Grüße from the Graduate Assistant

by W. Jake Newsome

It seems like this year has been an extremely busy one for all of us. Another academic year has come to an end, and I'm not sure about the rest of you, but I hadn't really grasped that the year had even fully started yet! But all of the work has paid off: several of our members have received prestigious fellowships, promotions, or produced more publications.

Amid the accolades, though, we also received saddening news when we learned of the passing of William S. Allen, Professor Emeritus of History, and co-founder of the Graduate Group for German & Austrian Studies (read a full obituary on page 6).

The GGGAAS continued to support and foster research in Western New York. The Group co-sponsored two international conferences: the Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference and the Society of Architectural Historians annual conference (read about both on page 4).

I know I speak on behalf of all of our members in expressing gratitude to Professors Emeriti Erika and Michael Metzger for their continued support of the GGGAAS. This marks the tenth year that the Group has benefited from the generous backing of the Michael and Erika A. Metzger Special Events Fund, without which we would not be able to fund research, events, or maintain our website. So, we thank the Metzgers for both their financial and intellectual support.

We're all very proud of the accomplishments of our members and wish them nothing but more success in the future! Email me (wjnewsom@buffalo.edu) if you have any questions, or if you have anything you'd like to share with the Group. Now that the summer is here, I hope you have a few moments to browse through the newsletter and see what our members have been up to!

Alles Gute!
W. Jake Newsome
Ph.D. Student, History (UB)
Graduate Assistant, GGGAAS

Jerold Frakes Awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship

Professor Jerold Frakes was named a 2013-2014 Guggenheim Foundation Fellow. The professor of English was also awarded three other prestigious fellowships for the coming year.

Elizabeth Otto Named Humanities Institute’s Executive Director

Professor Elizabeth (Libby) Otto will serve as the Executive Director of UB’s Humanities Institute starting next year.
2012 Fall Reception

The thirteenth annual fall reception of the Graduate Group for German & Austrian studies was held on Sunday, October 21, 2012. Group Co-Director Patricia Mazón and her husband, Josh Feinstein, hosted the reception at their home in Buffalo’s Elmwood Village. Thirteen Group members stopped by on that beautiful Sunday to catch up with colleagues over drinks and finger food. We also took the opportunity to welcome two new graduate students to the Group: John Marsland is a new PhD student in UB’s History Department who studies alternative and punk cultures of the 1970s. John Liquori, a student of Group member Axel Fair-Schultz, was a MA student in UB’s History Department who was interested in the life of Sophie Scholl. Both were glad for the chance to meet other scholars interested in Germanic studies as they started the academic year.

The GGAAS extends its thanks to all of you who came by for our reception, whether you stayed for the whole time, or simply stopped by to say hello. We all enjoyed getting to catch up and hear about each other’s many projects. We would also like to thank Patricia and Josh for hosting this year’s reception.

We all look forward to seeing you at next year’s annual fall reception!
Jerold Frakes Named a Guggenheim Foundation Fellow

By Pat Donovan, UB Reporter, release date: April 18, 2013.

Jerold C. Frakes, PhD, professor of English at the University at Buffalo, a highly-regarded scholar of medieval literatures, has received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation fellowship to support his study of the emergence of early Yiddish literature during the 2013-14 academic year.

The Guggenheim fellowships are often characterized as “mid-career” awards and are intended for men and women who have already demonstrated exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or exceptional creative ability in the arts.

Frakes is one of 175 scholars, artists and scientists in 56 disciplines to receive a Guggenheim fellowship this year, all of whom were chosen after a rigorous selection process from a pool of almost 3,000 applicants. It is a class that Edward Hirsch, president of the foundation, says represents “the best of the best.”

Frakes also has received three other prestigious fellowships for the 2013-14 academic year. They are:

- A fellowship at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University. This extremely competitive program selects fewer than five percent of applicants and supports outstanding research projects in many disciplines.
- A National Humanities Center fellowship. The center’s stated aim is to insure the continuing strength of the liberal arts and to affirm the importance of the humanities in American life.
- A fellowship from the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences), Paris, a leading French public institution for research and higher education, whose faculty includes many of France’s greatest humanities scholars.

