

GOSS

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Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends,



The German Department is abuzz with new faces, new ideas, new initiatives.

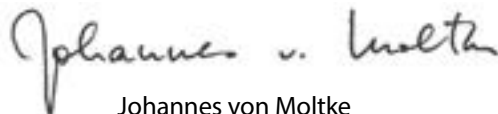
This Fall semester marked the arrival of several new colleagues whose presence has already begun to enliven and enrich our Department. After Tyler Whitney had joined us just over two years ago, we were able to bring in two further junior colleagues. Kristin Dickinson, who received her PhD from Berkeley last year, contributes much-needed expertise on German-Turkish (and German-Ottoman!) issues, on questions of migration, translation, and world literatures. Kira Thurman joins us from the University of Akron, where she had been teaching since receiving her PhD from the University of Rochester in 2013. Jointly appointed with the Department of History, she adds to our interdisciplinary profile her deep training and expertise in music as well as her crucial scholarship on questions of race and ethnicity. We have been thrilled and proud to welcome them to Michigan. (You can read more about Kristin and Kira on page 4).

In addition, we count ourselves fortunate to have Alice Goff join the Department. Under the aegis of the prestigious Michigan Society of Fellows, she will hold a three-year joint appointment in German and History. These three new arrivals are joined by our new graduate student Abigail Weisberger (see p. 7); this year's FU exchange student Danny Gronmaier; and – thanks to a welcome University initiative to reduce class sizes – three new lecturers: Sylvia Grzeskowiak, Iris Zapf-Garcia and Britta Keener. We have been delighted to welcome them all this Fall.

Meanwhile, the Department is literally buzzing for those students who are learning German, and learning about German environmentalism, in a recently introduced course on bees (see p. 14). Indeed, the coming and going of guests, and our packed schedule of events, can at times resemble a beehive of activity: between the annual meeting of the German Studies Association in Washington DC in early October, where almost two dozen (!) of our faculty and graduate students presented their research, and Thanksgiving, we welcomed Andreas Huyssen (Columbia U) for our annual Grilk lecture; mounted a fabulous graduate student conference on time and urban space (“Chronopolis”), with a fascinating keynote by Bettina Stoetzer from MIT; listened to Irene Butter share her life story as a Holocaust survivor in front of a capacity crowd in the Michigan League at the annual de Vries-Vanderkooy lecture; engaged with the novelist and New York based cultural correspondent of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, Peter Richter, who read from his recently published autobiographical novel *89/90* about the end of the German Democratic Republic; and discussed the refugee crisis in Europe. Meanwhile, we continue to teach scores of students about everything from Dativ and Akkusativ to German music, media, and modernity, from 19th century intellectual history to Nazi cinema, and from fairy tales to soccer.

There is much more to report, some of which you can read about in the pages that follow. Or, better yet, come see for yourself: whether it's for one of our many events or just to stop by and chat, we are always thrilled to welcome friends and welcome back our alumni. If you do come through, please stop by the Chair's office for a visit!

Sincerely,



Johannes von Moltke
moltke@umich.edu

Grilk Lecture: Over the Years

by Johannes von Moltke



In 2002, a former student in our department endowed a lecture series to honor his teacher and mentor, our emeritus colleague and friend, Professor Werner Grilk. The

series has featured a set of renowned, international speakers whose lectures, taken together, provide a veritable map of our protean field. The list has become too long to enumerate in detail – though you may peruse it at your leisure on a commemorative plaque on the third floor of the MLB. Past Grilk Lectures have ranged from Germany’s colonial legacies to musical performance in the Holocaust, to contemporary discourses and practices of memory; from literature, to intellectual history, to aesthetic theory and photography; from 20th century dreams and nightmares to the specter of Capital haunting neoliberal Europe.

