



Umlaut

Newsletter of the Southwest Center for German Studies • Texas Tech University • Lubbock, Texas

Created in 1981, the Southwest Center for German Studies originated when a student of German at Texas Tech made a financial contribution to encourage interdisciplinary, international and innovative German programs not regularly funded by a university department. The unifying mission behind the multifaceted activities of the Center is the research into the German heritage of the Llano Estacado and the local, national and international promotion of awareness of that history.

Committed to the goal of increased understanding between cultures, the Center has created and supported programs which bring Germans and

Americans together in ways which foster mutual learning and appreciation. To this end the Center has collaborated with the Ranching Heritage Association, the Texas Tech German Dancers, the Fourth Cavalry, the Texas Tech University Museum, the Department of Chemical Engineering, the Lubbock Mayor's office, the National Cowboy Symposium, the German-Texan Heritage Society and the Goethe Institute in the U.S., as well as with a very broad spectrum of interest groups in Germany. This ranges from America Houses and the Karl May Literary Society to the cowboy clubs of former West Germany and the North American Indian clubs of former East Germany.

These cooperative efforts are influencing the way Germans and Americans are beginning to think about the Llano Estacado. Together with the Hank Smith Historic Retreat in Blanco Canyon just East of Lubbock, the Southwest Center for German Studies

is able to provide hospitality to local and international guests of Texas Tech in a setting of historic importance and unique local beauty.

Transition

After almost 15 years of existence, the Southwest Center for German Studies maintains a modest working budget with which Center projects are partially or wholly funded. In order to report on these projects to you, our readers (over 500 addresses in the U.S. and in Germany), *Umlaut* will appear once a year. Please respond with the "Reader Information" on page eleven so that we may adjust our mailing list accordingly.

The first issue of *Umlaut* appeared in 1984 and was dedicated to Professor Alexander upon the occasion of his retirement. Today, *Umlaut* appears from its new base within the Center, but reaffirms the pioneer spirit of Professor Alexander and honors the memory of his life-work.

—Meredith McClain, Director

In Memory of a Pioneer in German Academics at TTU Theodor W. Alexander

Born Aug. 1, 1919 in Vienna, Austria; died Aug. 19, 1994 in Lubbock, Texas

Perhaps not many people know how Ted Alexander happened to come to Lubbock at the end of World War II. He said himself that it was a turn of fate based on the novels of the German writer named Karl May (pronounced "My"). The tales of the vast, isolated and often hostile Llano Estacado transversed by Winnetou, the noble Mescalero Apache, and his German blood-brother, Old Shatterhand, fired the imagination of the young Austrian boy—reading under the covers at night by the dim light of a small flashlight.

Years later, at the age of 19, this son of a prominent Viennese surgeon fled his homeland in 1938 as Hitler was annexing it. Only with the help of some of his father's devoted patients who lived in London did Ted manage to escape by way of

(See *Nachruf*, p. 2)



Ted Alexander (center) at the China Rose Restaurant in Lubbock for the Spring 1993 German Club Banquet where Jackie L. Riemenschneider (left) and Sandra Fay Pulley (right) received the 1993-94 Alexander scholarships

Teaching German At Texas Tech

A Sometimes Strange Experience

When you walk into the classroom on the first day of school as a new teacher, for the first time totally responsible for everything that occurs there, it can be a very unnerving experience. You wonder, "Who are all these people? What do they expect from me? How will the semester go? Can I really teach them German?"

The supervisor had insisted that you start right off in German introducing yourself and finding out the names of at least some of your students before ever saying anything on that first day in easy English. The bell rings, so with

weak knees and as strong a voice as you can muster, you approach a student with a friendly smile: *Guten Tag!* (shaking hands) *Ich heiÙe David.* With luck the uncertain answer comes back: *Ich heiÙe Bob* (or Cindy, or Joe).



David Luke, TTU graduate student and teaching assistant first, then holder of M.A. and German instructor

After a few minutes of that you briefly try to help a couple of these poor unsuspecting greenhorns master the intricacy of the German *ch* instead of letting them just say *ik* or *ish*. Oh well, there's always tomorrow. At least the ice is broken, they have heard their new instructor using the target language, and they have even spoken the first words of it themselves. There will be much more of that during the semester, of course, but now it is time to hand out the syllabus and explain the course requirements in English.

With the semester off to a good start the class plows into the textbook. We are using the communicative approach. What do people usually communicate about when they first meet? Why, the weather, of course. *Wie ist das Wetter heute?* That leads right in to learning lots of new vocabulary—a process that never stops in language learning.

Some students learned the weather vocabulary so well that it was the only German they could remember on Monday morning. The weekend often seemed to wipe out the previous two weeks of learning!

Even in the second or third semester class, the Monday morning warm up sometimes went like this: *Was haben Sie am Wochenende gemacht, Herr Miller?*

Mr. Miller pauses, scratches his chin, and finally blurts out: *Die Sonne*

**Die Sonne
scheint,
und der
Himmel ist
blau!**

scheint und der Himmel ist blau! A very safe statement 90% of the time in West Texas, but totally out of context! After the laughter subsides, you ask another student
(See *Teaching*, p. 3)

Nachruf (from p. 1)

England to Boston where his brother, Leo, had a medical practice. On the very day of his arrival in America, Ted went directly to the immigration office and applied for United States citizenship. Mrs. Bea Alexander says that in the months before Ted's death last summer he recalled vividly and with great pride the exact date of his becoming an American.

