Dear friends,

With the words of Erich Kaestner’s poem *October*, we welcome all our students back to a new term and wish everyone a great start!

As usual in fall, there are – aside from Oktoberfest – a lot of exciting events coming up like the annual Grimm’s lecture on Friday October 25 with Harvard scholar Eric Rentschler.

This issue also brings you a report on both new German and Russian programs and an interview with the department’s two helping hands Janet Vaughan and Katja Czarnecki ...

Sincerely,

Johanna Roller & Tobias Sedlmaier
On July 30 PhD candidate Belinda Kleinhans has successfully defended her dissertation *Mit Texttieren jenseits der Grenze des Schweigens sprechen*. The dissertation analyzes how postwar German writers Wolfdietrich Schnurre, Günter Eich, and Ilse Aichinger negotiate anthropocentric and speciesist discourses via animal figures, drawing on such posthumanist thinkers as Derrida, Agamben, and Deleuze & Guattari. The literary texts question a world view and discourse organized around the establishment of power that utilizes animal metaphors to turn living beings into objects (and could thus be called “carnophallogocentric”). Because these writers disorient the reader’s perception of reality via figures of the animal, i.e., animals as both metaphors and as subjects, the dissertation develops an “animal poetology”.

Prof. Dagmar Lorenz (University of Illinois at Chicago) was the external examiner, and Prof. Alice Kuzniar (Waterloo), whose own book *Melancholia’s Dog: Reflections on Our Animal Kinship* met with critical success when published in 2006, was the supervisor of the dissertation.

Dr Kleinhans orginally attended the University of Waterloo as part of the MA exchange program with the University of Mannheim, and returned to Waterloo to undertake doctoral studies in 2008. In 2010 she was awarded the University of Waterloo Award for Exceptional Teaching by a Graduate Student, the last humanities graduate student to have received that distinction. She completed her PhD studies with the Cecilia and George Piller Graduate Research Award.

---

**Wat’s Upcoming**

- *Teaching Pragmatics Workshop*
- *Feminism and Sexual Reform in fin de siècle Vienna*
- *Grimm Lecture 2013*
- *Ask Me More About Brecht*
The 2013 Jakob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm Lecture
by Harvard film scholar Eric Rentschler.

Professor Rentschler, who will also be receiving an honorary doctorate from the University of Waterloo for his leading scholarship in film studies, will be speaking on the film *The Lives of Others / Das Leben der Anderen*, winner of the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film in 2007.

**where:** Hagey Hall Room 1101 (New Wing of Hagey Hall)
University of Waterloo Main Campus
Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1
parking: available across from Hagey Hall in Lot H, costs $5 (exact coin change required)

**when:** Friday, 25 October 2013 at 7pm

---

**Grete Meisel-Hess: Feminism and Sexual Reform in fin-de-siècle Vienna**

Dr. Helga Thorson, University of Victoria

Tuesday, November 12th, 2013

1:30 – 2.30 pm

---

**Oct. 10-11 Lecture and Workshops on Teaching Pragmatics**

"Doing the transcultural" & "Principles, strategies, & best practices"

The Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies invites you to a public lecture entitled "*Doing the transcultural: Applied linguistics and second language pragmatics*"

on **Thursday, October 10, 2013, 12:00p.m.-1:30 p.m. in ML 245**, and a two-part public workshop entitled "*Principles, strategies, & best practices: Second language pragmatics as learning target*"

on Friday, October 11, 2013, 10 a.m.-12 p.m in EV3 3408 and 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. in ML 117

**Dr. Thorsten Huth** of the University of Tennessee Knoxville will hold both lecture and workshop in English.
These events are of particular interest to teachers and teachers-in-training - please encourage interested undergraduate and graduate students to attend.

The events have been generously supported by the UW Center for Teaching Excellence through a LITE grant.
Snacks will be available for the lunch-hour talk on Thursday.
Ask Me More About Brecht - Hanns Eisler in Conversation with Hans Bunge

Sabine Berendse, daughter of the late Hans Bunge, and Paul Clements

will be coming to the University of Waterloo with this unique performance on Tuesday, October 22nd.

