



# FUßSPUREN

Newsletter of the Calvin College German Department • Summer 2005

## German Interim Abroad in its Thirty-fourth Year

January 2005 was the thirty-fourth time that a group of Calvin students stepped into the plane for almost five weeks of exploring many aspects of German life, history and culture. Some stations during this *Studienreise* have not changed since the first German Interim Abroad in 1971. Students still spend their longest stay with a German family in Husum, they explore the rich and sad history of Berlin, visit the Luther sites in Wittenberg, the concentration camp Buchenwald and Goethe and Schiller's Weimar. The experience of living with host families continues to be the most important aspect of the Interim. Our students appreciated deeply the loving German *Gastfreundschaft* and many long lasting friendships that have developed over the Atlantic through these home stays. For the past two decades, the students often spend their first night at the German-Dutch border in the Bentheim region, where Pastor Beuker organizes our stay and finds hospitable homes for us in his congregation. Since the fall of the Wall, we have been welcomed in Wittenberg into families of students who attend the Melanchthon Gymnasium. For the past six years, Erfurt has become an unforgettably rich experience, because Andreas Sturm, father of the foreign language assistants Ulli and Katrin Sturm, has opened his heart and home for us and shared generously and enthusiastically his love for Erfurt, the beautiful capital of *Thüringen*.

The success of the Interim depends very much on the faithful and committed work and organizational talents of our friends and contact persons in each home stay location. Throughout the thirty years, we have been blessed by very competent and generous people



Herr und Frau Articus

who have done tiring footwork for us, such as in Husum Herr and Frau Grabo (both deceased), Herr and Frau Knoop, (both passed away), and Frau Edelgard Articus; in Wittenberg Pastor Hellmut and Christel Hasse and since 1992, Ingrid Schubert.

Interim 2004 was the sixth and last Interim Edelgard Articus planned for us in Husum. We are deeply grateful for her untiring, competent and dedicated organizational work which made our times in Husum a rich experience, and for the way she blessed us with her very generous hospitality.

The department is very happy that Frau Sabine Schütt has agreed to serve as Frau Articus' successor in Husum.

Frau Sabine Schütt is married to Stefan Schütt and has two daughters ages 13 and 15.

The Schütts have been hosting Calvin students for five years. Frau Schütt manages her household, her garden, the care



Sabine Schütt

of her daughters and she also supports her husband in his work as manager of the Romantik Hotel *Altes Gymnasium*, the only luxury hotel in town.

## German in New York City: Katie Lynch

**K**atie Lynch ('98) wrote: "I moved to New York City in 2001 and began working at New York Foundation for Senior Citizens Guardian Services Inc. in August, 2001. We are located 2 blocks north of the World Trade Center site, and unfortunately I was there on September 11, saw the second plane hit the south tower, was evacuated from downtown and had to walk all the way home.

Always in my heart, is a strong desire to continue to use my German. I have a few German clients, and speaking with them gives me some much needed practice. I also meet weekly with a native German speaker, to teach me idioms and vocabulary, so that I stop speaking "wie eine alte Frau." I was told recently by a new German acquaintance that my accent was fantastic. She was very impressed with my "German 'r'" which was honed over many hours in my dorm room at Calvin, much to the consternation of a roommate who didn't really understand and thought I had something in my throat.

Living in New York City has afforded me many an opportunity to keep up with my German. In fact, last night I watched the film *Rosenstraße*. I am proudly able to understand completely without reading the subtitles. I also keep in touch with the many German people I met during my Interim and time in Marburg, specifically, the Gutewort family from Wittenberg. I have invited them to come and stay with me, so that I can hopefully repay some of the hospitality they offered me, not only during the Interim, but also on three trips there during my semester in Marburg.

