

WATERLOO CENTRE FOR German studies

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June 2006

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Greetings from the Director

Welcome to our fourth issue of the *Nachrichtenblatt*. I have now returned from a research leave in Germany and see that things have been well cared for in my absence by my colleague Dr. Grit Liebscher. I wish to thank her sincerely and all of you who supported her while she was acting director. I was writing a book on the late Weimar director Fritz Bennewitz and his seven productions of Goethe's *Faust*, four in German, three in languages other than his own, English (in New York), Hindi (in India), and Tagalog (in the Philippines). German and its international repercussions are also very much part of this issue,

especially with respect to the world conference on the German Diaspora planned for late August this year. Please accept my personal invitation to attend. It will be of interest not just to academics, but to anyone associated with German in our community. Beyond the "Diaspora Experiences" conference, this issue is once again full of Centre news from the past six months. I hope you enjoy it and send us your reactions.

David G. John

David G. John



Centre Director David G. John visits German class at Sir John A. MacDonald High School. More on p. 3.

SSHRC Grants \$16,000 for Diaspora Conference

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada has awarded the Centre a major grant for its international conference "Diaspora Experiences: German-Speaking Immigrants and their Descendants," August 24-27, 2006. 65 speakers from 18 countries will address the issue of the German Diaspora in 27 countries and areas around the world, including Canada and Kitchener-Waterloo. Celebrated author Hugo Hamilton will read from his memoir *The Speckled People*. Come and be part of it! See more on p. 4 and at www.wcgs.ca.

Grußwort vom Departmental Chair



Liebe Freunde des Centres, der Mai ist immer ein magischer Monat für mich. Der Winter hat endlich sein

Ende gefunden, man kann die Sonne genießen, pflanzen und säen, und auch das akademische Jahr findet sein Ende. Ich denke dann oft zurück an die Höhepunkte des Wintersemesters, wie unsere jährlichen Book-Awards, die die besten Studenten für ihre ausgezeichneten Leistungen ehren. Peter Pijet, Manager des Concordia Clubs, der den Concordia Preis in Höhe von \$1,000 überreichte, und Sebastian Bischoff, Vize-Konsul der BRD, waren diesmal Ehrengäste bei dieser schönen Feier. Da wir traditionell im Sommer weniger Studenten unterrichten, bedeutet der Mai auch für uns ProfessorInnen eine Ausstellung. Wir gehen nämlich nicht für vier Monate auf Urlaub, wie manche meinen mögen, sondern wenden unsere Aufmerksamkeit unseren Forschungsprojekten zur deutschen Sprache, Literatur, Kultur und zum Film zu. Auch Kongresse sind Teil dieser Arbeit, auf denen wir unsere Forschungsergebnisse und die der Kollegen aus aller Welt diskutieren. Dieses Jahr warten wir gespannt auf die Konferenz zu den Erfahrungen deutscher Auswanderer in aller Welt, die im August vom Centre for German Studies an der University of Waterloo ausgerichtet wird.

Ihr
Michael Boehringer
Michael Boehringer
Chair, Germanic & Slavic Studies

Farewell to a Gentleman

Horst K. Allmendinger (1936–2006), a resident of New Hamburg, passed away on March 30. A man widely liked and admired in our community and an engineer by profession, he was a member of the Concordia Club, served on its board from 1984 to 1994, including two years as President, on the Oktoberfest board in 1995, and was a member of the German Canadian Business and Professional Association. Horst was a gentle man and a gentleman. The birds and the trees in Germany and Tennessee will miss this inveterate hiker. We shall miss his support, his warmth and his intelligence.

Guest Speakers

Steve Crawshaw als Gast des Waterloo Centre for German Studies

Grit Liebscher

Steve Crawshaw, Autor, Journalist und derzeitiger Direktor des Londoner Büros von *Human Rights Watch*, war am 24. Januar 2006 an der Universität Waterloo zu Gast. Er folgte einer Einladung des *Waterloo Centre for German Studies* als einer der Gastredner in einer Reihe von Lesungen und Vorträgen, zu der Studenten wie die Öffentlichkeit gleichermaßen eingeladen waren. Steve Crawshaw beleuchtete in seinem Vortrag "The new Germany – Where is it heading" Deutschland vor und nach den letzten Wahlen. Ein Teil der geäußerten Ideen entstammten seinem 2004 erschienenen Buch *Easier Fatherland. Germany and the Twenty-First Century*, in dem Crawshaw einen sehr persönlichen Blick auf die deutsche Geschichte der letzten 50 Jahre wirft. Diesen Blick erwarb sich Crawshaw als Journalist und Korrespondent für die britische Tageszeitung *The Independent*, für die er von 1986 bis 2002 arbeitete. Besonders lebendig wurde sein Vortrag dadurch, dass Crawshaw aus erster Hand von den Ereignissen wie dem Fall der Mauer 1989 berichten konnte. Mit dem