The duo has created the first English translation of conversations between her father, a theatrical assistant for Brecht at the Berliner Ensemble in Berlin, and the composer Hanns Eisler. The multimedia-show is a one-hour dramatized version of excerpts from conversations between composer Hanns Eisler and Brecht Scholar and Archivist Hans Bunge. Many photographs accompany this presentation as well as music samples (some of them are original recordings of Eisler singing and playing the piano which were recorded during the conversations) to illustrate Eisler's life and the many different styles of Eisler's compositions.

The event will take place in the Department of Germanic and Slavic studies in the Modern Language building, Room 354, on Tuesday, October 22nd from 4-7pm.

In-Sight Centre

GDR Conference 2013: Herrschaft und Macht

Cecilia and the late George Piller Research Award

Russian and Eastern European Studies

Introducing Katja Czarnecki & Janet Vaughan

A Guide to the IcGs Programme

Mannheim/ Waterloo

The Stork Awards
Centre member and chair of the History department at the University of Waterloo, Gary Bruce, organized a small conference that took place in the Balsillie School of International Affairs on the 25th to 27th May 2013. Participants were prominent historians from Europe and North America.

The well-known East German historians and civil rights activists, Stefan Wolle, who is also the director of the GDR museum in Berlin, and Armin Mitter, provided insight into everyday life and power in the German Democratic Republic. The cold-war scholar Mark Kramer of Harvard University, discussed the role of the East German government and army in the Warsaw Pact system. Herrmann Wentker, chair of the Berlin department of the Institut für Zeitgeschichte, reviewed 40 year’s of East Germany’s foreign relations. The Soviet influence on the political system of the GDR was the focus of Jan Foitzik’s (Institut für Zeitgeschichte, München) talk. Gary Bruce (uWaterloo) and Edith Shaffer (Stanford University) discussed the role of the secret police, the Stasi, in both the the state system and in the everyday life of its citizens. Alan MacDougall (U Guelph) shed light on the GDR through the lens of its soccer and soccer fan culture; and Christoph Wunniike, an independent scholar, discussed the role of the smaller parties in the East German political system.

These insightful presentations were complemented with interesting discussions. The conference schedule generated ample opportunity for the participants to exchange ideas and views. The presentations and discussions at this conference will form the basis for a book publication in the near future. The Waterloo Centre for German Studies supports both the conference and the book publication financially.

Flag and stamps of the GDR
The Cecilia and the late George Piller Graduate Research award honors excellent full-time graduate students in the Faculty of Arts, who conduct research on German language, culture, history, and/or society.

Every year, two awards valued at $4000 each are presented to exceptional students who have been nominated by faculty members of the Waterloo Centre for German studies (WCGS) in the beginning of the winter term.

After the nomination, students are required to submit a one-page research project proposal and CV to the Centre for adjudication. The merit of the proposal is considered in this, as well as the student’s record of graduate study and research.

This year, the prize was awarded for the first time to Belinda Kleinhans and Allison Cattell on May 26th. Kleinhans and Cattell, both Ph.D. candidates at the faculty of Germanic and Slavic Studies at the University of Waterloo, were honoured for excellent results in their graduate research. Both have publications in international academic journals and presented findings of their dissertation projects at major international conferences in their fields of study both in Canada and abroad.
So you find yourself as a new student in the M.A. Intercultural German Studies program at the University of Waterloo: After the orientation you are immediately placed in a whirlwind of course work, TA or RA responsibilities, CULT training, and department events. Before you know it, you need to book your flights and search for an apartment in Germany. The apartment search will take a while – and it’s not so easy to do from Canada, but you do have the option of living in a student residence for the first semester (or even longer).