Frakes is a scholar of medieval European literatures who joined the UB faculty in 2006, after many years as a professor of German and comparative literature at the University of Southern California.

He is the author of four books about the literature of medieval and early modern Europe, most recently Brides and Doom: Gender, Property Rights and Power in Medieval German Women’s Epic and Vernacular and Latin Literary Discourses of the Muslim Other in Medieval Germany. He has edited or translated nine other books, including several on Yiddish literature, and has given many invited lectures and conference papers. Frakes has served on the editorial board of several journals and as editor of the Yiddish Literature Division of the Encyclopaedia Judaica, second edition, published in 2006, and is the author of scores of essays, book reviews and articles in peer-reviewed journals.

He has received a number of other distinguished awards, grants and fellowships over the course of his career, notably a National Endowment for the Arts research fellowship and two fellowships from Germany’s Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.
International Conferences Come to Buffalo

Society of Architectural Historians Annual Conference

From April 10 to 14, 2013, Buffalo hosted the 66th annual conference of the Society of Architectural Historians. 650 scholars, critics, preservationists, curators, and architects attended from 26 countries, including Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. Despina Stratigakos (Associate Professor, UB Architecture) and Tom Yots (Director, Preservation Buffalo Niagara) acted as local co-chairs. The conference featured 175 scholarly papers delivered in thirty-five sessions, an all-day historic preservation seminar on Buffalo (“The Sustainable Post-Industrial City: Using Our Architectural Legacy for New Growth and New Vitality”), a roundtable discussion on Buffalo’s future featuring Bob Shibley (Dean, UB Architecture), Catherine Schweitzer (Baad Foundation), and Pulitzer Prize-winner Paul Goldberger, Contributing Editor at Vanity Fair, a plenary talk by Mr. Goldberger, a PechaKucha (a lively and fast-paced presentation format of works-in-progress) at Asbury Hall, receptions in Buffalo City Hall and the Darwin Martin House, and twenty-five architectural tours.

The Buffalo conference was the largest ever in the organization’s history, a testimony to the great draw of Buffalo’s local architecture. “I’ve never had so many of our members come up to me and say, this is a wonderful conference and Buffalo’s a wonderful city,” Pauline Saliga, the Society’s executive director, told Buffalo News’s Dale Anderson. Despina Stratigakos added, “One of the recurring comments was that people liked our energy, the sense that something was happening in Buffalo and this was an exciting place to be. I think we just sent out 620 ambassadors.”

Dr. Stratigakos extends a very special “thank you” to Michael and Erika Metzger for their generous support of the conference. For a full account of the conference’s highlights, see Dale Anderson’s article in the Buffalo News that appeared online on April 14, 2013.

Society of Architectural Historians

The SAH promotes the study, interpretation, and conservation of architecture, design, landscapes, and urbanism worldwide for the benefit of all. SAH serves as a network of local, national, and international institutions and individuals who, by vocation or avocation, focus on the built environment and its role in shaping contemporary life.

Society for Germanic Linguistics

Founded in 1968, the SGL is the largest and most active organization in North America to serve the broad community of scholars teaching and researching in Germanic Linguistics and Philology. The Society publishes the Journal of Germanic Linguistics, which appears quarterly.

Germanic Linguistics Conference

Organized by Group members David Fertig and Robert Hoeing, the Nineteenth Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference (GLAC 19) brought about 75 scholars to Buffalo from all parts of North America, Europe, and beyond for two very full days of presentations and discussion on April 26 and 27, 2013. All aspects of the structure, history and use of the Germanic languages were well represented in the research presented, from highly technical investigations of syntactic features of present-day German and phonological patterns in the older Germanic languages to more broadly accessible work on topics such as the lives of German speakers in Wisconsin.