Professor Andreas Huyssen (Columbia University), who delivered the 15th Grilk lecture at the end of October, could have spoken to all of these issues and more - like that of few others, his work spans the breadth of German Studies conceived

as an interdisciplinary field in which literature and other media meet, in which we draw from disciplines and methodologies across the humanities and some of the social sciences, and which in turn helps to articulate the histories and the place of “things German” in those fields. Indeed, Professor Huyssen’s work has been enormously influential also in museum and memory studies, and for scholars working on architecture and urbanism. His influence as an editor is similarly pronounced, particularly as one of the co-founders of the field-defining *New German Critique*. We were particularly grateful, then, that he accepted our invitation to deliver the lecture this year.

For this occasion, he drew on his recently published book on the importance of short, urban prose by German writers, entitled *Miniature Metropolis*. In detailed readings of works by Franz Kafka, Siegfried Kracauer and Robert Musil, he made a persuasive case for the centrality of this type of writing to modernist literature – if not to the very definition of literature itself during the early 20th century. Under the impression of rapid urbanization, and confronted with the rise of new media such as photography and film, these authors responded to modernity by writing entirely new forms of prose which, as Huyssen’s readings showed, have lost nothing of their compelling strangeness.

The Futures of the Past: German Cinema and its Media

In early June, the department hosted the German Film Institute (GFI). The Institute has had a field-defining function over the three decades (!) since its inception; it has launched research and publication projects, generated networks and boosted careers; it has served consistently as a forum for the exchange of new scholarly and pedagogical ideas. Professors Anton Kaes (Berkeley) and Eric Rentschler (Harvard) have served as the Institute’s directors ever since they co-founded it in the early 1980s. Johannes von Moltke has been serving as its organizer – or, as he likes to think of it, as the Institute’s “producer” – since it first came to Ann Arbor in 2004.

This year marked the fourteenth installment of the biannual event. Once again, 25 participants from different institutions

in the US and abroad came to Ann Arbor for the week-long meeting, which combined daily morning seminars with afternoon and evening screenings. Given the participants’ broad and interdisciplinary expertise, the seminars invariably generated intense discussions about German film and media history, but also about more general questions of pedagogy and the changing media landscape.

Featuring over 20 screenings, the Institute presented a unique opportunity to view a wide variety of films from the entire history of German cinema. A full overview of the program can be found on the institute’s website, <https://www.lsa.umich.edu/german/languageprograms/germanfilmstitute>.

gds Faculty Focus

Welcome New Faculty



Kristin Dickinson's research on contemporary German and Turkish literature examines the potential of translation, as both a formal and a social medium, in order to intervene in nationalist language ideologies and nationally structured areas of study. Her teaching and publications have focused on questions of world literature, translation theory in practice, cross-linguistic remembrance, linguistic purity, and critical monolingualism.

Her current book project, *Translation and the Experience of Modernity: A History of German Turkish Connectivity*, traces the development of a German Turkish translational relationship from the early 19th century to the present. Through readings of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Sabahattin Ali, Zafer Senocak, and Orhan Pamuk, she examines diverse forms of translation from which new modes of listening, speaking, and multidirectional remembering are negotiated for Turkish German studies in the 21st century.

Her other projects examine performances of translation at the 2008 Frankfurt Book Fair, "Turkey in All Its Colors;" the transnational significance of the early Turkish Republican author Sabahattin Ali; and the cartographies of non-arrival, disruption, and deferral in the works of Franz Kafka and Bilge Karasu.



Kira Thurman is an assistant professor of German and History (joint appointment) at the University of Michigan. She earned her PhD in history from the University of Rochester in 2013 under the direction of Celia Applegate, where she also pursued a minor in musicology through the Eastman School of Music. Her research, which has

appeared in *German Studies Review* and the *Journal of the American Musicological Society* (JAMS), focuses on the relationship between race, music, and national identity in Central Europe. Her article, "Black Venus, White Bayreuth: Race, Sexuality, and the De-Politicization of Wagner in Postwar West Germany" won the German Studies Association's prize for best paper by a graduate student in 2011 and again in 2014 for the DAAD prize for best article on German history. She is currently writing her first book, which is called *Singing Like Germans: Black Musicians in the Land of Bach, Beethoven and Brahms*.