I guess I'm a Calvin German major who doesn't use her German language skills on an everyday basis, but who has been bitten, so to speak, by the German bug, through the classes and the numerous experiences overseas and with native Germans, and for whom a new world has been opened, and into which I've been so welcomed. If I had to pick just one thing that I've gained, aside from the language, from the Calvin College German Department, it would be a view of hospitality that I never



knew existed. Professor Carvill's book touched on this idea profoundly, and being on the receiving end of such gracious and generous hospitality further cemented it."

*Note: Katie will start graduate school at CUNY (City University of New York) in fall of 2005 to study International Relations.*

~ continued from cover ~

Frau Schubert



Wittenberg as well has seen a "changing of the guard." In 2003, Frau Ingrid Schubert entered her *Vorruhestand* or early retirement from teaching at the Melanchthon Gymnasium and is busy now with English instruction for adult learners

and translating from English into German. We are extremely thankful for Ingrid Schubert's labor of love for the Calvin Interim, and for the way she graciously and self-effacingly organized our stay with great efficiency and attention to detail.

Frau Petra Lasarczik, who has been teaching English and French at the Melanchthon Gymnasium for 14 years, has kindly offered to take over the responsibility for our stay in Wittenberg. She has already successfully organized the 2004 and 2005 visit of Calvin students in the Lutherstadt and we are deeply appreciative of her work on our behalf.

We are very fortunate to have the *Marianne and Wallace Bratt German Interim Abroad Scholarship* established by the Bratt and Ahmanson families in 1998 so that students with financial hardships can participate in this often life-changing experience in Germany. About 25 students so far have benefited

from this scholarship.

Interim alumni interested in making a contribution to the fund should contact Mr. Robert Berkhof of the Calvin College Development fund.

Frau Lasarczik



## German in a Military Career: Steve Marsman ('87)

In 2003, Steve Marsman who was serving the United States Air Force as a flying officer graduated with a Master's degree of Arts in Operational Military Science in Montgomery. He was promoted to Lt Colonel and serves now as a Deputy Chief in Strategy and Plans for the Air Force at the Pentagon.

In 2003 Steve wrote: "I participated in a military exchange at Blankenese outside Hamburg. This is where the elite training for future general staff officers occurs in the BRD. I will be returning the favor by hosting the officers and their families when they come to participate in our exercise this month. [...] Despite differences in opinion and current difficulties in German-American political relations, the enduring relationships between our common cultures are maintained in such exchanges and friendships. Previously, I was stationed

at Ramstein AB in Rhineland-Pfalz for three years. It was a wonderful time, where my wife, Faith, and I lived in a local village in the Kaiserslautern community. It also afforded us the opportunity to travel throughout the region [...] and also let us revisit many of the places where we had been on the German Interim and during our work-exchange to Schwangau. While stationed in Kaiserslautern, I was asked to represent the USAF at the Atlantik-Brücke in Hamburg, teach for several weeks at the NATO school in Oberammergau, and travel throughout Germany and Europe on official business.

My colleagues often envied my ability (although now diminished after 15 years!) to speak the language and communicate with the people from the area. I could have never imagined that it would have become so valuable in my



career as an officer in the US Air Force. I want to thank you, Prof. Carvill, Prof. Lamse, and Prof. Bratt for your service to me as I serve this nation. Your efforts have brought great tribute to Calvin College and the United States."

## German in International Affairs: Natasha Bajema ('98)

During her studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, Natasha Bajema was awarded the German Chancellor Scholarship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in 2001. As a German Chancellor Scholar, Natasha examined the 1998 decision by the German government to phase-out nuclear energy by 2021 and worked at the Federal Ministry of Environment in Berlin and Bonn.

After completing her M.A. in international policy and working for a year as a Junior Political Officer in the Department for Disarmament Affairs at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, Natasha Bajema accepted a position as a Research Associate at the Center on International Cooperation (CIC) at New York University. In the fall of 2004, Natasha began her PhD program in International Relations at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in Boston. In the past years, Natasha conducted interviews with high-level officials from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The



*Natasha Bajema (middle) on the 31st floor of the United Nations Building with Kofi Annan.*

Hague; and the Austrian Foreign Ministry; and provided input to a high-level panel on New Threats, Challenges and Change established by the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Although the past few years in Natasha's career diverge slightly from a long-term primary emphasis on Germany,

her German language skills and experience abroad remain a vital prerequisite to her ongoing career and academic endeavors. Natasha continues to be actively involved with the German Chancellor Scholar Alumni program and serves as the class coordinator for 2001/2002.