From Boston, Ted corresponded with a kind and encouraging registrar at Texas Technological College, Mr. Warren Perry Clement, who helped make that childhood dream of a trek to the Llano Estacado a reality. Ted's career in Lubbock had humble beginnings as a student of geology (B.A. in 1946, M.A. in 1947) but soon emerged as a guiding force for German studies on the High Plains (German Instructor in 1947, Professor in 1969, and Professor Emeritus in 1984). Professor Alexander's many honors in teaching and research are documented in the recent CMLL Newsletter. The tribute of the hundreds of individuals whose lives

were enriched by knowing Professor Alexander is taking shape in the letters which come to Mrs. Alexander. The following quote from Betty Wekerle, retired German teacher, former student and devoted friend of Professor Alexander, reveals the legacy we honor today:

The first time I met Ted, I was going through a particularly trying time in my life. That summer, as I waited in class for the instructor of my second-year Scientific German course to appear, I was startled when a blast of fresh air burst into the room in the form of a dynamo deluxe who rushed over to open the blinds over the huge classroom windows to reveal the brownest, windiest, ugliest sandstorm I had ever seen. Exuberantly, he practically shouted to the class, "Isn't this a beautiful day to be alive and living in America!" Then he dove into the lesson with just as much enthusiasm and fervor. I thought to myself, "If this man can see beauty in a sandstorm, then surely I can pick up the pieces of my life and begin again."



Karl May posing as Old Shatterhand

Teaching German

(from p. 2)

hopefully: *Was haben Sie am Wochenende gemacht, Frau Holden?* Maybe the lady will remember more of her German.

Many hours are taken up with correcting homework and quizzes, preparing and grading the tests, as well as determining the amount and content of auxiliary teaching material. We use a good text book and it is, of course, the primary resource. But special handouts, overheads, slides, activity cards, videos, and guest speakers, etc. can raise the interest level in class and enhance the learning experience. That can make a big difference for a borderline student.

But why do they come? Why do these students choose German? There are many reasons. Some have German ancestry that they want to understand better. Others have visited a German speaking country as tourists. A few have lived there for a year as exchange students, or for a number of years as military personnel. But most of these cowboys and cowgirls sign up with us for one simple academic reason.

A survey of all first-year German students in the Fall of 1994 revealed that 89 out of 106 students took this class because it was a requirement for their major. Of course that alone does not necessarily mean that they were not previously interested. Some of those 89 would have taken German even if it was not a requirement for them. Twenty-three had already taken two years of high school German, and twenty-nine had completed two years of other foreign languages. But the challenge to a new teacher is obvious.

Dr. Thomas Bacon had some very good advice: keep it do-able and where possible, even fun. When the instructor succeeds at that, then it may be the students leaving at the end of a class period that have the strange experience of having actually enjoyed an hour of language instruction.

1994-95 Teaching Assistants



From left to right: David Luke, supervisor, Leo Gruber, Jennifer Martin, Jackie Riemenschneider, David Dolcater, Carlos López, and Stephanie Borst

Working with a talented and dedicated group of TAs like this one is enough to warm any supervisor's heart. Thanks are due each one for making the past school year successful for their students, enjoyable for faculty colleagues, and productive for German interests in general. From the following biographical information (in alphabetical order) you can tell which ones have already completed their M.A. degree in German and who will still be at Tech for another semester or two.

Stephanie Borst says that although her family currently lives in Lubbock she is of 100% German descent, and her family instilled in her a love for things German. Living in Lubbock, it seemed natural for her to take advantage of the German program offered at Tech. Stephanie participated in the 1995 Summer program in Wust, Germany, and went on from there to a special seminar in Berlin. She expects to graduate in May of 1996.

David Dolcater hails from Wichita Falls, TX, where he got his B.A. from Midwestern University. During the 1970-71 school year David was an exchange student in Regensburg, Germany, and went to Wilhelmshaven in the Summer 1994 Tech exchange program. He expects to graduate in Dec. 1995 and aspires to teach German.

Leo Gruber comes from Hershey, PA. He received his B.A. from Southwest Texas State University, in San Marcos. He was interested in Texas Tech at least partially because his sister and father both received degrees from TTU. Leo participated in the German program in Wust, Germany in

1994 and graduated with the M.A. in May 1995. He plans to teach English for one year in Hannover, Germany, then enter the German Ph.D. program at the University of Nebraska where he has already been accepted.

Carlos López grew up in Lima, Peru. He came to TTU because it was the closest university to his home in Big Spring, TX. Carlos completed his B.A. in International Economics at Tech and stayed to

earn his M.A. in May 1995. He says that he first took German just for fun and was then encouraged by Drs. Mittnik and McClain to pursue further German studies. That led to his participation in the 1992 summer program in Graz, Austria, becoming a TA, and then going to Wust, Germany, for the summer of 1993. Carlos would like to go on to law school and study international law.