Andrei Markovits Receives U-M Press Book Award

From Property to Family: American Dog Rescue and the Discourse of Compassion was awarded the University of Michigan Press Book Award. University of Michigan Press Book Awards are presented to members of the university teaching and research staff, including emeritus members, whose books have added the greatest distinction to the Press List. Selections are made from books published within a span of two calendar years. Congratulations, Andy!

Peter Mclsaac publishes *Exhibiting the German Past*, co-edited with Gabriele Mueller

While scholars recognize both museums and films as sites where historical knowledge and cultural memory are created, the convergence between their methods of constructing the past has only recently been acknowledged. The essays in *Exhibiting the German Past* examine a range of films, museums, and experiences which blend the two mediums, considering how authentic objects and cinematic techniques are increasingly used in similar ways by both visual media and museums.

This is the first collection to focus on the museum–film connection in German-language culture and the first to approach the issue using the concept of “musealization,” a process that, because it engages the cultural destruction wrought by modernization, offers new means of constructing historical knowledge and shaping collective memory within and beyond the museum’s walls. Featuring a wide range of valuable case studies, *Exhibiting the German Past* offers a unique perspective on the developing relationship between museums and visual media.



Johannes von Moltke receives 2015 LSA John Dewey Award



Congratulations to Johannes von Moltke! Johannes was awarded LS&A’s prestigious John Dewey Award for his long-term commitment to the education of undergraduate students! John Dewey Award recipients are selected each year by the College Executive Committee from among those recommended for promotion from associate professor to full professor with tenure.

Silke-Maria Weineck Awarded MLA’s Scaglione Prize for Comparative Literary Studies for *The Tragedy of Fatherhood*

The Modern Language Association of America recently announced it is awarding its twenty-third annual Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Comparative Literary Studies to Silke-Maria Weineck, Professor at the of the University of Michigan, for her book *The Tragedy of Fatherhood: King Laius and the Politics of Paternity in the West*, published by Bloomsbury. The prize is awarded annually for an outstanding scholarly work that is written by a member of the association and that involves at least two literatures. The department is proud to count Silke among its growing roster of award-winning faculty authors!

“Chronopolis” Graduate Student Conference

by Calder Fong



Bettina Stoetzer

The German Department graduate student conference “Chronopolis: Time and Urban Space” brought together participants from as far as New York City and Los Angeles, and as close by as Kalamazoo and Cleveland. Professor Andreas Huyssen’s Grill lecture, “The Metropolitan Miniature: Theory and Literary Practice,” and Professor Bettina Stoetzer’s keynote address, “Ruderal City: Ecologies of Migration and Urban Life in Berlin,” bookended the first day’s program and set the tone for our discussions of texts and films, artistic and civic structures, urban interfaces and

conflict in the asynchronous space of the city.

Over two days, we visited the usual suspects of Berlin and Vienna, but also ventured outside the city to Potsdam, Brandenburg and Ferropolis, explored the “wild East” of Siwowo, Sarajevo, London, and the L.A. of Adorno’s exile. We studied the urban environment,

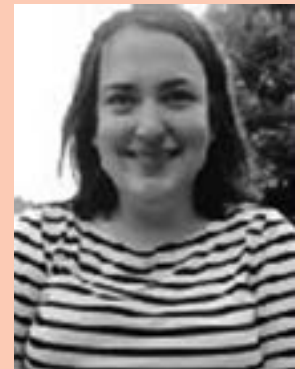
from institutions built to last, like museums and libraries, gardens and parks, to ephemeral places like exhibitions, and spontaneous “ruderal” ones: migrant gardens in the Hasenheide, and weekend barbecuing grounds in the Tiergarten. We examined the temporal dimensions of these spaces and explored different modalities of time: memory and futurity, simultaneity and asynchronicity, cumulative progression and cyclical time.

In a conference full of thought-provoking presentations and elucidating exchanges, it was a welcome surprise that such a capacious topic was able to produce panels with incisive criticism, closely aligned methodological engagements, and lively discussions. We would like to thank all the sponsors, organizers, participants, and students, staff, and faculty of the German Department for helping to make this year’s conference such a rousing success!