Courses begin in February, so come a little early to get settled and fill out the mountains of paperwork. There will always be a form to fill out and it will always take longer than expected! Bring enough cash to last at least a month in case of difficulties transferring money over from Canada. You are undoubtedly nervous about starting courses at a German university, but there is no need to be. The courses in Mannheim are very different than those in Waterloo. They are less work-intensive throughout the semester, and at the end of the semester, you usually have a choice between writing a "Hausarbeit" or doing an oral exam. Both options are a bit intimidating, but totally do-able. For further language training the university offers free languages courses.

But life is not all university. Mannheim is far from being the most beautiful city in Germany, but it is a great city for students. There are grocery stores everywhere, and the food is much cheaper than in Canada. There are a ton of great and affordable places to hang out and eat and drink. Tipp: Café Vienna has been a regular meeting place for us and has the best Schnitzel outside of Vienna. Also, City Döner across from the main station has the best Döner in the city! There are a lot of festivals going on throughout the year, especially during the summer – you won’t be bored! If you need to get your fix of beautiful German scenery, Heidelberg is only 15 minutes away by S-Bahn. Speaking of trains, Mannheim main station offers plenty of direct connections, making it easy to travel virtually anywhere in Europe! There are even direct trains to Paris, Munich, and Berlin!

Throughout the summer, you will probably have one or more papers to write. They are always due at the beginning of the following semester – but deadlines are very flexible, so you will need to motivate yourselves! But don’t miss out on opportunities to travel! A little research and planning go a long way and you can good deals to travel to places such as Barcelona, Budapest, Prague, Berlin, Vienna, Croatia, the French Riviera, Switzerland, etc. It’s to book flights and trains early to get the best price and consider investing in a “Bahn Card “for discounts.

There is a lot to learn from the whole experience, and each individual will have different expectations, and in the end, it won’t be what any of you imagine it to be. We hope you your time in Waterloo and Mannheim provides you with a truly unique and intercultural experience you will treasure for life!
The Masters programme caught my attention first through friends who study in Mannheim. They told me that the University of Mannheim has a joint Master-degree with the University of Waterloo, Ontario. Thus I searched for information online and applied for the program 'Intercultural German Studies' (IcGS). I was very happy when I received an invitation for an interview. In September 2012 I began the program in Mannheim. The coordinator was very cooperative and helped us with all upcoming duties: application for our visa, finding student housings in Waterloo, getting in touch with other students of the programme, receiving starter-kits and much more.

In January I took off to Canada. From this point on my life has changed significantly within the last eight months. In the very first week we were welcomed with a potluck. That was a great opportunity to socialize, since we were introduced to professors and fellow students. Soon we received information concerning our jobs on campus. The working environment at the university is different compared to Germany. As Master students we are treated in a different way, thus we can work in our own study room and have a lounge on campus. We are allowed to have keys for the department building and can use special library services like ordering books online which then are stored at the front desk for us.

Our department is very small and every interaction is quite personal. That's why the professors know the field of interest of every single grad student and support them by sending them valuable articles and links for conferences or guest lectures. Personally, this environment pushed my academic carrier forward. My professor encouraged me to apply for conferences and helped me to become a part of the academic society within my research area.

The classes in Canada also differ from those in Germany. We have two classes per week, each one for three hours. This does not sound very much, but the preparation before and after class is immense. The teaching method itself is rather cooperative; the instructors lead the lesson and give support as in Germany, but always highly in interaction with the students.

Furthermore the classes - especially in linguistics - made us sensitive for cultural differences, beginning with slight differences in communication behaviour. Thus I learned that Germans are close speakers, which simply means that they stay closer to each other than Canadians do whilst talking. Regarding the communication structure there are so many little fascinating differences I was never even aware of.

Now I know that for native English speakers the opening part of a conversation, the so-called 'how are you sequence' is very important, whereas Germans focus more on the closing sequence as mutual assurance that the personal relationship lasts longer than the current talk.