## News from the German Department

**Herman De Vries, Department chair.** During fall semester of 2003 I had the privilege to take over the duties of departmental chair after Professor Carvill completed her term. For the past two years I have had the good fortune of administrating this fine department. It is truly remarkable what my colleagues are all doing here as teachers and scholars. Due to the excellent teaching and conscientious mentoring of the fine professors in this department, we have been fortunate to keep our enrolment levels in German classes at a solid level. That's not always so easy with many high school German programs on the chopping block nation wide. Please encourage your area high schools to maintain their German language courses. Better yet, work to have them strengthened and expanded!

Primarily, I teach the Dutch language courses in our department. I also run an interim trip in the Netherlands and Belgium every other year. My interim is structured similarly to the German Interim Abroad in that it features multiple home stays and lots of contact with locals. We also travel everywhere by train and public transportation.

But I do continue to teach two German literature courses—an introduction to German literature and a biennial course on German Romanticism. I especially enjoy teaching two classic works, Friedrich Dürrenmatt's *Der Besuch der alten Dame* and Theodor Storm's *Der Schimmelreiter*. This Swiss tragic-comedy and the tragic novella from the Frisian North Sea coast get better with each reading. As a reader of *Fußspuren*, I suspect you will remember at least one of these texts.

During spring semester 2006 I'll be taking sabbatical leave from campus in order to spend some time in the Netherlands to write about the current identity crisis there. The Dutch are busy these days sorting out what it means to be, well, Dutch. Whether sorting through ramifications of globalization, negotiating the future of the European Union, or dealing with the pressure points of Islam in their progressive society, the Dutch have taken a keen interest in exploring the contours of their national identity. Through interviews

and research, I hope to sort through these fascinating issues.

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**Mary Buteyn.** Since the last edition of *Fußspuren*, Prof. Mary Buteyn defended her Ph.D. dissertation at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. The dissertation, entitled "A Class of Their Own: The Unique Position of Late Nineteenth-century German Pastors in the View of Their Literary Contemporaries," examines the impact of significant socio-historical changes on the German Protestant Church, and how the unique figure of the parish pastor provides authors with a peculiar perspective from which to explore the changing religious and social milieu. She is continuing to research in this area, but has also expanded her interest to the 20th-century German pastor in non-fiction. In July 2003, she visited near Bonn with Renate Bethke, the niece of theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Frau Bethke worked for decades with her husband, Eberhard Bethke, Bonhoeffer's closest friend, to preserve, compile, and edit Bonhoeffer's collected writings. In a broad-ranging conversation, the two women discussed some of those writings that Mary teaches in courses at Calvin.

Currently she is researching the topic of cross-cultural engagement, not only in preparation for the January 2006 German Interim Abroad, that she will lead, but also for its implications for her work with Christian Reformed Home Missions. Mary is board president of the denominational agency that encourages a missional heart in congregations and individuals through the development of spiritual disciplines, new church plants, and educational ministries. In this venue she strives to empower the denomination to be a more welcoming multicultural community. She is also excited to examine the topic, "On Making Reformed Christian Disciples Today: Exploring the Interface Between Reformed Tradition and the Culture of Young People Today," as a member of a Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship faculty working group this coming academic year.

Seldom able to escape the intersection (or collision) of theology and literature, Mary lives in Grand Rapids with her

husband, David Kromminga (a former Calvin German major who is now a minister), and their two daughters.