Plenary speakers at GLAC 19 were Neil Jacobs (Professor Emeritus, Ohio State) and Stefan Müller (Freie Universität Berlin). Both plenary talks drew on evidence from German and other Germanic languages to address fundamental questions confronting linguistic theory. Professor Jacobs’ talk on ‘Language as Performance’ focused on sociolinguistic issues, while Professor Müller’s presentation entitled ‘Unifying Everything’ offered a close look at his recent work comparing different approaches to the formal study of syntax. The enthusiastic capacity crowds at both plenary talks included a substantial number of local linguists joining those who had traveled to Buffalo for the conference.

UB is one of just a handful of universities that have had the honor of hosting GLAC twice. This speaks to the strength and international reputation of Germanic linguistics at UB; the success of GLAC 9 (2003) and now GLAC 19 naturally enhance that reputation. None of this would be possible without significant commitments of money, time and effort from UB’s departments of Linguistics and English, the Office of International Education, and the Graduate Group for German and Austrian Studies, as well as the support that GLAC receives every year from the Society for Germanic Linguistics and the Max Kade Foundation. The biggest key to bringing GLAC to Buffalo and making it such a success on both occasions, however, has been the extraordinarily generous support of the Michael M. and Erika A. Metzger Special Events Endowment Fund.

For those interested in learning more about GLAC 19, the conference website is still available at: http://wings.buffalo.edu/org/qqaas/GLAC19/
Otto Named Executive Director of UB’s Humanities Institute

which include the Faculty Fellows Program and associated HI Fellows Lecture Series, the New Faculty Seminar Series, the Dissertation Fellowship Program, scholar sessions, research workshops and two programs inaugurated by Bramen: the very popular Gray Matter series, which features emeritus members of UB’s humanities’ faculty, and the Scholars in the Schools Program, which brings humanities scholars into Buffalo schools for humanities presentations and discussions.

Otto says she would like to use current initiatives to expand the institute’s work with the Western New York community and find opportunities to collaborate with other area humanities programs.

“I also am very interested in the long-term financial stability of the institute,” she says, “so that will be on my radar as well.”

She points out that one of the principal functions of HI is to foster discussion on the role of the humanities in a changing cultural, intellectual and political landscape, an ongoing conversation in which she says she will be pleased to help provide leadership.

“Another high priority for all of us,” Otto says, “is to secure a larger, permanent home for the institute. The work that we do would be best supported by having more offices and a space together. This would allow fellows, faculty members and graduate students to have impromptu, as well as scheduled exchanges, and would help solidify the institute’s identity on campus and further support its programs and events.”

Seeman says that Bramen, in addition to organizing hundreds of HI-sponsored events and its faculty fellows’ program, “developed, championed and carried forward important university-community humanities initiatives that continue to be part of the institute’s mission.”

He calls Bramen “a warm, welcoming and broad-minded person, open and curious, with wide intellectual interests and a great sense of humor; a person committed to the broader community from the very start…I hate to see her go, but she wants to finish her study on 19th-century American sociality and typologies,” he says. “She can’t do that while teaching and also serve as an integral part of the institute.

“Fortunately,” Seeman says, “Libby Otto has many of the same characteristics as Carrie and will bring them to bear on our work. She has energy, commitment and a good knowledge of the field. I expect to enjoy working with her.”

Otto says she, too, is very much looking forward to her new role.

“One of the most central aspects of the Humanities Institute is that it is agnostic in that it serves no single intellectual focus but will support any collaborative effort among faculty and graduate students,” she says. “In this sense, it is a grassroots scholarly organization that is continuously renewing and reinventing itself. Because of this, HI has supported and helped to produce remarkable work that promotes rich and complex understandings of our world.”

A prolific scholar, Otto is widely published in journals in her field and is currently working on a book, “Haunted Bauhaus: Spirit and Body in the Home of Rationalized Culture,” that challenges the conventional understanding of interwar Europe’s most influential art institution.

