

## | From the Editor |

**F**ocus on German Studies is a publication with a rich and inspiring history. Now in its twentieth year, *Focus* compels the cooperative efforts of motivated graduate students and established professional faculty of colleges and universities across North America and Europe. In my time at the University of Cincinnati, I have always been just a bit in awe of the *Focus* editors. A fully graduate student-directed, professionally peer-reviewed publication, *Focus* was a first of its kind in the field of German Studies. It has been passed from editor to editor with not only the necessary instructions for oversight of the process, but also with the sort of personal advice one can have the fortune to receive from a colleague in a small but thriving department. Despite this twenty-year legacy of passed down knowledge, there has always been an element of independent hands-on learning for the *Focus* editor, as she or he navigates the daunting but, I am pleased to say, rewarding series of tasks involved in successfully publishing a volume. In the end, the result is a strong sense of proficiency in and knowledge of the academic publishing process, and I am proud to have taken a place in this lineage.

*Focus* has changed over the years, and continues to develop today. Originally titled *Focus on Literatur*, the journal was initially published biannually. With the new millennium came annual publication and our current title, and in 2008, Editor-in-Chief Marie Buesch began the process of digitizing *Focus* issues to ensure the worldwide accessibility of the journal. This year, I am pleased to announce that *Focus* has transitioned to fully online publication. My special thanks go to Dr. Todd Herzog and Alex Hogue for their advice and collaboration in making this transition. The University of Cincinnati Libraries have created permanent links to our journal articles, and interested readers will be able to access them without subscription. It is my hope that in the coming years, more readers will find and access *Focus on German Studies*, and that the journal's already excellent reputation as a scholarly publication will continue to thrive in the digital world. While we are still experimenting to find the best platform for online publication, I am confident that my succeeding editors, Alex Hogue and Matthew Bauman, will do great work in this undertaking and will secure *Focus's* place as a respected online journal.

I would like to extend my thanks to this year's Assistant Editor, Acacia Moraes Diniz for her continued support, and in particular for her generosity in – always graciously – taking on any and every task assigned with meticulous attention to quality. My thanks go as well to previous editor Vanessa Plumly for her time and valuable advice. Finally, I would like to thank the graduate students of the University of Cincinnati Department of German Studies, who have volunteered their time and attention in numerous ways. *Focus* owes its success to remarkable collaboration, and it has been my honor to play a role.

*Emily Bauman*