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**Barbara Carvill** will retire by the end of the academic year 2006. Her latest research interests are paintings and other art works depicting women and men in the process of reading. She presented already several times a paper on the topic: "Towards an Ethics of Reading: Readers in the Arts and the Art of Reading."

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**Pennylyn Dykstra-Pruim**, who is going to join the teaching faculty of the German department in Fall of 2005, continues her very productive work in the areas of multi-media curriculum and materials development, second language acquisition processes, and the Culture Task Force for the American Association of Teachers of German. Her work has appeared in major periodicals such as the *Foreign Language Annals* and *Die Unterrichtspraxis* and reveals a very practical bent with the student at heart. Her recent publications include the article "Learning a Complex Morphology: Second Language Acquisition of German Pluralization" and the innovative multi-media curriculum *Auf geht's! Beginning German Language and Culture*.

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**David Smith** is currently working on an edited book of essays to be published by Information Age Press under the title *Spirituality, Social Justice and Language Learning*. Co-edited with Terry Osborn of the University of Connecticut, the volume draws together essays from twelve contributors that explore how an interest in faith-informed teaching and learning and a concern for justice in and through education might together affect second language instruction. The book is expected to appear some time in 2006.

In 2004 David Smith was appointed Director of the newly created *Kuyers Institute for Christian Teaching and Learning*. This is a part-time position alongside which he continues to teach in the German department.

The Kuyers Institute exists to promote a deepened exploration of the relationship between Christian faith and the ways in which teaching and learning are carried out across the curriculum and at

## German Majors and Minors at the Senior Breakfast 2004



Our traditional breakfast for graduating German majors and minors took place again at Prof. Carvill's home in May 2004, the Friday morning before commencement. On the photo you see from left to right Austrian Judith St. Louis who is in a Calvin MA program in education and works as an administrative assistant in the German/French office, in the back row B. Carvill, Zachary Jansen, Samuel Rienstra, Adam Goforth, Prof. de Vries, Nathanael Kaleefey, David Beversluis, Anne Schille, Michael Hutchins, and Joshua Reynolds. In the front row: Mary Buteyn, Phil Siemer, Alissa Herta Boakye-Yiadam, Joy Bouwman, Katie Ten Harmsel and Nathan Vreeman.

various levels of education.

While there has been a widespread national discussion of the integration of faith with scholarship, in which Calvin College has played a leading role, there has been less systematic investigation of the influence of faith on pedagogical matters, the way meaning is shaped in classrooms.

A range of resources, including video, audio and text of recent lectures sponsored by the Institute, are being provided online at the Institute's website, which can be found at [www.pedagogy.net](http://www.pedagogy.net) or [www.calvin.edu/kuyers](http://www.calvin.edu/kuyers). If you would like to be kept up to date with news of events and projects, it is also possible to sign up for email updates at the website.

### News from the Emeriti

**Wallace Bratt** continues to be heavily involved in the Calvin Academy for Lifelong Learning, the college's extensive continuing education program for senior citizens. His chief area of responsibility is curriculum development. He has taught two courses for this organization, as well as a course for Aquinas College's Emeritus College.

In addition, he taught two Interim courses on "Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust" for Calvin's "Developing a Christian Mind" program and co-wrote an Alumni Association volume, a history of Calvin athletics from 1953-2003. He continues to do occasional translation work and to give talks for church groups. In June, 2004 he and his wife Marianne were privileged to spend three weeks in Germany, renewing contacts and friendship which have blessed their lives over the past 35 years.

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**James Lamse.** Though officially retired as of 2001, Mr. Lamse, with very able help from the departmental administrative executive assistant Renée van Keulen, continues to direct the work exchange program between Calvin College and the Central Employment Office of the Federal Republic of Germany. For his efforts in placing a total of over four hundred Calvin College and German university students in jobs and host situations here and in the Federal Republic since 1983, Mr. Lamse was awarded an Alumni Outstanding Service Award in February 2004.