Jennifer A. Martin came to Tech from Crosby, TX, with the express intention of achieving the M.A. in German. She had previously earned her B.A. degree from Baylor University. Her German related experiences include a study abroad program in Braunschweig, being an *Aupair Mädchen* in Bavaria, participation in the Tech program in Wilhelmshaven and in the Wust Summer School. Jennifer plans to graduate in Dec. 1995. Her long range goals include pursuing a doctorate in German with an emphasis on medieval studies and then work toward becoming a professor of German.

Jackie Riemenschneider is another student who came to Tech directly from high school. She received her B.A. in May of 1994 with a double major in English Literature and German. In addition to various other extracurricular pursuits, she was active in German Club and Delta Phi Alpha. Jackie also participated in two study abroad programs from TTU, one in Graz, Austria, and one in Wust, Germany. She expects to complete the M.A. degree in the Fall of 1996, then plans to enter the Ph.D. program in English. After that she hopes to teach and publish.

New Scholarship Established for German Studies



Georgia Mae Smith-Ericson

Mrs. Georgia Mae Smith-Ericson recently announced the creation of a scholarship to benefit a Tech student's study in Germany. Mrs. Smith-Ericson is a graduate of the College of Human Science at TTU (1936), was honored as a TTU Distinguished Alumnus (1987), is President of the Ranching Heritage Association and founder of the Hank Smith Historical Retreat in Blanco Canyon.

She is the granddaughter of Heinrich Schmitt, the first German-Texan pioneer on the Llano Estacado. Her grandfather was born in Bavaria in 1836, the year the Republic of Texas was created, and he died as "Uncle" Hank Smith in Blanco

Canyon, Texas, in 1912, the same year Karl May died in Radebeul, Germany. Although the two contemporaries never knew of each other, "Uncle" Hank's autobiography reads in places like a script for May's fictitious character, Old Shatterhand.



The new scholarship of \$300 honoring the memory of Hank Smith will be matched annually by the Southwest Center for German Studies.

GERMAN CLUB and Delta Phi Alpha Honor Society for German Students



This picture taken at University Day in the University Center shows: Matt McKenna, (German Club President '93), Trish Hough (German Club Secretary/Treasurer '93), Jessica Beermann, (German major), Jill Carrell (German Club President '94), Carlos López (German M.A.), Jackie Riemschneider (Delta Phi Alpha President '93 & '94) and Lynette Kilgore (German Club Secretary '94). Thanks to the efforts of these groups, German activities at Tech like *Stammtisch*, *Filmabende*, *Prostfest* and the annual awards banquet are well and visible.

Cally Revell, another major mover and shaker and German



Club Treasurer '93, is pictured here giving a tour for visiting Germans (in German) at the Llano Estacado winery.

PROST — a celebration of German-American Day (October 6) was cosponsored in 1994 by the German Club and the 19th Street Depot Warehouse Restaurant. Live music was provided by Hans Steiger of Fredericksburg, and German food was served by the Depot Restaurant. This annual event effectively focuses attention on the German heritage of our area and of our country. In 1995, October 6 falls on Friday, and the German Club is looking forward to even greater crowds at *PROST*.

Scholarships Awarded

The announcement above makes five scholarships available annually for students of German at Texas Tech. That is the most in any foreign language offered at TTU. The other scholarships in German and their recent recipients are as follows:

Theodor W Alexander Scholarship in German, \$600 each for two students. Sandra Fay Pulley & Jackie L. Riemschneider 1993; Aimee K. Brints & Leo Gruber 1994; Rebecca Diers & Penny Glover 1995.

Delta Phi Alpha Scholarship for German, \$150. Rebecca Diers & Erik Meyer 1995.

German Study Abroad Scholarship, \$400. David Dolcater (and Wilhelmshaven exchange group) 1994; Emily Blosser 1995.

Charles B. and Jeanne Qualia Memorial Scholarship for German, \$600. Paul R. Byrne II 1993; Jackie L. Riemschneider 1994; Stephanie Borst 1995.



Dr. Ingrid Fry

New Faculty Member

The German faculty at Texas Tech, Dr. Thomas Bacon, Dr. Ulrich Goebel, and Dr. Meredith McClain, welcome their new colleague, Dr. Ingrid Fry to the campus.

She received her B.A. from Smith College and her Ph.D. from Washington University in St. Louis. Her research and teaching interests include 18th and 19th century German literature (especially Goethe), the American transcendentalist writers, and the literature of the holocaust.

In the spring semester of 1996 Dr. Fry will offer a new course in English on holocaust literature.

Tech-German Exchange Opportunities

Sommerschule in Wust, Germany

After the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989, three women in Wolfenbüttel, Germany, evolved the idea of a summer school for English to be offered in the tiny farming village deep in the former East German zone. East Germans had been required to study Russian as a second language for almost 40 years and with the collapse of Russian influence, these citizens of the *neue Bundesländer* have a positive fascination with Americans and a strong desire to learn English.

