julia Zange’s Die Anstalt der besseren Mädchen. She applied a model for determining a mother’s level of self-determination and autonomy in her decision to become or remain a mother developed by philosopher Diana Tietjens Meyers to the two mother characters, with the conclusion that both mother figures, though making their decisions under very different circumstances, have little autonomy in decisions regarding motherhood.

Susanne Balmer, a visiting scholar from Switzerland, rounded off the 2008 calendar year program with her presentation “Unruly Narratives: The ‘feminine’ Entwicklungssroman and the Bourgeois Gender Discourse of the 19th Century,” in which she examined the depiction of femininity in Therese
Huber’s novel Die Familie Seldorff, showing that stories of female development in and around 1800 increasingly confronted so-called scientific “facts” that excluded women from individualization, the presentation highlighted the strategies the novel uses to expose the social dimensions of bourgeois gender norms.

Ursula Baer started off 2009 with her presentation “Einzelgänger: Family-less Characters as Outsiders in three German-language novels,” which analysed the fruitfulness and limitations of reading the family-less protagonists in Mariella Mehr’s Das Kind, Aglaia Veteranij’s Warum das Kind in der Polenta kocht, and Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach’s Das Gemeindekind, as situational outsiders as defined by Douglas E. Litowitz. The presentation was based on a paper given at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association Convention 2008 in Louisville, Kentucky.

This was followed by Jeremy Redlich’s “Citing the Bodily Boundary: Skin, Race and Performativity in the Works of Yoko Tawada,” which analyzed how in selected texts by Tawada, such as Das Bad, überseezungen, and Talisman, the author depicts skin as a cultural construction and race as a performative category. Jeremy analyzed how Tawada’s texts problematize and complicate the so-called ‘com-

mensense’ or ‘taken-for-granted’ realities of race by underscoring the body’s mutable boundaries and the complex processes and repetitive practices involved in racializing subjects.

Next up was Karen Roy, who, in her presentation “Autobiographische Berichte der ehemaligen DDR: Witts konkurrierende Erinnerungen aus ihrer Stasi Akte,” analyzed how and why Katarina Witt used her Stasi record and her file-based autobiography in an attempt to come to terms with her past. She also focused on how both Witt’s file and life story served to shape the public’s memory of her.

This was followed by Tamari Svanidze’s presentation “Die Gestaltung von Kunst und Leben bei Nietzsche und Thomas Mann.” The focus of Tamari’s research is Nietzsche’s understanding of art as the highest expression of life, while considering it in relation to concepts such as “Dionysus,” “the will to power,” “superman,” “the eternal return” and “creating.” She also analyzed the connection between Nietzsche and Thomas Mann’s understanding of art, especially with regards to how sickness functions as a stimulant to life in Mann’s “Der Wille zum Glück.”

Then came Jasmin Aly-O’Brien and her presentation titled “Word and Flesh: Incarnation as a Mode of Reading,” followed by Alysha Holquist’s presentation on Hans Weingartner’s film Free Rainer as a take off on the contemporary culture industry.

Rounding off the 2008-2009 academic year’s Colloquium Series was Dali Kilbadze’s presentation “Die Kierkegaard-Rezeption in Max Frisch’s Mein Name sei Gantenbein,” in which she examined Soren Kierkegaard’s influence on Max Frisch’s work. Focusing on both Kierkegaard’s Entweder-Oder and Frisch’s Mein Name sei Gantenbein, Dali’s presentation highlighted the numerous similarities between Kierkegaard’s and Frisch’s treatment of themes of identity and their exploration of ‘stages’ of existence, as well as some crucial differences between them. As characters in Max Frisch’s work are often in search of change or the possibility of playing different roles in life, this paper examined these existentialist themes in connection with motifs of death, fear, defective communication, fear of repetition and the consciousness of transitoriness, which all ultimately express the problems of the modern individual.

Luxury and Gender: Cross-Disciplinary Explorations of a Strange Alliance

International Research Workshop

Edward Burne Jones’s The Wheel of Fortune presents the Goddess Fortuna turning her wheel, exposing humans to the ups and downs of destiny. Easy to recognize, these humains are barely clothed males whereas the female goddess is covered in layers of fabric. Luxury and gender, it seems, form a strong and strange alliance in different geographical and historical stages, an alliance that deserves to be approached from various disciplinary angles.