Mr. Lamse continues to teach

German to adults from business and industry. For a six-week stretch in Fall 2003, he taught over thirty contact hours a week, twenty-two of those with one adult learner alone! His students have included engineers, computer scientists, lawyers, a nanny as well as spouses and children of professionals headed for Germany. Although the amount of his private teaching has declined significantly now that local employer Diesel Technology (Bosch) has closed its Kentwood plant (2004), Mr. Lamse has found things to do in the department. Among other activities, he fills in for staff members attending conferences, offers advanced grammar and translation training for students in upper-level courses, and advises students on study-abroad opportunities in German-speaking countries. During Interim 2003, Mr. Lamse played the male lead in the department's very successful production of Biedermann und die Brandstifter; and in January and in February of 2005, he finally completed the edit of the video – on DVD – which he had shot of the German Interim Abroad in 1996 (Copies available from the department at \$15 plus postage.)

## Whatever happened to...

**Bob Schripsema** ('76) writes, "A few months ago we had to clear some space on our bookshelves to make way for new acquisitions. As I put away my copy of Sag's *auf Deutsch*, I had many recollections (MOSTLY fond) of German 215 and the drilling we did in preparation for the German interim. Every now and then I find myself singing "Tomatensalat" or "Ich hab' mein Herz in Heidelberg verloren" and remember Dr. Hegewald. And yes, there are many fond memories of "Minna," especially the cast and crew: Ginnie Miller, Bob Sweetman, 'mein Frauenzimmerchen' Laura, Stan Haan, Russ Van Antwerpen, and all the rest. I'm always glad to find bits of news about them in the Spark. [...] We are doing fairly well — in the throes of raising 4 children (ages 17, 13, 10 and 8), all in the local Christian School with its requisite tuition payments. I'm on the Christian School board as well as on a couple of other community boards. I'm still spending most of my time working in information technology — software development (Integra Software).

**Steve Lehr** ('78) shares "possibly the greatest adventure of my life (German Interim Abroad notwithstanding!)" Having become quite enamored with the talents of German pop singer Nicole, Steve accepted a German fan's invitation to attend one of Nicole's concerts in former East Germany. Steve writes: "The local press... found it very interesting that an American would travel so far to see a German artist perform. They interviewed me and arranged for me to meet Nicole backstage mere minutes before the concert began! My picture appeared in at least two local papers." Steve suggests a Nicole concert to supplement the musical experiences offered currently during the Interim in Germany. Mal sehen!

**Albert De Jong** ('83) continues to work in the Security Division of the U.S. State Department. After serving a stint in India, his most recent postings have been in Niger and Uganda, where he was responsible for embassy security. Albert, his wife Helene, and their four children are currently living in Washington, D.C., where Albert is on assignment.

**Brad Boelkins** ('84) moved with his family to Hamburg in January 2005 to work as marketing manager for TESA

AG (adhesive tape technology). He was part of that company first in Sparta, MI, then in New York and for 11 years in Charlotte. Brad will be at the Worldwide Headquarters of TESA for about three years. Please contact him, if you pass through Hamburg and ask him for a tour of the company!

**Steve and Judy Morren** (both '88) live in suburban Grand Rapids. Steve is an attorney with the firm Varnum, Riddering, Schmidt, and Howlett, while Judy stays at home to tend their very active family.

**Philip Wielsma** ('89) enjoys improving on his 92 year old house in downtown Washington DC. He works as an Associate IT analyst at Fannie Mae's and is working towards his Master's degree in Social and Public Policy at Georgetown University. "It is great to be back in the academic setting," he writes.

**Ann Stoub** ('96) reports, "Ever since going on the German Interim in 1994 with Herr Bratt, I have been trying to get back to Germany." This summer (2005) this wish came true and she went on an exciting trip through Germany and the Austrian Alps. Ann also took an excellent German class at the Goethe Institute in Chicago to brush up on her German. She recommends this course to everyone living in the Chicago area! Ann has a house in Plymouth, IN where she is working as a school psychologist.