The Setting

Dr. Maria von Katte was thinking of the charming village of Wust, located on the scenic route the German state of Saxony-Anhalt now proudly calls the "Romanesque Road." The two American friends who visited Wust with her were Dr. Kay Goodmann and Dr. Harriett Watts, both graduates of the Ph.D. program in German at the University of Texas, Austin. The von Katte estate house in Wust was not destroyed by the East German government because it had been turned into an elementary school immediately following the war. In previous summers this once grand building stood empty. In addition, there were many empty bedrooms in the spacious, red brick farmhouses lining the two streets in Wust. Thus, in the summer of 1991 the doors of the *Sommerschule Wust* opened.

1240 - 1990



750 Jahre Wust

AG Philatelie im KB der DDR

Joining her two former classmates from UT-Austin, Dr. McClain volunteered to oversee parts of the curriculum, organize the TOEFL testing (Teaching of English as a Foreign Language), teach some advanced classes and organize chamber music events.

An overwhelming and unexpected 400 students showed up that first summer. They were all eagerly awaiting their first contact with the organizers from England and Texas, and with the twenty-three young teaching assistants that had been recruited from a wide range of schools including Oberlin, Oxford, Cambridge, U. of Minnesota, U. of Michigan, Harvard, Tufts, Bristol, U. of Virginia, Reed College, and U. of Missouri.

The Tech Connection

The very next year, students from Texas Tech University joined the ranks of these young teachers. Tina Letkemann and Shellie Scott went in 1992, Lisa Allen and Paul Byrne in 1993, Leo Gruber and Jennifer Martin (plus Kathy Moore, Houston, and Ingeborg Volpi, Las Cruces, NM, formerly with Texas Tech) in 1994, and Stefanie Borst, Dr. Lari Young, Susan Grisanti and Phillip Owen went in 1995.

Summer Study Abroad

The Texas Tech connection was strengthened in 1993 when the German Summer Study Abroad program from Tech was housed in Wust preceding the *Sommerschule*. In May of that year, 18 Tech students were greeted at the nearby train station in Genthin by host families, who spoke virtually no English, but who gently encouraged their American charges to use only German



Wust 1995 program participants pictured here at Burg Falkenstein are (l-r, back row): Kenton Grupe, Meredith McClain, Grant Wimmer, and Kameron Romines; (middle row) Kelly Hare, Sharon Fuller, Christy Reid, Kristal Swearengen, Dee Ann Blackburn, and Melina Wilkins; (front row) Erica Erdman, Emily Blosser, Lara Aubin, Lynette Kilgore, Alyson Franklin, and Raven Simpson.

during the next five weeks. The new program was given such high marks by host families and Tech students alike that the second group was organized for May of 1995.

Expansion of this unique program, housed in Wust and utilizing the beautiful towns and villages along the "Romanesque Road" for study tours, is planned through advertisement in the fall to other German programs within Texas to send their students with us.

The Musical Connection

As a personal thank you to Dr. von Katte and to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the *Sommerschule Wust*, Dr. McClain planned a two week musical tour along the *Straße der Romanik* for Lubbock classical guitarist, Ms. Susan Grisanti. After an orientation in Berlin, the tour progressed by rental car to Wust, where she was housed with the Director of the Wust school, Frau Reuman. Ms. Grisanti taught a guitar workshop at the *Sommerschule* during her first week. This culminated in a concert of her students in the Wust chapel. Other venues for her solo concerts during the second week were arranged in the romanesque cathedrals of Jerichow and

(See *Sommerschule*, p. 6)

Exchange Opportunities (Continued)

Sommerschule
(from p. 5)

Havelberg, the ancient town hall in Tangermünde, the chapel of Bad Suderode, and the castle, Burg Falkenstein. A final performance at the Basthorst Palace was at the invitation of the American Ambassador to Germany as part of a private Fourth of July celebration honoring the Governor and other officials of the state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.



Ms. Susan Grisanti performing in the gothic town hall in Tangermünde

May Texans from Tech long continue to explore German culture and discover the beauty along the "Romanesque Road" in Saxony-Anhalt and share their own gifts along the route!

Texas Tech Plus

Help spread the word!

Qualified students from other colleges and universities are invited to participate in the various exchange opportunities available at TTU. In-state tuition makes this particularly interesting for Texas residents.

For details and applications call Dr. Ingrid Fry at (806) 742-3207, FAX (806) 742-3306. Messages may be left with the department secretary. Or write to Dr. Fry at the address on page 12.

FACHHOCHSCHULE WILHELMSHAVEN and TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

On February 20, 1995, the two above institutions signed the official agreement for an exchange program. Two German professors, Dr. Germer and Dr. Schmidt, were in Lubbock for the occasion. This document is a salute to almost 10 years of work which have resulted in ongoing multilevel academic and professional contacts and much mutual benefit to faculty and students on both sides.

As early as 1985, the West German state of Lower Saxony targeted Texas as a potential "sister state" and sent an education official, Mr. Peter Hoffmann, to traverse the lone star terrain in search of exchange program possibilities. A 1987 *Umlaut* article, condensed here for historical review, documented the origins of the exchange programs between Texas Tech and Lower Saxony.

The Southwest Center for German Studies has been designated by Dr. Donald Haragan, Vice President for Academic Affairs, as the coordinating agency for exchange programs with Lower Saxony at the high school, college and university levels.

Two completed projects have involved the College of Business and the College of Engineering. A third project has been initiated for next spring (1988) with students from the University of Oldenburg.