“Luxury” is an omnipresent term in popular as in academic discourse. It basically serves to demarcate the ruling order in a given society from what is perceived as deviant, or extra-vagant. Especially in times of crisis, opulent lifestyles raise ethical questions of their necessity, of the distribution of possessions, and the reasonable production and consumption of goods.

The overarching research focus of this workshop was to investigate the various forms of distinction and diffusion of “luxury” from different disciplines such as literary and media studies, sociology, economy, and history. The goal was to connect the research of “luxury” with another aspect of cross-disciplinary research: “gender,” in fact, a linkage that has only rarely been considered. The four thematic presentations addressed topics such as: “Imagery of Luxury,” “Economics and Luxury,” “Topographies of Luxury,” and “Physicality and Luxury.”

The workshop was jointly organized by Franziska Schöhler (University of Trier), Gaby Pailer and Jutta Eming (CENES, UBC) and included presentations from UBC scholars as well as scholars from other Canadian universities, Germany and Luxembourg. The organizers gratefully acknowledge the support of the CENES Ziegler Fund, the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Consulate General of Switzerland and the home institutions of the external presenters for travel support.

For a complete program, please visit: http://www.cenes.ubc.ca/index.php?id=12750
German 110 for Music Students

Over the past decade, UBC’s School of Music has developed a strong Opera Programme under the guidance of Nancy Hermiston. Some of its graduates have won important prizes and gained major engagements. Hence, intensive language training in Italian, French and German, the three languages most used on national and international opera stages besides English, is required. Students in the Voice Program at UBC are required to take 6 credits in each of these languages throughout their undergraduate studies. While it is useful for them to be introduced to the grammar and phraseology of German through our communicative approach in regular language courses, they would greatly benefit from further focussing on their needs as singers and potential singers in the German-speaking world. Thus, a follow-up section to German 100, one that is aimed at and restricted to students enrolled in a Music Program, is offered as a trial in the Winter Term 2009: German 110 section 5. The enrolment is limited to 25 students and prior consultation with the Student Advisor in the School of Music is prerequisite. This section of Germ 110 does not fulfil the requirement for German 200 as it does not cover the same ground as the other sections of German 110, but it does fulfil the language requirement for singers.

The course is made up of four parts: study and practice of German phonetics (based on David Adams, A Handbook of Diction for Singers, 2nd ed.) with emphasis on texts of German Lieder and operas; review and extension of basic grammar knowledge; build-up of phrases and vocabulary useful for singers; and reading/singing of songs/arias (to be taken up by music coach Richard Epp). The course will have two weekly sessions of two hours each, with the last hour devoted to singing practice in German. Students will have to learn the International Phonetic Alphabet and transcribe written texts. There will be a midterm and a final examination. A detailed course outline will be provided to students. Course materials include the handbook by David Adams (which will also be used in the equivalent Italian and French courses) and handout texts plus music samples on CD.

We will evaluate this trial course in the Spring and decide whether it will be continued as is, changed, or not offered again in the future. It could serve as a model course for Italian and French and become a regular part of the Opera Program. If approved by the committee and our department, the course will be properly described and submitted to the Curriculum Committee in the future as “German II for Music Students.”
Translation is a Duel
Interview with Peter Petro

The Association of the Slovak Writers’ Organisations awards the P.O. Hviezdoslav Award each year to a translator of Slovak literature into a foreign language. In December last year, this prize was awarded to the literary scholar, PETER PETRO, who lives in Canada. He was awarded the prize for his translations into English. Peter Petro studied at Comenius University in Bratislava before moving to Canada and continuing his studies at the University of British Columbia and the University of Alberta in Edmonton (PhD in Comparative Literature). He teaches Russian and Slavic literature at the University of British Columbia and holds the Chair of Modern European Studies.

• EVA MELICHÁRKOVÁ: How did Pištánek’s trilogy find its way to Great Britain?
  – PETER PETRO: In 2006, I decided to translate Pištánek’s Rivers of Babylon 1, and when I had done a third of the novel, I started looking for a publisher. While I was looking, I was contacted by Prof. Donald Rayfield, a publisher of Garnett Press in London, who was actually wondering if anyone had translated the work. Something like that happens only once in a lifetime. It’s an incredible coincidence, isn’t it?

• EVA MELICHÁRKOVÁ: Tell us about the beginnings of your association with the Literary Centre.
  – PETER PETRO: I started to work for the Literary Centre a long time ago, by translating short excerpts from the works of Slovak authors, their brief biographies, and also reviewed some of the new Slovak works in English.