**Joel Vande Werken** ('97) after graduating from Calvin, Joel spent 18 months at the University of Notre Dame where he received a master's degree in theology. He then worked for three months with the Reformed Church in Hungary and returned to Indiana working the next several years in a plumbing supply store. While living in Indiana, he became involved with many of the ministries of his home church, and began to feel a call to full-time ministry. He is currently in his fourth year of studies at Calvin Seminary and hopes to graduate in 2006.

**Megan Bush Diercks** ('98) Megan and her husband Dave are living in Flower Mound, TX (a suburb of Dallas), where she continues to teach French at Flower Mound High School. Megan earned her Master's Degree in French from the University of North Texas. One of her research interests dealt with the effects of contextualizing grammar activ-

ities (using letters, conversations, journal entries, etc. as the basis for a discrete-point grammar exercise). Megan has since presented the results of her research at the Texas Foreign Language Association Conference and she has published a series of articles in the *Texas Foreign Language Association Bulletin*.

Even though she is not actively involved in the teaching of German, Megan practices speaking it with the other German teacher and some with her husband Dave at home. They hope to travel to Germany someday soon.

**Markus von Steinfort** ('98) has been living in Seattle for almost 5 years and is presently almost finished with his Master's of Divinity program at Fuller Theological Seminary. Mark and Elizabeth, his wife, will celebrate their daughter's (Isabella) second birthday in September. Markus writes, "Although I am open to whatever God's calling may be for me insofar as pastoral ministry is concerned, one of the avenues I am pursuing is the Army Chaplaincy, an arena that I have been quite involved in over the past couple of years as a "Chaplain Candidate." As one of the few "non-professing Christians" I used to encounter in the mirror every morning, the irony of my being in seminary and working toward a life of ministry is not lost on me."

**Becky Van Bruggen** ('99) worked for Verizon.com in Dallas, Texas where she settled and feels very much at home now. Last June she decided to step out in faith to become an independent contractor. So far, she has landed graphic-design jobs with Washington Mutual, HP, Conoco-Phillips and the Navy. Becky writes: "God continually provides for me and has taught me to trust in him. He has certainly brought me a long way since that first pay check after graduation from Calvin, when I bought a tent and a sleeping bag, just in case I couldn't get a job and needed a place to sleep!"

**Carrie Anderson** ('99) after graduating, Carrie moved with her husband Jason Andringa to Boston where he was finishing up graduate work at MIT. Carrie took a job at *The Charles Hotel* in Harvard Square, and was an assistant coach to the men's MIT track team. After 8 months of living in Boston, they moved to Pasadena, California. Carrie

took a job teaching and coaching at Maranatha High School and also started taking classes at Fuller Theological Seminary in Theology. Carrie and Jason were blessed with a baby boy in 2003, and Carrie now dedicates her time to raising him and working as a deacon and peer counselor at her church.

**Mark Warmbier** ('99) following graduation from Calvin, Mark moved to Chicago and worked as a Research Analyst for a publishing company. Three years later, he decided to change career paths and applied to law school. After his first year at MSU Law, he worked as a summer law clerk for the Honorable Dennis Kolenda at the 17th Circuit Court in Grand Rapids. Following his second year, he worked as a summer associate for Dykema Gossett in Bloomfield Hills, MI. In his final year of

studies at the MSU law school, Mark was a managing editor of the Michigan State Law Review.

**Anita Talsma** ('00) after graduating in 2000, Anita Talsma married Brett Gaul in August 2000. While Brett pursued his Master's degree in Philosophy at Western Michigan University (Kalamazoo, MI), Anita worked in the Registrar's Office and the Foreign Languages Department at WMU. The Gauls then moved to Iowa City, IA, to attend the University of Iowa, where both are pursuing doctoral degrees,

Brett in Philosophy and Anita in American History. Anita is currently researching a German religious community that settled in Iowa called the Amana Society. Knowledge of German has proven to be very useful in this project, since many of the documents and

other archival sources are in German.