She also is co-editor of “The New Woman International: Photographic Representations from the 1870s through the 1960s” (University of Michigan Press, 2011) and author of “Tempo, Tempo! The Bauhaus Photomontages of Marianne Brandt” (The Bauhaus-Archiv and Jovis Verlag, 2005).

Otto has received numerous grants and fellowships, including those from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the American Association of University Women, the Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the University of Pittsburgh’s Humanities Center and the SUNY Conversations in the Disciplines program.

At UB, her awards include a faculty fellowship from the Humanities Institute and a research award from the Gender Institute. Her 2011 “International New Woman” conference was funded in part by a SUNY Conversations in the Disciplines grant.
Obituary: Bill Allen

UB Reporter, published March 21, 2013

William S. Allen, a retired professor in the Department of History, died on March 14 in his Buffalo home after a long illness. He was 80.

A native of Evanston, Ill., Allen earned a bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Michigan, a master’s in history from the University of Connecticut and a doctorate in history from the University of Minnesota.

He was inspired to specialize in modern German history after spending a year abroad in Berlin, where he saw the aftermath of World War II.

An expert in the rise of Nazism in Germany, Allen taught at several universities, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Free University of Berlin, the University of Missouri and Wayne State University, before joining the UB history faculty in 1970. He taught at UB for more than 30 years, retiring in 2001.

During his career at UB, he served as chair of the history department and as president of the Buffalo Center Chapter of United University Professions. He won a number of teaching awards, including the SUNY Chancellor’s Award.

His first book, The Nazi Seizure of Power, was translated into 10 languages and used as a textbook in German history courses.

Allen was politically active throughout his life, working for nuclear disarmament and civil rights, and against the Vietnam War and neo-Nazi intolerance. He served as George McGovern’s campaign manager in Erie County during the 1972 presidential election.

Allen was a board member of the Holocaust Research Center of Buffalo and often lectured about the Holocaust in area high schools. He liked sailing the Great Lakes and enjoyed Irish culture and history, especially the works of James Joyce.

Allen is survived by his wife of 32 years, Karen, a former UB faculty member.

The Graduate Group for German & Austrian Studies

The Graduate Group, first established in 1974 by professors William S. Allen and Georg Iggers, is a center for students and faculty interested in various aspects of the culture and language of the German-speaking countries of Europe. Our members come from a wide range of departments, and we welcome new members from all parts of our area universities. The aim of the Group’s activities is the promotion of scholarly and creative work on German and Austrian related themes by faculty and graduate students throughout the university community, with special attention to history, linguistics, art, literature, film, and philosophy.

The members of the Graduate Group seek to foster the international spirit of Buffalo, New York, a city with a rich history of European immigration, and located on the border of Ontario, Canada. We have members in all of the major Buffalo Universities, but also across the North Eastern United States, Southern Canada, Austria, and Germany. The Group supports SUNY Buffalo’s Center for European Studies, as well as promotes participation in regional and international conferences, such as the annual meeting of the New York State Association of European Historians and the biennial American-Canadian Conference on Modern German History. The Group also co-sponsors a number of events on the SUNY Buffalo campus, and even hosts a Stammtisch where you can practice your Deutsch!

This year, the Graduate Group is again facilitating a variety of interdisciplinary programs under the direction of Professors David Fertig (Linguistics) and Patricia Mazón (History). For details, including a calendar of events, see our website at www.ubgggaas.wordpress.com.
Member Updates

Our Group members have been busy again this academic year. Many of us have won nationally competitive awards and funding, and our members have published an impressive number of articles and books. Here are some highlights of what was produced in the labs and from the desks of our GGGAAS members:

This past year, Dr. John Abromeit (History & Social Sciences Education, Buffalo State College) gave presentations based on his book Max Horkheimer and the Foundations of the Frankfurt School (Cambridge University Press, 2012) on panels at the annual meetings of the German Studies Association and the American Historical Association. His article “Max Horkheimer et le concept materialiste de la culture” appeared in Les Normes et la Possible: Heritage and perspectives de l’Ecole Francfort (Paris, 2013). He also published two review essays. The first, on Eva-Maria Ziege’s Antisemitismus und Gesellschaftstheorie: Die Frankfurt Schule im amerikanischen Exil (Frankfurt, 2009), appeared in Theory, Culture and Society (Jan. 2013). The second was on a new English translation of Group Experiment, a large-scale empirical study, which was conducted in the late 1940s and early 1950s by Max Horkheimer’s recently reestablished Institute for Social Research, on Germans’ attitudes toward the recent past. This essay appeared in the Journal of Modern History (March, 2013).