Blick von außen, also dem Blick eines Briten auf Deutschland, stellte Crawshaw in seinem Vortrag fest, dass die Deutschen heutzutage befreiter mit sich und der Vergangenheit ihres Landes umgehen können, weil sie sich ihr kritischer und offener stellen. Dazu gehöre auch, dass Deutschlands früherer Außenminister Joschka Fischer nach einer stürmischen Debatte in den 90iger Jahren seine Kabinettskollegen überzeugen konnte, erstmals nach dem 2. Weltkrieg deutsche Soldaten zu internationalen Brennpunkten wie den Kosovo-Krieg zu senden. So wie der Vortrag selbst reich mit persönlicher Geschichte gespickt war, so hatten auch in der anschließenden Diskussion viele Fragen und Kommentare individuelle Erlebnisse zur Grundlage, wie zum Beispiel die Studentenproteste des Jahres 1968 und das Verhältnis der Deutschen zu Einwanderern. Das Centre dankt der Botschaft der Bundesrepublik Deutschland in Ottawa, dem Goethe-Institut, den Fachbereichen Peace and Conflict Studies, Politik, Geschichte und dem WPIRG für die finanzielle Unterstützung dieser Veranstaltung.

Deutschland und die Deutschen im *Berliner Journal*

Grit Liebscher

Dies war der Titel einer Veranstaltung des *Waterloo Centre for German Studies* am 7. März 2006, als Dr. Anne Löchte einen Einblick in ihre Arbeit mit dieser lokalen Zeitung gab. Das *Berliner Journal* war zwischen 1859 und 1918 eine der wichtigsten deutschsprachigen Wochenzeitungen in Ontario. Während ihres Aufenthaltes als Gastforscherin am *Waterloo Centre for German Studies* von September 2005 bis April 2006 hatte es sich Dr. Löchte zur Aufgabe gemacht, unter anderem folgende Themen im *Berliner Journal* zu untersuchen: Spracherhalt und Bedeutung der deutschen Sprache, gegenseitige Wahrnehmung der Deutschen und Nordamerikaner, kulturelle Aspekte und Feste, und die Berichterstattung im Hinblick auf deutsche Ereignisse. Der Vortrag bot einen Ausschnitt aus dieser Themenvielfalt, unterstützt durch Fotos aus der Zeit des Erscheinens und Kommentaren aus der Zeitung selbst. Die ca. 40 Besucher der



Veranstaltung, zumeist Deutschinteressenten oder selbst Einwanderer, fanden mehrmals Gelegenheit zum Schmunzeln über heute noch Erhaltenes sowie Überraschendes zum Deutschen in jener Zeit. Als wichtiges Mittel für Einwanderer zur Pflege der Sprache und zum Erhalt eines deutschen Gemeinschaftssinns bietet das *Berliner Journal* einen Fundus an Material für das Studium des Deutschen in Ontario. Neben Ulrich Frisses *Berlin, Ontario (1800-1916)*, das weitgehend ebenfalls auf der Auswertung des *Berliner Journals* beruht, wird nun auch Dr. Löchtes Arbeit voraussichtlich 2007 in Buchform erscheinen. Die Originalausgaben des *Berliner Journal* werden übrigens in der Dana Porter Library der University of Waterloo und der Kitchener Public Library aufbewahrt und können dort eingesehen werden. Der vollständige Vortrag befindet sich auf der Webseite des Centres. Co-Sponsor des Vortrags war das Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies.

Meine weißen Nächte: Eine Lesung

Mark Wilkinson

In February the Centre presented a reading by the young German author Lena Gorelik.

Gorelik was born in Leningrad (today St. Petersburg), Russia, and immigrated with her Russian-Jewish family to Germany at age eleven in 1992. She integrated quickly into German society and has already put together an impressive résumé, finishing a degree in Journalism and translating Ruben Gonzalez Gallego's novel *Weiß auf Schwarz* from Russian into German. While completing a second degree in Eastern European Studies, Gorelik has now written her own novel, *Meine weißen Nächte*, and has given readings in several countries. For the students and faculty in Waterloo's Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies, Gorelik's visit was a special treat, as the author read not only from the German text, but also from the brand new Russian translation of her novel. Although she has presented her work at many readings in Europe and elsewhere, Gorelik stated that this was the first time she had given a reading in the Russian translation.