**E(lisa) Chloe Lauer** ('02) graduated in 2004 with an MA in Urban Planning from Harvard Design School. She graduated "with distinction" and also received the Departmental Award for "Overall Achievement." Herzlichen Glückwunsch! She is presently working at Dyett & Bhatia, Urban and Regional Planners in San Francisco and enjoys her studio apartment in North Beach.

**Chris Hirt** ('02) and his wife Becca returned in 2004 from their missionary work in an orphanage in Brazil to Calvin College where Chris works as a Library System Programmer. In the past year, he has been taking two advanced German courses and loves the linguistic challenge to stay fluent in the language. Last semester, he led a German chapel where he spoke about his work in the Brazilian orphanage.

## Professor Carvill received the 'Presidential Award for Exemplary Teaching' in 2004.

It is not the first time that a German professor received the Exemplary Teaching Award since its establishment at Calvin College 13 years ago. In 1994, Professor Wallace Bratt was honored as the "exemplary teacher of the year."

One evening in January 2004 in Berlin when Professor Carvill and her Interim students were just eating the traditional German *Abendbrot* with cold cuts and hot tea, a phone call from President Gaylen Byker interrupted the meal. He completely surprised, shocked and overjoyed B. Carvill with the news that she was the recipient of a teaching award. During a special tribute banquet in February of 2004, Professor Carvill was asked to say a few words. Here are excerpts from her address:

"It is a great honor and at the same time a humbling experience to be declared "exemplary" teacher of the year. 'Exemplary' means, among other things, to be a sample, a specimen or one instance of many. As we all know, there are many, many dedicated, effec-



tive and masterful educators at our institution and I am only one among many.

Keeping this in mind, I accept the award with profound gratitude and joy. [...]

During my early teaching career at Calvin College, I assumed a somewhat adversarial relationship between teacher and students. It seemed that I always had

learners in class who resisted what I wished to teach them. [...] I, in a mixture of fear and hurt pride, tended to write them off; and they became for me a source of constant irritation. I do not have such students any longer. Not because the quality of our student body has improved so drastically, but because I have changed. What made me change? I learned from the pedagogical ethos of my colleagues Wallace Bratt and Jim Lamse.

From Wally I learned that you have to embrace the student as a Mensch, a person deeply loved by her or his parents and by God. From my colleague Jim Lamse I learned that you have to go into a class and believe — really

believe— and not pretend— that even the most untalented and dimwitted person can learn and even love German. Everything you do in class has to radiate this compelling conviction. [...] I am deeply grateful to Wally and Jim for their having been such splendid role models over the years."

## German Play: Max Frisch, *Biedermann und die Brandstifter*

Interim 2003 saw the German Department's thirteenth production of a full-length German-language play. Lucas Van Engen ('02), a German and CAS major now working in theater in New York, returned to Calvin to direct *Biedermann und die Brandstifter* by Swiss playwright Max Frisch. Perhaps most innovative was Lucas' concept and demanding realization of the role of the chorus in the work. Everyone gave of his or her best in the three performances run in the Gezon Auditorium. Prof. Hardy Fuchs of Kalamazoo College brought a contingent of students to the play and wrote: "Herzlichen Glückwunsch zu einer gelungenen Aufführung von 'Biedermann' am Freitagabend! Der Besuch war der Reise wert und wir haben uns alle gut amüsiert.!"

The 2003 production was a reprise of the Department's second dramatic effort in the spring of 1973. Looking over that production's three-decades-old program, we were surprised to see that Dr. Mark



Jim Lamse (*Biedermann*), Michael Hutchins (*Schmitz*),  
David Beversluis (*Eisenring*), and Kim Webster (*Frau Biedermann*)

Beversluis ('74), father of David Beversluis ('04) (who played the role of Eisenring in the 2003 production) had worked lights thirty years ago. Any

other examples of generational participation in our German-language dramatic productions? Do let us know!

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