• EVA MELICHÁRKOVÁ: How do you choose your translations if they don’t come to you themselves?
  – PETER PETRO: I choose a few, but have managed to publish only one. A few others I have published came to me from the publishers. Still, I have done very little in comparison with what the Slovak translators have done and I have a great deal of respect for their work. On the other hand, they only translate when they have a contract in their hand. I have to gamble, with the result that I sometimes work for nothing. I wonder how long I’ll keep on doing this.

• EVA MELICHÁRKOVÁ: Do you follow what is being published in Slovakia?
  – PETER PETRO: Sporadically. Sometimes I read the reviews but, to tell the truth, I depend on the advice of my friends and acquaintances.

• EVA MELICHÁRKOVÁ: Do you have favourites among the contemporary works? Do you answer questions like this?
  – PETER PETRO: I would rather not name any names; the people I like are very well aware of it.

• EVA MELICHÁRKOVÁ: Your translation method?
  – PETER PETRO: I don’t think I have one... I don’t know much about the theory of translation.

• EVA MELICHÁRKOVÁ: Your beloved text?
  – PETER PETRO: I don’t fall in love with a text. Translation is hard. It is a duel in which I know I am bound to lose. Nevertheless, I do whatever I can to lose with dignity.

• EVA MELICHÁRKOVÁ: What seems to be the biggest problem in translation?
  – PETER PETRO: Sometimes it is a little detail that turns into a catastrophe when I feel that the atmosphere, or the meaning of something that is said, or some action, would never have the same meaning it has in the original. Then you work like a slave and when you finally do come up with some compromise (never the real thing), it is still not what you need...

• EVA MELICHÁRKOVÁ: What do you like to avoid?
  – PETER PETRO: Poetry.

• EVA MELICHÁRKOVÁ: Since this issue is devoted to humour in Slovak literature, do you find humour in it?
  – PETER PETRO: Of course, mainly in the contemporary literature. I love the work of Peter Gregor, Lasica, Janovic. I laugh at Pištánek’s style of humour, and there is humour in the excerpt from Oto Čenko.

• EVA MELICHÁRKOVÁ: Besides translating, you lecture at the university. What do your students think of Slovak humour, or what do they think of Slovak literature?
  – PETER PETRO: Actually, it’s the other way round: besides lecturing, I sometimes translate. The students don’t know Slovak literature and they don’t find Rivers of Babylon funny. This might be the result of cultural differences, but that would be a long debate.

• EVA MELICHÁRKOVÁ: You teach Slavic literature, not Slovak literature. Do you have any students interested specifically in Slovak literature? Would they like to translate from it?
  – PETER PETRO: No, I don’t, since they don’t read Slovak.

• Thank you for sharing your experience.

Interview courtesy of Slovak Literary Review
Volume 14, Issue 2, June 2009
CENES(ians) Abroad 2009

Thomas Salumets in Tartu

On September 23, 2009, the University of Tartu in Estonia celebrated Uku Masing’s 100th birthday with a conference. Profoundly critical of mainstream Western thought, prominent and controversial poet, folklorist and theologian Uku Masing (1909-1985) was a strong proponent of “Boreal” and Shamanistic ways of living and perceiving. During the Soviet occupation of Estonia he was largely driven underground but remained one of the most prolific and influential intellectuals in his homeland.

In his lecture, Dr. Salumets noted that traditionally the relationship between Uku Masing and Jaan Kaplinski (1941-), Estonia’s internationally best-known poet and Masing disciple, has been approached from a point of view that ascribes merit to understanding maturation as a process leading from absolute dependence towards increasing independence. This, Dr. Salumets argued, runs counter to the inclination Uku Masing and Jaan Kaplinski share. For them, he provocatively claimed, dependence constitutes a desirable condition. There is no expression for this ideal in Estonian, nor in many other languages. One has to turn to Japanese to find the word “amae.” Unlike sublimation, “amae” is “constituted tacitly. It is telepathic, prelinguistic, and does not need the medium of language.” (Takeo Doi The Anatomy of Self: The Individual versus Society. Tokyo: Kodansha, 1986: 138). “Amae” - fulfilled and frustrated indulgent dependence - takes us to the heart of Jaan Kaplinski’s Uku Masing. Dr. Salumets told his audience at the University of Tartu in Estonia. The lecture was broadcast on Estonian radio and published in the leading journal Keel ja Kirjandus.