Congratulations to Mary Hennessy!

Mary is this year’s winner of the *German Quarterly’s* Graduate Student Paper Award. The prize is awarded annually by the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) for the best research paper by a graduate student on any topic related to German Studies. Entitled “Fassbinder’s Martha and the Female Complaint: Estranging the 1940s Hollywood ‘Woman’s Film,’” Mary’s paper was singled out as “the best argued, best written and most polished” among a large number of submissions. The prize committee was particularly impressed by Mary’s “assured placing of [her] own perspective within an already rich literature.”

The award was announced officially at the ACTFL conference in San Diego in November, and Mary’s paper will appear in the next volume of the *German Quarterly* in 2016. Congratulations on this fabulous accomplishment!



Welcome Abigail Weisberger



Abigail entered the German Department's PhD program in 2015 on fellowship with the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. She completed her B.A. in German Studies and Philosophy from Emory University summa cum laude in 2014. Prior to starting at U-M, she participated in the Yiddish Book Center's Steiner Summer Program and taught English at a German Haupt-und Realschule on a Fulbright grant.

Abby explores topics in modern German-Jewish philosophy and literature (particularly in the Wilhelmine and Weimar periods), critical theory, Jewish mysticism and messianism, Wissenschaft des Judentums, Yiddish culture, and Turkish-German studies. She enjoys swimming and 70s rock.

Humanities Without Walls Predoctoral Fellowship

By Patrick Tonks

The Institute for the Humanities awarded two graduate students from the University of Michigan with a Humanities Without Walls (HWW) Summer Fellowship. The students attended a predoctoral workshop last summer for career preparation inside and outside the academy.

Meghan Forbes (Slavic Languages and Literatures and a student in the German Studies Graduate Certificate Program) and Hannah McMurray (Germanic Languages and Literatures) joined graduate student colleagues from the other member universities of the HWW consortium: the 13 schools of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) plus the University of Notre Dame and the University of Illinois at Chicago. The full list of fellows is available on the HWW website: (www.humanitieswithoutwalls.illinois.edu).

Funded by the Mellon Foundation, HWW brought together 15 university partners to promote interinstitutional research partnerships as well as graduate student career preparation. Graduate students engaged in intensive discussions with organizers of public humanities projects, leaders of university presses and learned societies, experts in the various domains of the digital humanities, representatives of governmental and nongovernmental organizations, and holders of important non-faculty positions in colleges and universities.

gds Graduation 2015



Arya Alen Ahmady
Lauren Margret Beck
Ryan Matthew Blake
Maegan Louise Campbell
Robin Patrick Carey
Steven Eric Carson
Matthew R. Case
Cathy Yee Chow
Robert Allen Corbidge II
Brady Joseph Crites
Sonia Isabel Danon
Austin Chandler Davis

Kailash Lorna Dhir
Kevin Christopher Durand*
Zachary Bernard Feldman
Billie Jean Fierros
Katherine Elizabeth Fitzpatrick
Zachary King Fuller
Aylin Isabel Golaszewski
Jacob Daniel Gorski
Kelli Dale Graham
Kerstin Graziadei Graham
Christopher Allen Hemry
Sandy Rebeca Herman

Samantha Rhea Hill
Evan Michael Hoye
Thomas Heinz Jack Jahnke
Kendall Gayle Johnson
Samuel John Kavalier
George Peter Kolovos
Zainab Bint Masood
Nolan Ronald McClain*
Brandon George McDole
Allison Yvonne McDonald
Ryan Matthew Miller
Anna Kathryn Moloney

Michelle Nicole Morgan
Anne Margaret Morris
Vera Andrea Nattler
Austin Scott Nell
Benjamin Craig Newman
Alexander Gerald Porzondek
Jack Ridgway
Zachary John Schmitt
Mackenzie Bedell Seaman
Bharti Sethi
Timothy James Smith
Kelsey Janae Stern