During the nine months I have been in Waterloo I have discovered many cultural differences. For Instance the friendly and trustful mentality of Canadians: Sometimes they do not even feel the need to lock the door to their houses, their bikes or cars and you can create your own safety code for your bank account.

All in all I can say that the program offered me experiences I did not want to miss, on both levels, personal and academic.
Question: Since when have you been at the department and how did you get here?

Janet: I have been working at the university since 1978, but I was first in the chemical engineering department. 12 years after that, there was a job opening at the department and I was interviewed by Dr. Hoefert, who was chair at the time. Of course he wanted to know how my German was. I said that I understood everything in German but that I would answer back in English. Then he asked me what my maiden name was, because Vaughan is definitely not German, I told him that my maiden name was Pankratz and it occurred to us that my uncle Abraham Pankratz had been his student. I hadn´t even realized that my uncle had studied here. And that was probably why I got my job....

Katja: I have been with the university since 2004, which was a little over a year after we came to Canada. The reason why we came to Canada was that my husband took a job at UW in Engineering whereas I first worked in the Graduate Office of Electrical & Computer. My current position with the department became available in 2010. Germanic & Slavic studies is very close to what I have studied. I am “Diplom-Sprachmittlerin” for Russian and Spanish. So it was a nice change back to languages and a smaller Arts department, where you get to know the people you work with very well.

Question: What do you love most about your job?

Janet: I know for sure that the best part of my job is the students. I work with the grad students, but I also see some of the undergrads. When I started at the university, I was more their age and this was a sort of different relationship with the students. But it was always fun and the longer you’re working at a place, the more you are the older one and now I almost feel like I’m a mother to these students. But it keeps me young to see all of the changes. For example, when a student starts they are so fresh and new and eventually I see them with their degree and overlooking this process is just great.
Katja: Actually it’s the same for me, I like to work with the students. Germanic & Slavic Studies is a small department, where professors and the staff know many of the students and often even by their names. I enjoy working with the undergraduate students, because they might need even more help than the graduate students. The change from high school to university is often huge for our students.

Janet: And you know the students by name, it’s very personal. It is just a nice atmosphere. I am assuming the students enjoy this too.

Question: What is the toughest/ most challenging part of your job?

Katja: It is really tough to see when a student cannot graduate with the degree he/she was working towards. Maybe it was simply too much for the student and you want to help but for some reason you cannot to the extent you wish you were able to. Of course there are excellent counseling services on campus, for example the Student success Office, which help students, so we often refer to them.

Janet: We are trying to reach out to the students, so it is tough to see when they are here for only one term for example and then have to leave, without finishing a degree.

Question: Do you have any important survival tips for new students in the department?

Janet: Students should always be open-minded, because cultures are different. And also ask a lot of questions. There are certain types of students that you just never see and you hope they’re doing well. So it’s important for them to come and keep asking questions, because our door is always open and normally we will find an answer.

Katja: In larger departments they might not have time to interact with the students to the extent we can do that in our department. For the undergraduate students it is especially important in first and second year to focus on their studies, especially when they are living away from their family. If you’re an undergraduate and have any issues, please come and talk to us in the Undergraduate Office. Professor Schmenk and I are very happy to take the time to sit down with the student to help. All students should get involved in the activities the department has to offer to get connected with the department and other students.

Question: What is the part of your job you could do in your sleep?

Janet: For me that’s probably graduate admissions, which I do every year. I also type very fast and could do that in my sleep.

Katja: Actually, there are so many tasks, which we do on a daily basis. However, even when filling out the same forms over and over, something might have changed, so you should always stay focused. That’s why I don’t know, whether it is a good idea to do any of our daily tasks in our sleep.
Question: Finally, we would like to know what you do when you are not working?

Janet: My family has a trailer at Honey Harbour on Georgian Bay, so that is where we try to go in the summertime. I also like to play horseshoes in a women’s league. In the wintertime I always try to get away to somewhere warm. I have two grown children, but also two grandchildren, so I see them a lot, which keeps me busy and very young too.