Markus Hallensleben in Freiburg

I would like to report that we had a great trip to the Fachschaftshaus and the Schausinsland Bergwerk, although the weather was not the best. We also had invited all students for a Canadian Thanksgiving dinner at the Lehen apartment. Whoever was not traveling and not busy otherwise, enjoyed a wonderful turkey from the Metzgerei Lehmann (see attached picture). From the students’ point of view, the program is running smoothly so far, and I am very lucky to have such a nice group to care for this year.

Lydia Jones in Berlin

In September 2009, I had the opportunity to accompany Dr. Jutta Eming to Berlin where I learned the archive ropes and participated in a conference on medieval literature. With the help of Dr. Eming, I learned how to handle, read and transcribe medieval manuscripts by engaging with a 15th century manuscript of Konrad’s 13th century love and adventure novel Partonopier und Melur. We were amused at the stereotype-fulfilling series of rubber stamps the Staatsbibliothek required to access the manuscript, but when the hairs stood up on the back of my neck upon first touching the volume, I realized the wisdom of the process required to gain access (and not just to the scores of signs reminding us to be quiet).

We had read the most recent description of the volume’s condition in preparation. “Most recent,” in this case, means 1871. It cited fresh “Wurmfräb,” worm damage. Given the time that had elapsed, we had no idea what to expect. Happily, the binding seemed to have avoided any further worm damage in the intervening 200 plus years and both it and its binding were in very good condition. We accustomed ourselves to the scribe’s handwriting and linguistic habits, and what unfolded was a story on several levels: of course the story of our young and exceedingly worthy hero, Partonopier, but also the ghostly story of a 15th century scribe. His fingerprints occasionally dotted the margins, and we had to laugh sympathetically at a folio on which he had been forced to scratch out three separate words. Evidence of a six hundred year old bad day.

Comparing the manuscript with the only available edition, a 1970 reprint of a 19th century edition, was a fascinating introduction for me to what is involved in editing the medieval text for presentation to contemporary readers—an experiential crash course in the principles of text editing. These new insights served me well when we resettled in Zehlendorf for an international conference at the Free University, organized around “Machtvolle Gefühle,” powerful feelings, in medieval and early modern literature.

Dr. Eming had considerably briefed me on cultural differences I might encounter between North American and German conferences. Suffice it to say that it is more appropriate to clearly articulate your own powerful feelings about a paper or critical theory in a German conference context. Cultural variation aside, I very much enjoyed the papers, particularly those drawing connections between the power of emotion to animate political power. The participants and graduate students were welcoming, engaging, and patient with my non-native German.
CENES(ians) Abroad: Marketa Goetz-Stankiewicz in Bristol

Dear Professor Salumets,

From the 20th February to 20th March we had the privilege of having Professor Marketa Goetz-Stankiewicz, Professor Emerita of Comparative Literature in the Department of German and Russian (Czech Studies) at the University of Bristol. Benjamin Meaker Visiting Professorships are intended to bring to Bristol for the purposes of research collaboration, teaching and a public lecture the most eminent and distinguished senior scholars in their respective fields. A maximum of ten are awarded across the entire University in anyone year; Professor Goetz-Stankiewicz’s was the only one to be awarded in the Faculty of Arts this session.

Professor Goetz-Stankiewicz more than exceeded her brief and our hopes for her visit, proving the most successful, respected and popular visiting academic amongst staff and students that the Department of German has known in the past twenty years. She gave two public lectures, one to the Faculty of Arts, the other as part of a workshop entitled ‘A Tale of Two Cities: the Dual Identity of Prague as a Czech-German City.’ The other speakers in the Workshop were Professor Robert Evans, Regius Professor of History at Oxford; Professor Alexander Wooll, Professor of Slavonic Studies at the University of Greifswald; and Dr. Peter Zusi of the School of Central and Eastern European Studies at University College London. After it one student remarked that she could have done without the other speakers as she would have preferred to spend the entire afternoon listening to Professor Goetz-Stankiewicz.