Terrence Randell Tigney
Daniel Francis Tiura
Brianna Christine Freitag Vandervoort
Yuqi Wang
Elisa Villaflores Warner
Alyssa Nicole Weeks
Tyler Jacob Weiss
Kelli Lynn Wetherhold*
Cassidy Lynn Winter*
Ryan James Yost
Anthony Adriano Zilli

Departmental Awards

Martin Haller Prize:

Best Senior Honors Thesis

Lauren Margret Beck

Frank X. Braun Award:

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor

Naomi Vaughan

Lecturer of the Year Award:

Student Nominated Award for Excellence in Teaching and Promoting German Language and Culture

Mary Gell

Honors Students

Lauren Margret Beck
Zachary Bernhard Feldman
Samuel John Kavalier

Terrence Randell Tigney
Elisa Villaflores Warner





German Minors

Kevin Scott Bain
 Jessica Jane Bashara*
 Alexander W. Bauman*
 Mark Andrew Beams
 Dexter Charles Benda
 Sera Anne Bird
 John Copland Borger
 William Scott Burton*
 Michael Ivonne Camarena
 Deidre Clein*
 Scott Alexander Dater
 Daniel Joseph D'Hondt
 Megan Louise Dumas

Analissa Amorim Forsgren
 Chane G. Forsyth
 Hannah Victoria Fuentes
 Samantha Lee Gioia
 Maria Rachel Grekowitz
 Joseph Martin Gurrentz
 Meghan Leigh Hanrahan
 Rachel Elise Hatch
 Alexander Thomas Hodge
 Cameron Thomas Hodges
 Natalie Marie House
 Luke Benjamin Jacobi*
 Federica Ines Jonas Vaccari

Bryan David Jonke
 Shobhita Kramadhathi
 Kelly Elizabeth Krater
 Grace Kuan
 Stephanie Nichole Lovell
 Danielle Hayley Malitz
 Joseph Michael Martin
 Cameron David McBride
 Vincent James Misovski*
 Joseph Paul Murray
 Colin Cobane O'Neil
 James Brandt Otis
 Zachary Thornton Pasikowski

Isabella Petnehazy
 Dhananjaya Abheetha Premawardena
 Julie Caroline Ramus
 Meredith Anne Reid
 Shekinah Dawn Reser
 Alicea Jade Rice
 Colin Patrick Riordan
 Killian Maureen Rohn
 Jeremy Paul Ross
 Karin Elisabeth Roszell
 James Christopher Saber
 Jamie Lee Sanderson
 Vanessa Schade

Katherine Jeanne Schnobel
 Conor Christian Schultz
 Nathan Erik Fleishman Shields
 Nathaniel John Smith
 Stacy Elyse Szymczak
 Jillian R. Talaski
 Andrew William Thomas
 Casey Lea Thomas
 Cherice Alexandra Todd
 Jiyoun Won
 Yuhui Zhou*

*Denotes Winter 2014 graduates

Scandinavian Studies Minors

Hannah Jane Byl
 Chelsea Dylan Cole
 Nicholas Kirklin Hamil
 Sara Ann Knutson
 Timothy James Lilienthal

Emmeline Maud Rinquist
 Michael Thomas Wilen*
 Tessa Adrian Wiles



Scandinavian Studies Minors

From Sea to Sea in Ten Days

by Vicki Dischler



Fourteen Max Kade students, chaperoned by faculty members Vicki Dischler and Julie Gruber, traveled to Hamburg and Northern Germany for the inaugural May study abroad trip. Their travels spanned from the North Sea mud flats for a chilly walking tour of wildlife while tide was out, to the

Baltic Sea for a stormy afternoon exploration of the windy coastal town of Warnemünde. In spite of the Deutsche Bahn strike, the group managed to travel by train for a weekend to Schwerin, the capital of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Julie's old friend, Christian Frenzel, whom she met on several student exchanges during her college years, is now state secretary. He showed the group highlights around town, the Staatskanzlei, Schwerin Castle, and introduced them to Ministerpräsident Erwin Sellering at the 25th Filmkunstfest in the Mecklenburg State Theater. In Hamburg, the group viewed the city from the water while learning about global sea trade during a Hafenrundfahrt, and also participated in the expansive Hafengeburtstag festival

celebrating 826 years as a port city. Other sites the group visited were the famous Michel church, the Kunsthalle, the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, the Rathaus and the Reeperbahn. They had a private tour of Spiegel Publishing House on the last day, Father's Day, which was celebrated on a Thursday with just a few people in the newsroom. Journalist Alex Demling took the opportunity to consult with the Kade students on which topics would interest them for an on-line news and culture magazine for young adults. His team used these insights for launching bento.de in October.