The novel itself is a story about integration, and is autobiographical in many respects. The protagonist, Anja Buchmann, is also eleven years old when she immigrates with her Russian-Jewish family to Germany in the early 1990s. The action is interspersed with flashbacks from Anja's life in St. Petersburg, and the narration is undertaken with a good dose of humour, for example when Anja informs a "Wohlstandstyp" at a party that Pushkin was a Russian poet, and not only a brand of Vodka. After the official reading was over, Gorelik joined graduate students, faculty and guests for a drink at the grad house and shared some fascinating details about how she became an author. Her visit was especially inspirational to many of the graduate students, who saw someone their own age successfully balancing her studies and professional career. The event was co-sponsored by Toronto's Goethe-Institut, and their Associate for Cultural Programs, Jutta Brendemühl, was in attendance to accompany Gorelik throughout her visit. The Centre is grateful to the Goethe-Institut for its support.



Research

Department holds annual conference

The Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies held its annual conference in April, 2006, at which nine graduate students and faculty spoke

about and discussed their research. Below are summaries of three contributions from the area of German language teaching and learning.

Ching-yi (Hanna) Lin: Vocabulary and Foreign Language Learning: Learner Strategy and its Implication for FL Teaching

In the history of second language acquisition research, vocabulary teaching and learning has been neglected in favour of pronunciation and grammar. Methods such as the audiolingual approach and the structural syllabus have subordinated vocabulary to the requirements of pattern practice. However, since the 1980s, vocabulary has re-emerged as a central factor in language teaching. Language pedagogues point out that "language consists of grammaticalized lexis, not lexicalized grammar" (Lewis 1993, p. 89), and that a grammar-oriented approach is not the most efficient way to achieve communicative competence. Lin discussed the vocabulary learning process of foreign language learners, focusing especially on "learner strategies for vocabulary learning". She addressed a number of aspects concerning vocabulary learning, such

as: What is strategy? How is it defined? What is the difference between "learner strategy" and "learning strategy"? What is the theory behind the learning strategies research? What are the features of learner strategies? What kind of strategies are there for vocabulary learning? Which strategy is most commonly used to learn vocabulary? She also introduced two well known mnemonic strategies, "repetition" and the "key word method", and argued their merits and restrictions. Finally, she discussed why strategies should be taught to students to help them learn vocabulary and outlined some implications for language teaching.

Work cited:

Lewis, M. (1993). *The lexical approach: The state of ELT and the way forward*. Hove, England: Language Teaching Publications.

Janice McGregor: Implications of Learner Beliefs for Language Learning

In the fields of Second Language Acquisition (SLA) and Foreign Language Learning (FLL), looking at individual differences and accounting for learner diversity have long taken second place to the so-called "main question" posed by Long (1990, p. 661): "which aspects of SLA are universal?" Studies in SLA have therefore been dominated by quantitative studies which attempt to establish the processes involved in second language learning that can be viewed as being unique to all human beings, regardless of the personal, social, and cultural contexts they live in (Benson, 2005, p. 8). Recently, a shift from the more constricted etic perspective to the broader emic perspective that is characteristic of qualitative research has been apparent in these fields. Learner beliefs, because of this, require further exploration. McGregor presented findings from a study on learner beliefs that she conducted with beginner learners of German. She gave an overview of existing research in the field and provided a brief overview of her study. McGregor then presented some of the results based on the data collected in her study. Finally, she discussed possible implications of her findings on learner beliefs for the understanding of language learning as a

very personal process and for language learners as diverse individuals.



Front row, from left: Hanna Lin, Janice McGregor. Back row, left: Martin Schmidt

Works Cited:

Benson, P. & Nunan, D. (Eds.) (2005). *Learners' Stories. Difference and Diversity in Language Learning*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
 Long, M. H. (1990). "The least a second language acquisition theory needs to explain." *TESOL Quarterly*, 24(4), 649-66.

wörterbuch heraus, in dem Begriffe verzeichnet sind, die in den Neunzigerjahren neu in den deutschen Wortschatz aufgenommen wurden (wie z.B. Handy, Elchtest, Browser, Suchmaschine, Babyklappe). Basierend auf dieser Textgrundlage hat Schmidt in der deutschen Sprachinsel in Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario, im Rahmen einer qualitativen Studie untersucht, inwieweit diese Neologismen in den Wortschatz der dortigen DeutschsprecherInnen eingedrungen sind und welche Einstellungen sie zu diesen neuen Wör-