This response was wholly typical. On our new final-year option, ‘Prague: a Tale of Two Cities,’ Professor Goetz-Stankiewicz taught two seminars: one on the works of the dissident Czech playwright and former President of the Czech Republic, Vaclav Havel, one on more recent Czech literature. Her exceptional familiarity not just with the texts themselves but with their historical, political and cultural context; her own intimate personal knowledge of the dissident Czech authors of the nineteen-seventies and eighties and of the post-Iron Curtain literary scene; her own role (at times not without personal danger) in bringing their work to, and promoting it in, the West provided our students with a uniquely rich learning experience. This experience was repeated across the board; for her entire stay Professor Goetz-Stankiewicz made a point of attending colleagues’ classes in Czech and in German, ranging from seminars on Czech Theatre and Czech Prose Writing to ones on Goethe’s Faust, Kafka, Christa Wolf, Socio-Linguistics, Martin Luther and Mediaeval German Literature. In all of them her extensive knowledge of both Czech and German Literature, her judicious observations and above all her enthusiasm for and commitment to her subject made a deep and lasting impression on our students. They took her to their hearts in a way we can only wish they would too!

Both the workshop ‘A Tale of Two Cities: the Dual Identity of Prague as a Czech-German City’ and the final-year option ‘Prague: a Tale of Two Cities’ form part of a new collaborative venture between the Departments of German and Russian. The workshop was intended to start building the foundations for a collaborative research project on Prague as a Czech-German city from the Middle Ages to the present and for a bid for major research funding. Given her eminence in the fields of Comparative Literature and of Czech Studies, Professor Goetz-Stankiewicz was the obvious person to invite to Bristol to advise us; her advice and support have proved invaluable. Not only did she inspire the other speakers at the workshop to collaborate with us on the project in the future; she has been able to outline a number of potential areas of research and to suggest a number of key authors and scholars whom we could approach, with her help, to speak at a future conference and possibly collaborate with us. With typical generosity, she has also agreed to continue working with us in an advisory capacity, allowing us to benefit from her experience, knowledge, scholarly excellence and wisdom.

The Departments of German and Russian consider themselves enormously privileged to have had Professor Goetz-Stankiewicz as a visitor for a month. Colleagues and students alike have learnt from her and been inspired by her. We would like to thank the Department of Central, Eastern and Northern European Studies at the University of British Columbia for supporting her stay in Bristol as a Benjamin Meaker Visiting Professor and hope it will lead to closer links between our two departments. Internationally your Department enjoys an excellent reputation for teaching and research and with colleagues of the calibre of Professor Goetz-Stankiewicz it is easy to see why. We are sure you will continue to maintain this reputation and wish you all the very best for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Mark Allinson
Head of School of Modern Languages
University of Bristol
News from the Valley: UBC Okanagan Events 2008-2009

Cooperation, Collegiality and Intellectual Generosity: CENES at UBC in Vancouver and the Germanic Studies programme, Critical Studies Department, FCCS, at UBC Okanagan in a Successful First Year of Exchange.

In the first year of the new Reichwald Professorship in Germanic Studies (Critical Studies, FCCS) at UBC Okanagan in Kelowna, the programme has been enriched by a number of guest speakers. Among these though, two carry a special status: Polish Holocaust and fine art specialist Bozena Shallcross, and Japanese-German writer Yoko Tawada.

The time both speakers spent with the UBC Okanagan community would not have been possible without the cooperation and collegiality between our two campuses. In particular, it is the generosity of Thomas Salumets, Chair of CENES, who so willingly shares the intellectual riches of the Ziegler Speakers’ Series, that deserves recognition. On my first visit to UBC in Vancouver, Thomas expressed his enthusiasm for the idea of speakers also coming to the Okanagan as a symbol for our ability to work together, and subsequently he put his word into practice.

Bozena Shallcross (University of Chicago) was the first guest speaker to come to UBC Okanagan via her appearance at UBC in Vancouver through the Ziegler Speakers’ Series. In addition to her scholarly achievements, Bozena Shallcross is a true Mensch. She was enamoured with the beauty of the Okanagan, and her late afternoon talk, not the easiest time to draw a crowd, was very well attended. She also attracted considerable media attention, and had interviews with both CBC Radio Kelowna and Shaw Cable. Her appearance at UBC Okanagan was also very important in another respect. As she talked at our campus just after the opening of a touring exhibit on the Berlin Wall, her visit highlighted German culture and history as a series of great achievements and sometimes, regrettably, terrible events. These two events, therefore signalled how Germanic Studies works to conscientiously deal with the past and to do so in an interdisciplinary fashion. Bozena Shallcross also mentioned one thing that ties our two universities, and in particular the CENES Department, and the Critical Studies Department at UBC Okanagan in which Germanic Studies makes its home. In both she admired not just the intellectual vigour and rigour of faculty and students, but also the collegial interaction of faculty amongst themselves and with their students. My own personal experience with CENES and my new workplace leads me to the same conclusion. One last thing I want to thank the Ziegler Speakers Series and CENES for, but which I only thought about after the fact. As UBC Okanagan is a young university, our faculty is, in many respects, very young. A scholar of such standing, with the openness of all truly accomplished scholars, is also a great role model.