Katja: I have a family as well and a little son, whose education and activities I am very involved in. I also like to travel if time permits and love to see new countries and experience new cultures. On Wednesdays, I try to make it to my yoga class. This is nice for relaxation from work and busy days, so please don’t schedule meetings for Wednesday afternoons... :-)

In-Sight Centre

Theatre-trip to Stratford by Julia Roitsch
September 25th was all about theatre. Before seeing the production of Friedrich Schiller’s Mary Stuart at the Stratford Festival, faculty, students, and guests were given an introductory talk on the play, background, and staging by Prof. em. David John. The play, written by Schiller in 1800, depicts the last days of Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, imprisoned by her cousin and rival Queen Elizabeth I, who wanted to secure her power, and the latter’s hesitancy in solving the situation.

Dr. John was involved in the production of the play as a consultant due to his expertise in Schiller’s works and stage adaptations of his plays. After talking about the origins and content of Mary Stuart, he described his contribution in the process of creating the production and important factors which needed to be considered: the core of the play, the degree of faithfulness to the original text, the cast, costumes, and stage design. Dr. John and director Antoni Cimolino went through Schiller’s original version and Peter Oswald’s English translation discussing how to translate it as faithfully as possible to the German original.

In accordance, the entire production was rather traditional as opposed to many recent German productions, which, according to David John, mostly tend to be more modern and experimental. Although the performance in general was traditionally staged indeed, the stage design was very creative: the stage was in the shape of a coffin and surrounded by barbed wire, alluding to Mary’s imprisonment and eventual death. What is more, a cross was painted on the floor, indicating the religious conflict between the Anglican queen and her Catholic rival. As for the cast, Canadian actresses Lucy Peacock and Seana McKenna, both best known for their long association with the Stratford Festival, played the two protagonists, Mary Stuart and Queen Elizabeth I.

The choice of seeing this play was brilliant, not only because of its relation to the Germanic department, but also because Mary Stuart was the hit of this year’s Stratford season with best advance sales, universal praise, and numerous additional performances until October – a success unprecedented in the festival’s history. The dramatic themes – politics, religion, genetics, gender, justice and meta-physical freedom – certainly contribute to the ongoing attraction to the multi-faceted play. This night, too, the play received standing ovations and everyone was glad for having joined the excursion. The generous support of the Waterloo Centre for German Studies and the Department made it possible to realize this wonderful trip to Stratford.
Why study Russian?  
Introducing REES (Russian and East European Studies) 
by Tetyana Reichert

While English as a foreign language is becoming omnipresent in Eastern Europe, no matter how strange it may sound, Russian has been gaining popularity in the West in the last few years as well. Aside from being one of the most widely spoken languages, being a United Nations official language, and its importance in the field of science, there are other reasons to study Russian as well. Some grasp of Russian even appears necessary for Chinese students to follow the dramatic changes being charted for them since their nation’s political and economic cooperation with Russia continues to expand every year. Due to Russia’s development of tourism and political relations with Turkey and Finland, both state and private institutions in these countries are experiencing a deficit of Russian speakers. These changes have not escaped Canada. The popularity of Russian is slowly but steadily growing in Canada as well, as Peter Gölz the chair of Germanic and Slavic Studies at the University of Victoria has noted at the congress of humanities this year. Yet despite its rising popularity, the Russian language still retains its status as one of the “less commonly taught languages” in North American institutions of higher education. This is unfortunate because Russian programs would increase the number of Canadians studying languages and at the same time provide the opportunity to learn a language well outside the boundaries of Europe and Latin America. The Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies at the University of Waterloo, along with German and Applied Language Studies, offers a program in Russian and East European Studies (REES). This inclusion of a non-Western European language strengthens the core of the multilayered program of the department. With several professors of German also possessing a linguistic and teaching knowledge in Russian, the REES program can accommodate the slowly but steadily growing interest in Russian and Eastern European Studies among the student population.