Dr. Georg Iggers (Professor Emeritus, History, UB) has been busy giving lectures at many locations around the world this past year. In May 2012, he commented at the conference on the second generation of refugee historians at the German Historical Institute in Washington, DC. In the same month, he spoke in Santiago de Chile on the question of objectivity in historical inquiry. In September 2012, he and his wife, Dr. Wilma Iggers spoke at Columbus State University in Columbus, Georgia about their involvement in the 1957 Little Rock crisis. In January 2013, he also participated in a conference at the University of Jena on how West and East Germans dealt with Zeitgeschichte during the division of Germany. In March, he was a guest of the Department of History at the University of Havana. Finally, Dr. Iggers and co-authors Q. Edward Wang and Supriya Mukerjee received a grant from the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung to translate their book A Global History of Modern Historiography into German. It is scheduled to be published by Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht in time for the Frankfurt Buchmesse this fall.

Dr. Patricia Mazón (History, UB) taught an undergraduate course on Germany after 1945. She also taught UB’s only class on the Holocaust, and she comments that this was the first year that there were no survivors to address the students. Dr. Mazón is advising Melinda Dolezal’s Master’s thesis (History, UB), and she is also on Jake Newsome’s dissertation committee (History, UB). In addition, Dr. Mazón also supervised the annual UB-DAAD grant competition again this year, as well as serving as the GGGAAS co-director.

This past year, Dr. Libby Otto (Visual Studies, UB) was invited to give two separate talks in Germany. In November 2012, she gave a talk entitled “Bauhaus Style: Self-Portraiture and the Search for a Female Constructure in Marianne Brandt’s Metal Work, Photography, and Photomontage,” for the conference Fotografische Selbstbildnisse von Fotografinnen, Künstlerinnen und Designerinnen der 1920er Jahre. The conference was held at Bertischen Universität Wuppertal, Department of Art and Design History. The second talk, entitled “Bauhaus Weiblich? Gender Construction in the work of Bauhaus Women and Men,” was given for the symposium Typisch Bauhaus—Weibliche Rollenbilder und die Künstlerinnen am Bauhaus at the Bauhaus-Archiv in Berlin, January 2013.

Dr. Otto also had a number of publications in the past year. One was “Der Berg ruft: Landschaften des Exils in Marianne Brandts Malerei und Fotografie in der Zeit des Nationalsozialismus.” (Trans Wilhelm Werthern with Adrian Feustel, Inge Hansen-Schaberg, and Tobias Westermann) was published in Frauen des Bauhauses während der NS-Zeit—Verfolgung und Exil, which was edited by Adrian Feustel, Inge Hansen-Schaberg, and Wolfgang Thöner. (Munich: Richard Boorberg Verlag, 2012, pp: 175-96). An expanded version of this chapter just came out in English: “Marianne Brandts Experimental Landscapes in Painting and Photography during the National Socialist Period.” History of Photography Vol. 37 No. 2 (May 2013): 167-81.

(member updates continued on next page)
Members Update, Continued.

Dr. Andreas W. Daum (History, UB) continued his “interdisciplinary conversations” series with his spring 2013 undergraduate seminar, which dealt with topics in the history of science. The seminar visited laboratories in the UB Departments of Biological Sciences and Physics for extensive discussions with UB professors Todd Hennessy, Ia Lashvili, Andrea Markelz, and Doreen Wackerroth. Dr. Daum is currently putting together a co-edited volume on émigré historians from Central Europe in the transatlantic world, in addition to continuing his work on a new book on Alexander von Humboldt, which he presented, too, at a lecture at Vanderbilt University in March. He also cooperated with the First German Television on a documentary on John F. Kennedy. He will be a UB Humanities Institute Fellow in the fall of 2013.