Eleven German students visited Lubbock High School in 1986, and ten more went to Slaton in 1987. The first exchange cycle will be completed when 14 TTU electrical engineering students go to Germany in May (1988).



In 1995 the Southwest Center for German Studies continues to be a part of the movement to deepen the meaning of the ongoing exchange between Tech students and faculty with their



German partner institution. Pictured here are (left) Dr. Kirsch, Rektor (Dean) of the German Fachhochschule, with his wife, and (right) Professors Heichelheim and Vines of the College of Engineering at TTU, as they enjoy the atmosphere in Blanco Canyon. Besides annually hosting the German and Tech participants, the Southwest Center helps identify students in the Tech German program who can benefit from the exchange opportunities in Wilhelmshaven. The students who went in the summer of 1994, with financial support from the German Study Abroad Scholarship, were: Will Cooper, Rebecca Diers, David Dolcater, Erica Erdman and Jennifer Martin.

Warmest congratulations and thanks to the College of Engineering and the College of Business at Texas Tech for strengthening this official avenue to strengthen the educational and professional careers of their students through the study of German language and culture. We expect to see an increase in the number of TTU business and engineering students in our German classes as we pledge ongoing support of this maturing international exchange program!

More Raiders Abroad



In addition to the students and faculty previously mentioned in connection with the exchange programs, current and former students of German at TTU have been accepted into other international study programs as well.

Phillip Owen (B.A. '94), an English major and German minor from Georgetown, Texas, was awarded a Fulbright Teaching Assistantship for 1994–95 in Berlin. His duties included teaching English to German high school students, participating in and leading activities such as theatre workshops, conversational exercises, and other cultural endeavors.

Paul Byrne (B.A. '94) was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to teach English in the state of Saxony, Germany for 1995–96. He has also received a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship for the 1996–97 school year to study in Germany, Austria, or Switzerland. He hopes to study at the *Freie Universität* in Berlin. After that he plans to return to TTU and complete a Masters degree in Communications.

Christian Edwards, a TTU junior Electrical Engineering major from Austin is one of 65 Americans who received scholarships from the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program for 1995–96. His schedule will include a 2-month intensive German language course, 4 months at a German professional or technical school, and a 6-month internship in a German business or industry. He also expects to get to live with a German host family.

The Karl May Connection

Between Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and the Indian Territory. . . lies a wide, terrible stretch of land which could be called the "Sahara of the United States".... Barren areas of dry, glowing sand mingle with naked, burning canyons, which are not able to offer even the poorest vegetation the barest prerequisites of the shortest existence; the cold night harshly and abruptly follows the heat of the day....

*And what is this desert called? The residents of the surrounding territories give their various English, French or Spanish names; generally it is named after the stakes driven to mark the paths: the **Llano Estacado**.*

—Karl May: *Winnetou III*, Chapter 2

This is one of Karl May's descriptions of Northwest Texas where today 24,000 students attend Texas Tech University in Lubbock, a modern, young city of 200,000 residents. The sense of danger so cultivated by May can still be experienced in some back canyons, but fortunately for the modern visitor, it is generally preserved only in the museums and historic exhibits of the area. The general impression that German guests tend to emphasize when they get back home is the unusual friendliness and generosity of the people and of the land.

AND our visitors make return trips! For example: Dr. Rolf Dencker, director of the Goethe Institute in Houston, and his wife, Grace Dencker first visited the Llano Estacado during the National Cowboy Symposium in May of 1992. Again in November of 1992 the Denckers came to Lubbock to join a delegation from Bad Segeberg, Germany, for a major Llano Estacado celebration hosted by Lubbock Mayor, David Langston.

Thanks to the Goethe Institute, an exhibit on the Karl May Festival in Bad Segeberg was on display at the Lubbock International airport and then in the University Center at Tech. As a result of this Lubbock visit, the lucky holder of ticket number 200,000 at the summer festi-

val in Bad Segeberg won a trip to Lubbock to experience the Llano Estacado in person. Mayor Langston repaid the call during the summer of 1993, an



Enjoying the November sun at the Ranching Heritage Museum with the Denckers (left) are Bad Segeberg dignitaries Mr. Wolfgang Spahr; Mr. Ernest Reher, business manager of the Karl May Festival; Mayor Jörg Nehter; and Mr. Tom Woodruff of Lubbock, who drove the entire group from the airport in a stretch limo and all over the Llano Estacado in a plush van.

event which was spread all over Germany by the press: "*Texaner wollen Wilden Westen importieren,*" "*Karl-May-Spiele bald auch in Texas,*" or "*Texaner hoffen auf Winnetou.*"

Dr. and Mrs. Dencker paid a fourth visit to Lubbock for the annual TTU German Club awards banquet in the spring of 1994. Besides his delivering the banquet address, the Denckers arrived laden with gifts of German

(See **Karl May Connection**, p. 8)



The Karl May Connection (from p. 7)

books to honor the outstanding German students at Tech. In November of this year Dr. Dencker will be retiring from the Goethe Institute in Houston and returning to the *Vaterland*. We applaud the Denckers for their tremendous support of German studies at Texas Tech and for their enthusiasm for the Llano Estacado. *Herzlichen Dank, Rolf und Grace!!*