25 Years of German Unity

On October 15th, Peter Richter - author of the recent Wenderoman *89/90* (Luchterhand 2015) and cultural correspondent for the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* in New York - gave a public reading of his novel followed by a conversation and Q&A. The reading drew a large crowd consisting of students, members of the Ann Arbor community, faculty, and staff. The visit was made possible, in part, by funds from the German Embassy's 25 Years of German Unity campaign.



Academic Year in Freiburg

by Helmut Puff

Academic Year in Freiburg is a one year study abroad program. Since 1960, for more than fifty years, AYF has brought hundreds of U-M students to immerse themselves in all aspects of student life and learning in Germany. Last academic year seven U-M students – together with fellow students from University of Wisconsin, University of Iowa, and Michigan State University – took the plunge. Helmut Puff, U-M Professor of German and History, accompanied them as their Resident Director for the year. They came to fully embrace their year abroad and their German lives. “The most interesting aspect of my immersion ... was knowing people and their personalities only in German,” says Ryan Blake (U-M class of 2015). McKenzie Barber, a Physics and German major, found the “favorite part of studying in Freiburg was that I had the opportunity to use the German skills I have learned for the first time in a non-classroom context.”

“Something as simple as walking down the street in Freiburg is a chance to pick up a new German word or practice listening comprehension,” says Alexandra Trecha who studies Economics and German. Now back in Ann Arbor, she serves as a DAAD Young Ambassador and is helping to promote AYF to her fellow students. And Molly Reitman, a Creative Writing and German major, liked “the immersion offered through AYF because my greatest motivation to improve my German is to be able to understand if the girls on my roller derby team are making fun of me or not.”

20th Annual DeVries – VanderKooy Memorial Lecture: Irene Butter

by Annemarie Toebosch



Dit word nu de eerste brief van mij uit Afrika die jullie van mij krijgen... Ik hoop dat jullie mijn brief van Marseille ontvangen hebben. Om de Nederlandse taal niet te verleren schrijf ik in Nederlands.

This will be the first letter that you receive from me from Africa... I hope you received my letter from Marseille. In order not to forget the Dutch language, I write in Dutch.

This is the start of a letter written in early 1945 from a Displaced Persons camp in Philippeville, Algeria. The author of the letter, 14-year old Irene Hasenberg, wrote the letter in her adoptive language of Dutch to her mother and brother in

Switzerland. Irene had been part of a rare transport of "exchange Jews" from Nazi concentration camp Bergen-Belsen. Her father did not survive the transport. Her mother and brother were not healthy enough to travel on with her from Switzerland. On October 22, 2015, now seventy years later, University of Michigan Professor Emerita Irene Butter read her childhood letter, in Dutch, to a packed room of faculty, students and community members as she delivered the 20th anniversary lecture in the Annual De Vries – VanderKooy Memorial lecture series.

The lecture "Building Cross-Cultural Bridges" was illuminating in its teaching of history and thought-provoking in its relevance to current issues of immigration and tolerance. Through a series of personal recollections, Irene Butter explained her identity as a Holocaust survivor: German through birth and heritage, stateless through persecution, and Dutch and American through immigration. The audience came away with a deeper understanding of the complex cultural identities of refugees and immigrants.

In addition, this De Vries - VanderKooy anniversary lecture was personal through the speaker's long and extensive connections to the university and local community. Dr. Butter was friends with Jan de Vries and Meindert van der Kooy. She co-founded the University of Michigan Raoul Wallenberg lecture series and the local Jewish-Palestinian dialog group Zeitouna, and for almost 30 years she has educated local school children about the Holocaust. Dutch program students in the audience felt the personal connection through a shared experience of adopting Dutch culture and language as their own. Dr. Butter's Dutchness was beautifully represented at the end of the lecture in a collection of pictures of Dutch objects Dr. Butter has carried with her through life.