The second guest speaker, Yoko Tawada, arrived at UBC Okanagan in a somewhat different fashion. In fact, both for Germanic Studies at UBC Okanagan and for Yoko Tawada, the Skype reading she held on February 11th was a first. Credit here too goes to Thomas Salumets, but more particularly to Silke Scha-de, for her compelling invitation to come and visit her and her colleagues at UBC in Vancouver on the occasion of a reading by the extremely engaging and industrious Japanese–German writer and resident of Berlin. While I introduced Yoko Tawada from Vancouver via Skype, my colleagues Alywyn Spies and Nina Langton (Japanese Studies) arranged for the set up at UBC Okanagan. The reading was trilingual, Japanese, German and English, as were the introductions and subsequent discussions, which centred on issues such as translation, transnational identity, and the role of language in culture. Yoko Tawada was also intrigued by this new genre of reading, and my colleagues and the students who attended all greatly appreciated her engaging personality, as well as her insightful, quirky texts, which they had read, naturally, beforehand.

Plans for next year are already underway, and this auspicious beginning speaks well for the future. My thanks to Thomas Salumets, Silke Schade, CENES, and the Ziegler Speakers Series’ at UBC in Vancouver, as well as to my Head, Michael Treschow, Critical Studies in the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies, whose Dean is Robert Belton, the Reichwald Professorship, and my colleagues in Japanese Studies at UBC Okanagan, all of whom are the other half of this successful equation.

Dr. Claude Desmarais
Reichwald Professor in Germanic Studies, Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies (FCCS) UBC Okanagan

New German Reading Knowledge Course (GERM 434)

A new German Reading Course “Reading German for Academic Purposes - Level II“ (GERM 434) has been introduced in Term II of the 2010 Winter Semester. The course development has been guided by the latest research in foreign language reading research as well as in the application of up-to-date technology. The new multimedia program consists of a combination of text and exercise book, which is integrated in the UBC Vista online platform. Through the application of digital interactive technology students will achieve an advanced level of German reading proficiency more effectively than in conventional reading courses. A wide range of texts from disciplines such as Humanities, Science/Life Science, Musicology and Business/Economics are integrated in one program. The texts address topics such as: the role of Humanities in academics and in present-day society, human rights and demographic changes; the debate about sustainable energy, stem cell research; contemplations about music as world language, historical events and innovative processes in Europe’s music life; economical concepts, issues concerning economical reform, democracy, globalization and ethics. The course is designed in a way which it is suitable for blended learning instructions as well as independent studying.
'Tis the Season...
German, Scandinavian and Slavic Year-End Celebrations 2009

'Weihnachtsfeier' for Students of German

On the last day of classes—December 4, 2009—the German Language Program hosted a wonderful Weihnachtsfeier for its students in a festive, joyful, and nicely decorated room in Buchanan Tower. Over eighty students spent time with faculty and staff from CENES in an inviting, fun, and cheerful atmosphere that truly captured the spirit of a German Christmas. The most delicious Stollen, mouthwatering gingerbread cookies, delectable chocolates, and other fine treats were savored by all. As were the animated conversations, the making of impressive Christmas crafts, the receiving of small gifts and an appealing musical program. Johanna Mueller beautifully sang German Christmas songs, skillfully accompanied by Florian Gassner on guitar. Thanks to distributed music sheets everybody could join in. Later on, viola player John Kastelic and Florian joined forces to bring more musical treats to a captivated audience that enjoyed singing along. For a few hours final exams were on no one’s mind.

Lucia Celebration

The Scandinavian and Nordic Cultural Association (SNCA) hosted their fifth annual Lucia celebration this past December on the last day of classes. In the MASS room of Buchanan D block, students, friends and onlookers from all over campus came to celebrate light in the dark winter months with a choir performance. Over 100 attendees enjoyed the performance by Lucia’s largest choir ever, with 18 singing members and 5 stage hands. Choir director Ellie Battison noted, "these performers do not necessarily have Scandinavian backgrounds, but they work hard to learn not only the songs, but their cultural relevance as well". The choir has come a long way since its beginnings five years ago, and we were proud that their achievement could be shared with the UBC community. The SNCA is already looking forward to next year’s Lucia celebration, where we will be glad to provide Lussekateter (Saffron Buns) and coffee for everyone who attends.