Martin Schmidt:

Neologismen in der deutschen Sprache in Kitchener-Waterloo

Im Jahr 2004 brachte das Institut für Deutsche Sprache ein Neologismen-

tern haben. Dabei gab er im ersten Teil seines Vortrags einen Überblick über die Neologismenforschung in Deutschland und stellte sowohl die Kriterien, die Wörter zu Neologismen machen, als auch die verschiedenen Kategorien von Neologismen vor. In einem zweiten Teil legte er den historischen Hintergrund der deutschen Sprachinsel in Kitchener-Waterloo dar. Im Hauptteil seines Vortrags stellte er Ergebnisse vor, die er durch Befragung kanadischer DeutschsprecherInnen erzielt hat. Dabei fragte er einerseits danach, inwieweit und warum sie dieser Sprachwandel erreicht hat, d.h. die Bekanntheit und Verwendung der Neologismen wird ins Blickfeld genommen. Andererseits stellte er die Frage nach den Einstellungen, die es bei den DeutschsprecherInnen in Kitchener-Waterloo zu den Neologismen der Neunzigerjahre gibt. Abschließend stellte er dem Ergebnis dieser Studie die Ergebnisse einer Vergleichsstudie mit DeutschsprecherInnen aus Deutschland gegenüber, um sowohl die Entwicklung dieses Sprachwandels als auch die Einstellungen zu den Neologismen in Kitchener-Waterloo mit der Situation in Deutschland zu vergleichen. Der Vortrag beruht auf Schmidts Magisterarbeit, die ab Herbst im Department for Germanic and Slavic Studies oder der Dana Porter Library eingesehen werden kann.

Local Schools

Ron Rhodes

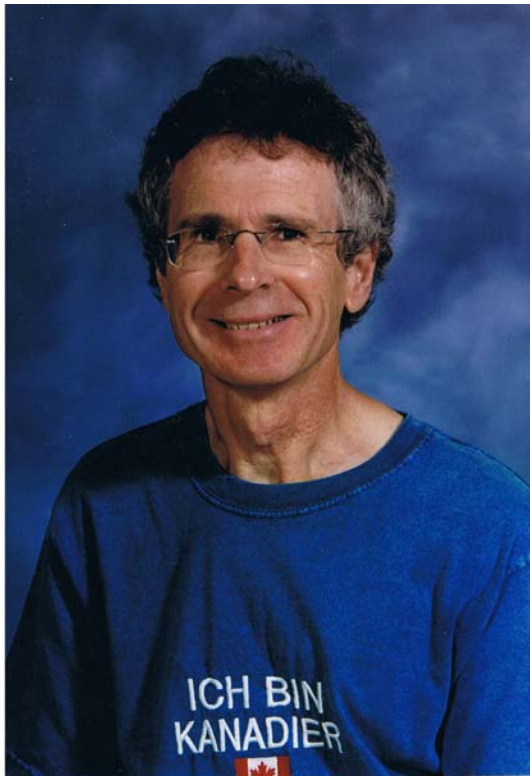
Ron Rhodes, teacher of French and German at the new Sir John A. MacDonald Secondary School in Waterloo, has been recognized by his peers as an outstanding teacher of language. His German classes have been consistently among the strongest in the area and he has devoted nearly thirty years to promoting our discipline. Julie Telfer, the principal of this, Waterloo's newest and largest High School, is a graduate of UW in German with BA and MA degrees. Her father, Professor J.W. Dyck, founded the Germanic and Slavic Department at UW in 1960 and served many years as its chair. In December, Mr. Rhodes invited Centre Director David John to visit his grade ten class

and speak about their future and German studies. A group of some 25 students listened attentively to a presentation on the importance of German heritage, the role of Germany in modern Europe and international affairs, and the application of German language to study and work in many fields. Examples of University of Waterloo co-op students' work term jobs and of German-related and unrelated career positions of graduates over several years made the presentation relevant for the attentive listeners. In the coming months, all of them would be faced with the decision to continue with German or not, and of course we hope that many of them choose our direction!

Regional High School German Contest

Again this year the Waterloo Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies hosted the annual regional German contest in February for High School level students from grades ten and above. 75 students from 9 schools wrote the challenging exam. Afterwards

they enjoyed lunch and a presentation by the department of Germanic and Slavic Studies. Winners were invited to the Provincial Final Contest in Peterborough at Trent University to compete for prizes and major awards.