The recording of the lecture can be found on YouTube under the title "Dr. Irene Butter – 20th Annual DeVries-Vanderkooy lecture."



School photo of Irene Butter.

Study Abroad and Internships in Scandinavia

by Johanna Eriksson

The students minoring in Scandinavian Studies returned to campus this fall and enthusiastically shared their study abroad and internship experiences. These opportunities were made possible by the generous support of the Highfield Foundation and SWEA, Swedish Women's Educational Association, Inc.

Max Aveis spent his winter 2015 semester at Uppsala University. He compares Uppsala to Ann Arbor's student life "but with a cozier community feel and centuries more history." The long and dark winter did not stop him from thoroughly enjoying himself in every facet of his life. Max truly felt at home: "There is something to be said for the caliber of kindness and warmth I was shown everywhere I went and stayed. I met the best people I've ever known in only half a year." Max wrapped up his semester in Sweden saying that "Every moment was out of a dream."

Rebecca Smith and **Michelle Hoban** returned for the summer from Helsingborg, Sweden. They worked at Helsingborgs Stadsbibliotek, the main branch of the library, a perfect fit for two English Literature majors. Becca and Michelle enjoyed their coworkers, their twice daily coffee breaks where they were often served cakes, varied work tasks and independence. After work, Becca and Michelle explored their surroundings by bus and train, and sometimes on foot, for example when visiting Sofiero Castle. Becca and Michelle also got a chance to take part in a traditional Midsummer celebration. "We saw the midsummer pole raised, watched traditional folk dancers perform, and joined in the dance 'Små grodorna'."

Alyssa Nelson secured an internship that matched her interest in wildlife perfectly. She worked for three months at Grimsö Wildlife Research Station on a study exploring the relationship between



roe deer, ticks and tick-borne disease. Long days were spent in the forest searching for roe deer fawns and putting tracking collars on them. A blood sample was taken and ticks were removed. "One of the most memorable experiences I had was being able to hold a fawn in my arms!" Alyssa tells us. Working long hours, Alyssa especially enjoyed the late, lingering and beautiful sunsets. She will never forget this summer. "I learned so much about wildlife research and myself by interacting with coworkers from around the world."

Arnor Halldorsson returned to Iceland, where he worked at a Thai restaurant in the small town Selfoss, with roughly 4,000 inhabitants. The restaurant opened in 1997 by a married couple of an Icelandic man and Thai woman. In 1999, Arnor's boss, Kristin Arnadottir, bought the restaurant on a whim, without any former experience. With the increase in tourism to Iceland, the restaurant is doing very well. Arnor commented that the people he met are what matters most: "Icelanders are progressive, unyielding but kind people. It was a pleasure to be in their surroundings and experience their unrelenting spirit, which inspired me to do my best. Everyone in the restaurant was generally friendly and felt more like friends than coworkers."

gds In the Classroom

Honey Bees, Germany, and Ecology

By Andrew J. Mills



The interiors of honey-bee hives embody that small, unlit space where the proverbial tire meets the road on the question of whether humans can live on the planet without durably ruining it. Honey bees are the new canaries in the coalmine: pretty, winged, absorbent of the perils coming down the shaft. That these ancient symbols of tireless diligence and commitment to community are now struggling to survive in our backyards, let alone the commercial apiaries that facilitate the pollination of much of our fruit and vegetables, is reflective of our present age of mass extinction. It is quietly mortifying.