Russian End-of-year Celebration

As the tradition goes, this year the students of the Russian program went to the Russian restaurant “Accents” for the year-end lunch. The food was delicious, the atmosphere nice and friendly, and the students felt so relieved after having written their final exams. We had almost 60 students in our party, as well as Prof. Bozena Karwowska, instructors Olena Polissky, Dasha Prykhodko and Veta Chitnev.
Spotlight on Publications

**Angelika Struch:**
*Rethinking German Language Education: A Hermeneutic Approach*

This book shows how the educational value of language study could be improved through the application of philosophical hermeneutics. For some time now, language educators have been unable to forge a common pedagogical approach. The cultural turn in Western intellectual thought has led within language pedagogy to an impasse over the very concept of culture. An approach derived from hermeneutics is to concentrate on the turn from the familiar to the unfamiliar required by language study, and the change in self-understanding made possible by the learning of a new language. With German as the language of reference, and the philosophy of Martin Heidegger as the hermeneutical frame, this book shows how such an approach could be applied. Heidegger’s concepts of authentic understanding and poetic thinking are developed to form the basis for a hermeneutical model of teaching and learning. The model engenders new ways of conceptualizing language learning in general and German language learning in particular. Together, the new conceptions underline the value of language study within post-secondary education and will be of interest to everyone who cares about education.

Research Contributions

**Conferences and Workshops**


**Publications**


**Translations**


**Presentations**


Eming, Jutta. “*kein küene sø werder was als er.* Die Marke-Figur in Gottfrieds *Tristan* als Beispiel paradigmatischen Erzählens.” Freie Universität Berlin. 25 April 2008.

---. “New Directions in Gender Studies and Medieval German Studies.” Invited participant of

---. “Chopped up, Grilled and Shrunk to the Size of a Hedgehog: The Bodies of Saints in Medieval Hagiography and in Thomas Mann’s The Holy Sinner” Department of Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies, University of Cyprus, Nicosia. 18 February 2009.


---. “Wielokulturowe miasto.

---. Vancouver i ścieżki jego mieszkańców” (Multicultural City. Vancouver and Its Inhabitants”). University of Gdańsk. Poland, November 2009.

---. “Wielokulturowe miasto.


Other Research Announcements


From April 8-10, 2010, UBC will host an international conference “Media Transatlantic: Media Theory in North America and German-Speaking Europe,” co-organized by Richard Cavell (UBC) and Norm Friesen (Thompson Rivers University). Invited speakers include N. Katherine Hayles, Sybille Krämer, Hartmut Winkler, Geoffrey Winthrop-Young, and others. On 8 April there will be a special keynote address by Douglas Coupland (author of Generation X and Microserfs). The conference will take place in the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre. For further information please go to http://www.mediatrans.ca/program.html.
In December 2008, the Association of Slovak Writers’ Organisations presented the prestigious P. O. Hviezdoslav Award to Professor Peter Petro, as one of the most active and renowned experts in Slovak studies in the Western hemisphere. He has translated into English and published a range of Slovak authors, including Janko Jesenky, Dominik Tatarka, Peter Pisticak and Michal Hvorecky.

The Polish Students’ Society at UBC (Zak) presented Dr. Bozena Karwowska with a very special kind of acknowledgement in late 2008. In recognition of her outstanding contribution to promoting Polish culture and education, as well as her exceptional inspiration and support, the students had a star named in her honour. The star is located in the Andromeda constellation.

More than 8000 visitors attended the 12th Annual European Festival on May 30th, 2009, at the Scandinavian Centre in Burnaby. CENES participated for the first time and attracted lively interest.

A lunch was held in honour of the generous donors who gave money for the creation of a fund enabling the Department to turn the success of last year’s Undergraduate Symposium into an annual event. The endowment, created from personal donations and matching contributions from the Dean of Arts and the Department of CENES, now stands at an impressive $25,000.

Thank you for your support!

The Department is grateful for the generous support of the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, the Consulate of Sweden, and the Consulate General of Switzerland.