Since 2011, the REES program has been undergoing a re-development following the retirement of core faculty members. In 2012, I was hired on a two-year appointment and consider myself fortunate to have the opportunity to share my passion for and knowledge of the Russian language, literature, and culture with my students.
I am also excited to be a part of a team with Professors Mat Schulze and Paul Malone whose goal is to gradually align the new REES program with the plans of the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies to have its undergraduate and graduate programs under the broad umbrella of Multilingualism. The long history of German-Russian cultural correlation is an important component in the mosaic of the Multilingualism and Multiculturalism curricula in our department, and I am fortunate to be able to explore new directions together with my colleagues, specifically in the areas of interdisciplinary teaching and research.

Integrating the REES program in a collaborative effort to focus on the genealogy of intercultural dialogue in teaching results in combining humanities-based research with the social sciences as well as bringing the REES program and thus the teaching of Russian and Croatian into the 21st century. To make the REES program appealing to a heterogeneous group of UW students interested in modern transnational communities and intercultural contacts, courses have been developed with a focus on contemporary Russian society and culture. These include an international perspective on issues such as economics, political science, history, and the performance culture of the post-Soviet theatre in the framework of the Pushkin-Goethe festival tradition. REES language courses offer students training in Russian and cultural sensitivity in preparation for their professional careers in the competitive market with graduandes from other universities.

In addition, undergraduate students, paid from teaching lab resources, receive teaching training and tutor Russian lab classes, and gain experience in organizing extracurricular activities in the Slavic Club. This fall, the re-vitalization of the program has further led to the hiring of two new part-time faculty members, Natalia Ermishkina and Anastasia Kuzminykh, so that we are now able to offer additional sections for beginners as well as intermediate Russian. In addition to a more vital presence on campus, the arrival of these new colleagues reminds me of the importance of diversity and support, as our new colleagues come to us with fresh ideas and untiring enthusiasm.
The Fred & Ruth Stork Awards in German Studies are awarded annually based on the students’ participation in a recognized, institutional program with a German university. There are three different types of grants given annually which all enable students to get to know the German culture:

1. The WCGS Intercultural German Studies Awards, valued at up to $2000 per student,
2. The WCGS International Opportunities uWaterloo Travel Grants, valued at $1000 per student
3. WCGS International Opportunities Canadian Travel Grants, valued at $500 per student

Interested students must complete an application by March 1.

The awards strongly support the students interest in German culture and language. They were made possible by a donation from Fred and Ruth Stork, and their children Michael and Marion, as loyal friends and supporters of the University of Waterloo and the Waterloo Centre for German Studies.

Fred and Rut Stork came as German immigrants to Canada in 1953. As a successful local businessman Fred made several generous donations during his lifetime and his final legacy helped to put the University of Waterloo on the map as a major centre of German Studies in North America. Over the last year, students have expressed their gratitude to the Stork family. Two examples (excerpts from a letter by Keira Soutar and a poem by Jelena Srdjenovic) are published here:

Letter by Keira Soutar

"As Germans are very into their holidays, a group of students and I decided to use a free four day weekend to our advantage and go to Hamburg. The train ride was an experience upon itself as Germany had experienced tremendous flooding this summer. Due to this, the train had been rerouted. This made the train ride even more worthwhile as we were able to view more of Germany than we thought. Hamburg at this time was hosting its ‘Stadt Fest’. This is a city festival, which brings people from all over to Germany to the city of Hamburg. It was a great experience to celebrate like a true German and eat some of the best German food."
Thanks to your generosity,
my life experienced velocity,
Looking through the skies,
seeing the sun rise,
Where the secrets lie,
in the cultures eyes.

Thanks to your generosity,
you enhanced my curiosity,
Where is my home?
Among the wide brome?
To the world I belong!
I felt it all along!

Thanks to your generosity,
Intertwined perspectives eliminate animosity.
Language!!! Oh, what a beauty!
Dialects!!! Ah! So fruity!!!
In furthering my knowledge,
your aid, I gratefully acknowledge.