The Karl May Spirit lives on in German Cowboys

One German group invited to Lubbock by the Southwest Center for German Studies arrived for the Cowboy Symposium in September of 1993 looking more Texan than the natives. Thirteen members of a *Western Club* located not far from the Rhine River outside Cologne, Germany, and named "Lubbock" were given special treatment for several weeks on the Llano Estacado. You will notice from the photo above that Dr. Dencker was again in town to join the fun. Mrs. Georgia Mae Smith-Ericson, Sheriff Sonny Keese, Dr. McClain and Mayor Langston all joined forces to show these devoted fans of Lubbock a very good time. We recently received word that nine members of the club will be present for the Cowboy Symposium this fall...and that the group will stay in the area for three weeks. (Ya'll need any fences mended?)

A Two-Way Ocean

Crossing the Atlantic is usually accomplished in our modern times by sleek air ships instead of the sailing ships and steam ships that brought the first people of German descent to the new world and to the Republic of Texas.

But just like those earlier ocean vessels did, the airplanes go both ways. And some of them are carrying people,

both Americans and Germans, to and from Texas Tech. The two-way ocean is self explanatory in the exchange programs, but many who know about the summer study abroad program may think of it as one-way.

The Southwest Center with its base in the academic oasis of TTU is, however, also effective in bringing Germans to Tech and to the

fascinating area of the South Plains around Lubbock that the Germans are familiar with from Karl May's novels of the Llano Estacado. Here is a first hand report from Dr. McClain, the director of the Southwest Center, who also organized the following project.

WINNETOUR I

The June 1995 issue of the Karl-May-Society Newsletter (in German) carries the headline: "Karl-May-Renaissance," and along with reports on other events which prove the vitality of

May's continuing influence, mention is made of the first study tour offered along the Karl May trail throughout the American Southwest.

Details of this tour are given in their newsletter through a quotation of an article from the *Avalanche Journal*. An overview of the two-week itinerary rounds out the general outline. What remains to be reported is the warmth of the reviews now circulating in the press throughout Germany and in the publications of the Karl-May-Society.



The enormous success of this first venture into the uncharted area of gentle, study-oriented tourism to the Llano Estacado rests (as we locals might expect, but are always proud to have confirmed) upon the enormous



Coming Home at Sunset on the Llano Estacado



Lubbock's 4th Cavalry presented a very entertaining program of great historical interest. Here they pose with the 44 members of the first *Winnetour* group from the Karl-May-Society.

Photo by Mark Lee

generosity of individuals along the trail and the gigantic expanse of the land itself.

At the initial roundup in Ft. Worth, it came as even a surprise to me that the Director and CEO of the Ft. Worth Convention and Visitors Bureau, Mr. Doug Harman, would put in a personal appearance at our hotel and proceed to greet the German guests clutching a copy of a *May* novel! Doug was with us every inch of the way, smoothing over the bumps, pointing out delightful details, cracking his bull whip and generally winning our hearts.

With all due respect to other highlights of the tour: Palo Duro Canyon, the sights of Amarillo and Canyon, Inn of the Mountain Gods in Ruidoso, Santa Fe, Taos and the Navajo Nation Powwow in Albuquerque on the last night, I am filled with pride to read the participants' unanimous report that the four days spent in Lubbock were unbeatably memorable.

They were very impressed with the welcoming crowd which was still waiting at the National Windmill Collection despite our plane arriving in Lubbock two hours late because of tornados in the Dallas area. The honor of being

greeted in the Texas Tech library by Dr. Haragan, Dr. Cluff and Dr. Murrah, reverberated among the guests after hearing an explanation of a special exhibit of German-Texan letters delivered in German by Bruce Commach.



Mrs. Smith-Ericson (center) arranged a private reception in the McKanna parlor, a luncheon the next day on the grounds of the Ranching Heritage Museum, opened her Casa del Sol home in Blanco Canyon and even followed the greyhound bus to Amarillo to be in on that part of the tour. She now has 44 fans in Germany who will never forget her model of civic leader, rancher and passionate student of the history of the settlement of the Llano Estacado.

Other friends who opened their homes to the bus load of visitors were: Mr. and Mrs. Hoeve as well as Mr. Bob Bruno of Ransom Canyon, and Ron and Rita Peek of Yellowhouse Canyon.

How surprised and delighted the tour group was when Mr. Angulo stepped forward at the Lubbock Lake Landmark and delivered his welcome and detailed tour in fluent German. The Museum of TTU has also developed a brochure in German on the historic site, a great plus for the German fans of the Llano Estacado. Years ago the Southwest Center encouraged a German translation of the "TEXAS" pageant brochure (completed by then graduate student in German, Kay Mittnik) for visitors to Palo Duro. There are several other similar projects on the drawing board at this time.

Various local groups added festive flare to the Lubbock stay: the Mejia family and the mariachis band at Taco Village, the impressive 4th Cavalry of Lubbock and in Palo Duro, the Blue Prairie Band at the campfire in Blanco Canyon, the German-speaking students of Texas Tech, Mr. Tumbleweed and the buffalo herd on the Palo Duro rim, the hosts at Residence Inn and Big Texan. And conveying us safely with humor and thoughtfulness through every canyon was our greyhound bus driver, Lyn Thornley.