Diaspora Experiences: German-Canadian Immigrants and their Descendants, 24-27 August, 2006

Come and join us for some or all of this international conference. There will be three keynote speakers, Hans Lemberg (Philipps-Universität Marburg), "Reasons and Conditions of Population Transfer. Expulsion of Germans from East and Central Europe and their Integration in Germany and in Foreign Countries after World War II"; Janet Fuller (Southern Illinois University), "Language and Identity in the German Diaspora (and at Home)"; and Hugo Hamilton (Dublin), reading from his celebrated novel *The Speckled People*. More than 60 further speakers from 18 countries will address the topic as it relates to 27 countries and areas worldwide in sessions on Acculturation, African, American, Austrian, British, Canadian, Central European, Cimbrian, East German, European, Family, German, Israeli, Jewish, Kazakh, Literary, Luxembourgish, Media, Netherlandic, Russian, South American, South Pacific, Sudeten-German, Swiss, Transcultural and Turkish aspects.

Admission to all talks is free to Region of Waterloo residents, but please register by July 15 via the Centre website if you intend to come. Join us and learn about your/our/their culture!

The Centre extends its sincere thanks to our *major* sponsors, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and Mr. Eddie Koch. We also wish to thank sincerely our further sponsors: the Goethe-Institute (Toronto), the Embassy and Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany (Ottawa and Toronto), the Consulate General of Switzerland (Toronto), the Embassy of Austria (Ottawa), the German-Canadian Chamber of Industry and Commerce (Toronto), the German-Canadian Congress (Ontario), the University of Waterloo Vice-President of Research, Associate Vice-President Academic, Dean of Graduate Studies, Dean of Arts, and the Departments of Germanic and Slavic Studies, History, Jewish Studies and Sociology.



Courses open to the public

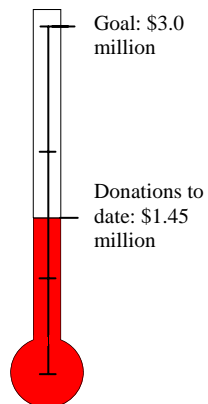
Dr. Paul M. Malone welcomed many community members to his film course in the winter semester. Some community members came to several of the showings and often contributed to the discussion afterwards, sometimes providing unexpected and contrary insights to those of younger class members. There were evenings when the room was packed almost to standing room only and the visitors always seemed appreciative of the opportunity. This fall, Dr. James M. Skidmore generously welcomes community members to visit

his German 271, German Thought and Culture, a survey of cultural currents to the 18th century, taught in English, 6:30-8:50 Mon, Arts Lecture Hall 105. Participants are advised to do the readings for lectures attended beforehand, a list of which can be provided by the Department to anyone who's interested.

Centre Receives Legacy Gift

The Centre has received a gift of \$35,000 from the estate of the late **Dorle Sauter**. Of German descent, Ms Sauter was a member of our community who cherished her heritage and wished it to flourish for future generations. In her memory, her gift will remain and grow in the Centre endowment fund and will help support a range of Centre activities in perpetuity. We wish to express our sincere gratitude for her generosity.

The Centre needs your support!



Library Archives Exhibit

Helena Calogieridis, Librarian for Germanic & Slavic Studies

In conjunction with the Diaspora conference, as of August 21, 2006, the University of Waterloo Library's Special Collections Department will mount an exhibit of German archival highlights in two main cases on the Second (Main) Floor of the Dana Porter Library, facing the entrance. This material, focussing on the German heritage

and culture of the local area, will be available for public viewing in regular library hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, Saturday-Sunday, noon to 6:00 pm.

More information on the archives is available at

<http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/discipline/SpecColl/archives/rc1.html>

Centre Announces new Award

A new award has been announced in honour of the late **Herta Brichta**, a long-time member of our community. This endowed award, based on a major donation to the Centre, will be made annually in her name, in perpetuity. The award (\$1000) will be given to a student who has achieved excellent results in his/her academic studies in German during the previous calendar year. The Centre is most appreciative of this generosity.

The new award joins two other recent named awards established by the Centre: The **Evelyn Guderian** prize (\$1,000 annually), to be given to a graduate student for the best thesis or dissertation written during the previous academic year; and the **Anna Tuerr** memorial award (\$1,000 annually). For details on eligibility and the application process, contact us through our website:

www.wcgs.ca.

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Manfred Richter, Peter Wood

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Germanic & Slavic Studies

University of Waterloo

200 University Ave. West,

Waterloo, ON, Canada N2L 3G1

Phone: (519) 888 4567,

ext: 7547

Fax: (519) 746 5243

E-mail: wcgs@uwaterloo.ca

Web: www.wcgs.ca

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