



# 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