Thank you one and all!

News & Notes from German Alumni of Texas Tech University

Greg & Linda Geis. This picture of Greg (MA '79), Travis (born '92), and Linda Stanley (BA '81, M.D. '91) Geis was taken Christmas of '93. Linda is in private practice pediatrics and Greg is a part-time freelance technical writer and part-time home carpenter. Travis is busy growing up in their 101 year old home in Louisville, KY (1513 Hepburn Ave., 40204) which his parents love to renovate.



Donna Doyle Heyman (MA '82), former secretary of Germanic and Slavic Languages, resides with her husband, David, and their 18 month old daughter, Lara, in Smyrna, GA (3516 Vinings North Trail, 30080).

Greg Lundblade (BA '80) lives in San Antonio with his wife and three children. Although Greg has been a self-employed employee benefits consultant, he is considering a return to the classroom.

Good News for the future of German Studies in Lubbock

Bryan Dunn (MA '82) and his wife, Linda, live in Lubbock (5425 49th, 79414) where Bryan is the German teacher at Lubbock High School. Numbers in the beginning German classes have doubled under Bryan's direction!!!

Kerre Seright (BA '84) lives in Lubbock (7501 Wayne, 79424) with her husband, John, and their 6 month old son, Jonathan Ryan. Kerre has a successful German program entering its 12th year at Coronado High. *Wir gratulieren und wünschen weiteren Erfolg!*

Tech-Trained German Teachers outside Lubbock

Donna Crockett-Heath (MA '77, German minor) has been teaching German since 1983 in Dumas and Tascosa High Schools in Amarillo (2107 Van Buren, 79109) and wants to bring her students to TTU for a German festival!

Incantation

Submitted by Greg Geis

When Professor Alexander discovered that Linda and I would be travelling to Vienna together in the summer of '81, he took us aside and whispered, conspiratorially, "Palatschinken im Piaristenkeller." Although we were students of German, we had never heard these words before. What could the phrase mean?

Was Professor Alexander devising some sinister way to recruit more students for the German Play? Was the professor somehow alluding to the lost manuscripts of Arthur Schnitzler? Or were these pithy p-words just another laconic linguistic lark *eines stimmhaften Stilisten des Stabreims, eines stoischen Stipendiaten des Sprachstoffes?*

No. This was no sinister plot, no literary hint, no playful pronunciation prank. Alas, this was an incantation: "Palatschinken im Piaristenkeller."

That summer, Professor A's words were to conjure up a feeling that we two, standing there on the West Texas Plain, scarcely could have imagined: generations-old brick walls and vaulted brick ceilings bathed in golden candlelight. White table linens and waiters in black tie. Wine from a secret cellar and pastries from a secret kitchen. An elegant *après-theatre* dessert in a romantic restaurant. A vignette of a grand city in a time gone by, and the most magical evening of our time together in Vienna. Like all of Professor Alexander's many incantations, this one was to cast a spell over us that would last the rest of our lives.

"Oh. So whut yer tryin' t' say is that this here Palatschinken im Piaristenkeller is a Dec-ssert—kinda like one of them E-clairs from Duakin' Donuts...?"

Yeah, right. And Professor Alexander was just another teacher.

Carolyn Kemplin (MA '93) is a German teacher at Highland Park High School in Dallas and is staying very active in AATG and other professional organizations in the Dallas area (3721 West Beverly, 75209).

Meike Stahmer (MA '94) taught for a year in Stuttgart, Germany, and is now teaching German in Tuscaloosa, AL (c/o Henning Oeltjenbruns, Mercedes-Benz, 17500 Mercedes Dr., 35490).



Carmen Terry (MA '93) lives with her husband, Jim, in Denton, TX (3317 Cooper Branch East, 76201-7907), and in addition to teaching German part time at North Texas University and at a junior college in Plano she has started on Ph.D. work in Humanities at UT-Dallas.



Recent Recipients of MA in German from Tech continue towards Ph.D.

Both **Alex Dzenowages** (MA '90) and **Marlene Selker** (MA '88) have completed the course work at TTU in the Comparative Literature doctoral program and are working on their dissertations.

Monica Valdez Kennedy (MA '90) is completing her Ph.D. work at UT-Austin in Comparative Literature (German & Russian). She and her husband, Sam, are enjoying life their 3 year old daughter, Rebecca, in Austin (7630 Wood Hollow Dr., #175, 78731).

Holly Liu (MA '93) has completed the course work for her Ph.D. after 2 years at Vanderbilt University and has spent summers in Germany and in Santa Barbara, CA, in various German programs. A scholarship for dissertation research will allow her to be at the *Freie Universität* in Berlin in 1996. At present she is living at 1001 Nimbus Dr., Apt. 47, Pflugerville, TX 78660.

Paula Hannsen Andress (MA '86, Ph.D. '94, U. of Illinois in Urbana) lives with her husband, Reinhard, and daughter, Sarah, in St. Louis, MO (5561 Watermann East, 63112), where she teaches German at both St. Louis University and at Western. Dr. Andress' dissertation, *Elizabeth Hauptmann: Brecht's Silent Collaborator*, has just appeared in book form from Peter Lang Press. Congratulations on this great accomplishment!