But these are not our ruminations as we commence the inaugural “German 325: The Hidden Life of German Bees,” nor is this where we begin our journey. We begin with bee puns. Next follows the delightfully bloodless tale of “Die Bienenkönigin” (The Bee Queen) from the Brothers Grimm, in which the bumbling, dim-witted third son of a king treats nature kindly, and is rewarded in his time of need by a grateful and benevolent honey-bee queen, who saves him by tasting honey on the lips of a slumbering princess. We then survey the some 10,000-year-old relationship between humans and honey bees, perusing the monuments our forebears thought worthwhile to erect in honor of such a diminutive, mighty friend. We study and commit to memory the primary details of honey-bee anatomy, communal behavior, nutrition, and sexual reproduction. We discuss the life stages of drones, worker bees, and queens.

On one weekend, we gather at our university’s Matthaei Botanical Gardens to don an assortment of awkward protective gear, first gazing upon our mutual goofy appearance before opening living bee hives and viewing the superorganism for ourselves. We physically examine specimens of pollen, nectar, honey, propolis, and wax, and discuss the roles these substances play in the life of a hive. All the while, the dramatic arc of our course bends toward a confrontation with Colony Collapse Disorder (Völkerkollaps) and its apocalyptic horsemen of pesticides, pathogens, habitat loss, and stress. Here we isolate and examine what may be the component causes of the massive death experienced by honey bees in North America and Europe starting in the fall of 2006.

Seeking comfort, we taste-test honey and briefly—figuratively—embrace the killer bee as lovable, choleric rogue, resistant to the rampage of the varroa destructor mite. We discuss the Nobel-Prize-winning research and lesser-known biography of Austrian Karl von Frisch, who unlocked the secret of how bees communicate—while working in service of the National-Socialist war effort. We study contemporary Germany’s youthful urban beekeeping scene for a glimpse of what the future may bring.

Throughout the course, we seek that balance we crave: a fruitful engagement with German language, culture, society, and history, coupled with a tangible relevance for our own personal lives.

We learn that what was once hidden was never hiding. We learn that what has been found is worth keeping.

Staying Connected

Grüße aus dem Erzgebirge!

By Lauren Beck

The traditional Christmas schwibbogen can be seen on almost every other house in Zwönitz, the sparsely populated East German town where I am currently working as an English teaching assistant. Unlike in America, where year-round Christmas lights are tut-tutted as tacky, here these decorative metal arches add a sense of culture and history to the town. In the past, they lit up the long winter nights for miners returning from their day's long and dark work. Now, they light up my evenings as I walk to Aldi or stroll through the square.

Like Germans in many other regions, the people here are fiercely proud of their dialect. My landlords have taken to trying to teach me new words in Erzgebirgisch every time I pass their apartment to do laundry. They invite me in and, over steaming mugs of glühwein, patiently explain to me that I am drinking out of a dibl, not a tasse, and sitting in the schduub, not the wohnzimmer. I have become concerned that by the end of June, I too will be speaking this infuriatingly incomprehensible dialect.

Still, it has become abundantly clear to me that my integration into the teacher's-lounge gossip is partially dependent upon my mastery of this dialect. After I've tried for four days to follow lunchtime conversation between a fellow English teacher, the music teacher, and the vice principal, they laugh along with my confusion and explain the double entendres I missed and cultural references foreign to me. Soon, I laugh along too.

I can admit that it's not always easy. There are days when students act up or a lesson plan snags and I go home to an empty, communist-era apartment, wishing that I had friends living a bit closer to me than two hours away in Dresden. But then there are also days when students are engaged with my lesson plans, days when I break into teachers' lounge discussions on the shift from teaching Russian to English in East German schools, days when the sun shines brightly over the rolling hills and the smell of woodsmoke fills the air.



When it comes down to it, I love what I'm doing. Every day I wake up, remember where I am, and think about what lies ahead on my path: graduate school applications, mastery of Erzgebirgisch, skiing through the countryside, PhD programs, research, writing, teaching, growing. Were it not for the support and guidance I received from U-M's German Department, I doubt I would be living in this picturesque countryside or dreaming of a future in German graduate studies.

Thank you, everyone. I hope to see you all again soon.

Lauren Beck graduated from U-M in 2015 with a B.A. in German and Russian, Eastern European, and Eurasian Studies. At present, Lauren is working as a Fulbright ETA in Zwönitz, Saxony and applying to PhD programs in German Studies.

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