In March, Dr. Despina Stratigakos (Architecture, UB) was a critic for the PhD Research Projects 2013 Conference at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London. She also delivered a public lecture at Birkbeck, University of London on “Domesticating Hitler: Ideology and Aesthetics in the Führer’s Private Spaces.” Professor Stratigakos is currently in residence at the Institute for Art History of Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, Germany, where she holds a Marie Curie Fellowship.

Jake Newsome (Ph.D. Student, History, UB) passed his doctoral qualifying exams with distinction this May. His three fields were: Modern European History, Modern German History, and the History of Sexuality in Europe and the United States. Mr. Newsome has received a Milton Plesur Dissertation Research Fellowship for the 2013-2014 year, and he plans to travel to archives in both Germany and the United States in order to research German and American gay rights activists’ transatlantic, collective memories of the Nazi persecution of homosexuals. His dissertation will utilize both archival materials and interviews, and will attempt to show not only how memories molded political activism, but how political activism itself also shaped memories and how people understood the past. Thus, Mr. Newsome’s project is not only relevant for the study of gay rights movements in particular, but also for how we write the history of new social movements of the 1960s and 1970s in general. Mr. Newsome was also awarded one of ten spots in the nationally-competitive German Historical Institute Archival Summer Seminar in Germany, and as such will be spending two weeks in several German cities this June, learning to read old German script and maneuver German research facilities. Apart from serving as the GGGAAS Graduate Assistant again this past year, Mr. Newsome was also the President of UB’s Graduate History Association and organized the 22nd Annual Milton Plesur Graduate History Conference in April.

Check out the GGGAAS Website!

We launched our new website last year, and the new layout has allowed for a much greater Internet presence for the GGGAAS. For one, it’s set up in a blog format, which allows for a few things: (1) new updates, or posts, are easily added directly to the homepage, and members can subscribe to the page, meaning they will receive an email every time the GGGAAS posts something new. (2) Viewers can browse through old posts either by scrolling through the homepage, rummaging through our chronologically-organized archives, or the topic feature allows viewers to click on any topic and view all of our posts that have addressed that theme. (3) Since it is a blog, viewers can leave comments on any post, thus fostering a sense of conversation and even collaboration.

As the Graduate Assistant, I comb through a number of sources – including the websites of major related organizations, like the GHI, the GSA, the DAAD, as well as the avalanche of announcements that come daily through email listservs like H-Net, and then consolidate the information that I think will interest our members into a comprehensive website post. The announcements that I post to our website include calls for papers, calls for articles or book chapters, announcements for awards, fellowships, or grants, and advertisements for lectures or events. I’ve even started posting book reviews that are published on H-German, and those posts seem to be the most popular.

In addition to the weekly announcements, you can access the permanent fixtures of our website: (1) an events tab, complete with an integrated Google Calendar that you can sync with your own calendar; (2) a select list of members who have agreed to be featured on our website as intellectual resources available to anyone who has interests in similar fields; (3) archives of our past newsletters; (4) contact information; and (5) a page of useful links that include links to: German news sites, opportunities for studying abroad, German language classes, and over twenty different funding opportunities for research in Germany!

We hope that you will use our website as a resource as you continue your interests in the German speaking regions of the world. We are constantly updating the webpage, and we welcome your input. If you are already featured in our Members section, but would like to have your information updated, let me know. Moreover, if you would like to be featured as one of our members, I will gladly add you. Our list of useful links is by no means exhaustive, so if you come across an online resource – whether it is something like a database, conference site, blog, or more funding opportunities – please send me the information. We really would like to make our website as useful as possible to anyone interested in German & Austrian studies, whether they are university faculty, grad students, undergraduates, or simply interested members of the community.

www.ubggaas.wordpress.com

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