More German Raiders Abroad

Holly Bundock (BA '88) has been living for some years in Vienna, Austria (Nusswaldgasse 4/I/16, 1190), while working at the International Atomic Energy Agency in the United Nations Building. She enjoys playing her cello, hiking in the Vienna Woods and photographing the landscape of Austria.



Heidi Hannsen Münsterer (BA '84) has made Munich her home, where she has lived almost ten years with her husband, **Heribert** (Nietzschestr. 34C, 80807). Heidi is our most loyal Umlaut reader. She has



sent gentle requests for news in the past and even came by to look us all up during a Lubbock visit, wondering what had happened to the newsletter. Cheers to you, Heidi, Heri, and Julia! May other readers be as pleased!

Vonda Nichols (MA '78, JD '84 UT-Austin) left her practice of trial law in Austin last year to join the foreign service. After 44 weeks of intensive training in the Turkish language, she will be posted to Ankara for one year and to Istanbul for two. Her permanent work address is: 301 4th St. SW, USIA-M-05, Washington DC 20547-0009. *Alles Gute, Vonda!*

German Raiders in International Business

Bob Baber (MA '87) has been working for the Commerzbank of Germany in the New York branch. His address is: 214 St. Jones Pl., Brooklyn, NY 11217.

Sherry Gamelin (BS '93) has opened her own company for exporting to Germany. She can be reached at Worldwide Trade Consultants, 2239 Chase Ct., Arlington, TX 76013.



Nancy Huenergardt (BA '87) has been flying for American Airlines since her graduation. She often flies the Munich route and can keep in touch with Heidi Münsterer. Her American base is: 564 E. Chicago, Elgin, IL 60120.

In eigener Sache... Producing and mailing the *Umlaut* newsletter requires substantial financial resources. The Southwest Center for German Studies was begun by a donation made by a former student and now supports students of German at Texas Tech in several ways including scholarships. Please consider sending a monetary contribution, large or small, to help the Center continue to fulfill its mission and even expand its services to former, present and future students. Checks (tax deductible) can be made out to **TTU Foundation** and designated on the memo line: **Contribution to SWCGS.**

Reader Information

Please help us keep our alumni information up to date so we can continue sending *Umlaut* to you. Let us know what you are currently doing and where you are employed. We would also appreciate any addresses you might have of former German majors and minors who you know from Texas Tech. Photocopies of this form would work well for that purpose.

Return this information to: Southwest Center for German Studies, Texas Tech University, Box 42071, Lubbock, Texas 79409-2071. Tel. (806) 742-3207, FAX (806) 742-3306.

Name _____
Last First MI Maiden

Employer/Business _____

Address _____

Job Title _____

German Related Activities _____

Phone (____) _____

Academic History _____

Degree Institution Major Year

Contribution enclosed in the amount of \$ _____

Vorschau Looking Ahead

End of September the exhibit on the Llano Estacado, created by Tech's Southwest Collection in 1986 for the Texas Sesquicentennial and viewed in various Texas cities as well as in Washington D.C., will open in Hohenstein-Ernsttal, Germany, at the Karl May birth house. This exhibit was airlifted to Berlin by American Airlines in 1993 and opened in Radebeul, outside Dresden, in the Karl May Museum. Dr. René Wagner, director of that museum, had a text prepared in German to accompany the exhibit and has given excellent advertisement for our area. This project of the Southwest Center for German Studies to get news of the Llano out to Germany was supported by the Lubbock Visitors and Convention Bureau.

October 6 is German-American Day throughout the country and once again a special occasion is planned in Lubbock to mark the date. Hans Steiger from Fredericksburg will provide German music at the Schnitzel Haus Restaurant in the Buffalo Lake area. Welcome to honored guests: Dr. and Mrs. Dencker, Goethe-Institute-Houston.

In October Dr. McClain will fly to Bad Segeberg, Germany, at the invitation of the Karl May Society to give a presentation on Winnetour I as well as the dates and details of Winnetour II, which is scheduled for March 30-April 13, 1996 and will again be limited to the first 44 European members who apply.

November is the projected release date of Susan Grisanti's C.D., *Music along the Romanesque Road*, documenting her 1995 summer tour throughout *Saxony-Anhalt*. (See p. 5-6) Contact her at Park Tower, 1617 27th St., 79405.

Christmas 1995 will see a return of German student participation in the Ranching Heritage Center's Candle-Light Event. As in the days of the Texas Tech German Dancers, Tech German students in German costume will sing German Christmas carols in the *Hedwig Hill Haus* for the public.

Summer 1996: Fourth of July party with Herr Fritz Walter (Ben Destry) at Old Texas Town in Berlin. Tech German students will be in Wust, Germany, for a third time and Tech representatives will participate for the sixth year in the English Sommerschule there. (See p. 5)

In September of 1996 The German-Texan Heritage Society has scheduled their annual convention in Lubbock at the invitation of the Center. 360 members attended their recent convention in Victoria. The Lubbock team, now at work on the details, plans to offer the visitors from all over Texas a memorable three days on the Llano Estacado.

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