



**DEPARTMENT OF
GERMANIC LANGUAGES
AND LITERATURES**

**NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2019**



lsa.umich.edu/german



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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Friends of the Department,

The trees outside my window are in full bloom, invigorated by many days of rain that are finally giving way to warm temperatures. Campus has quieted down, and with the exception of the occasional graduate student typing away at their dissertation and a few undergraduates attending spring classes, even our MLB building seems to have gone on vacation. This is a good moment to take a breath and reflect back on the past academic year.

We ended the year celebrating the graduation of 113 majors and minors, numbers that are once again the envy of every other German, Scandinavian and Dutch program in the country. Six German majors and two minors were invited

to join Phi Beta Kappa, America's most prestigious Honor Society. Our faculty continues to develop new and fascinating courses on themes as diverse as "German Humor," "Multilingualism" and "What is Time?," broadening an already wide-ranging curriculum that covers countless aspects of German culture and society. And all the while my colleagues and our graduate students work tirelessly to carry out activities beyond the classroom, launching a new German film series, organizing campus events during MLK day, and hosting our first annual *Teaching Techniques and Strategies Workshop* for high school German instructors throughout Southeast Michigan.

At a time when American isolationism makes its political come-back, it is heartening to see that so many students make use of our various study-abroad opportunities. Thirteen U-M undergraduates went to Tübingen during the Winter semester, and the same number participated in our year-long program in Freiburg, which was run by my colleague Kerstin Barndt. Thanks to the largesse of one of our donors, starting this fall we will provide full financial

support to one student attending the Freiburg program. Studying abroad has never been more important, and we are deeply grateful for the many donations that help us support our students, whether they go to Freiburg or Tübingen, attend a Goethe language course, or pursue an internship with a German company.

Our faculty continues to produce exciting new work. Julia Hell's magisterial *The Conquest of Ruins: The Third Reich and the Fall of Rome*, which appeared in February, shows how the specter of the fall of the Roman Empire, crystallized in images of architectural ruins, haunts modern political projects of empire building, and in particular that of the Nazi regime. While Hell focuses on architecture and images, Tyler Whitney's *Eardrums: Literary Modernism as Sonic Warfare*, explores in rich detail the transformations of the acoustic environment around 1900 and its impact on modernist literature. Not least on the strength of his wonderful work, Whitney has just been promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure. Meanwhile our colleague Fred Amrine and I

myself have been promoted to the rank of full professor. Once again, it's been an extremely successful year for the department.

As we head into summer we're already making plans for the coming year, and we look forward to updating you on our line-up of events, visits, and speakers on the web, Twitter, and Facebook (@umichGerman). Oh, and if you want to brush up on your German, have a look at the amazing and beautifully redesigned website that our language director, Hartmut Rastalsky, has created: resources.german.lsa.umich.edu

There is much to look forward to in the coming year, and we do hope as always to see our old friends and alumni here from time to time to talk about times past, present, and future in German, Dutch and Scandinavian studies. When you do come, please stop in to the Chair's office for a visit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andreas Gailus".

Andreas Gailus
GermanChair@umich.edu

HIGHLIGHTS

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Corner

by Kristin Dickinson, Assistant Professor



In fall 2018, the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures created a new DEI Committee, consisting of Kristin Dickinson, Mary Rodena-Krasan, and Erin-Johnston Weiss. The committee's first step was to highlight the department's numerous standing commitments to DEI on the department's website, including our diverse course offerings and departmental events, as well as graduate student and faculty research related to traditionally underrepresented topics, such as German colonialism, Black-, Turkish-, and Jewish-German Studies, queer subjectivity, and feminist theory.

In winter 2019, the committee also organized two key events. With the intention of adding an international perspective to the discussion of race and race relations on Martin Luther King Jr. Day,

we screened Jana Pareigis' investigative film *Afro Germany*, in which Pareigis travels across Germany asking the questions: What is it like to be a black person in Germany? And what needs to change? During Black History Month, the committee also partnered with the department's film series and the RIW Alamanya: Transnational German Studies, to bring the contemporary Black German activist and visual artist Natasha Kelly to campus for a screening of her documentary film *Milli's Awakening*. This event, which included a Q&A with Kelly, was very successful with over 60 people in attendance. While Kelly was on campus, undergraduate Lena von Moltke interviewed her for the Global Feminisms Project.

Another important initiative the committee undertook was to help identify texts by traditionally underrepresented

authors for poetry recitations and sight reading activities at our annual German Day event, during which approximately 700 local high school students visit the University of Michigan. The DEI Committee finds this kind of representation particularly important, given that German Day is one of the first encounters high school students have with German studies at the university level.

Finally, the DEI Committee identified a number of long-term goals, which the department will begin to address in the upcoming academic year through the aid of a Faculty Ally and a Student Ally Diversity Grant. Among other initiatives, the Faculty Ally Diversity Grant will support workshops on mentoring and graduate student mental health, enable the department to direct new funds toward recruiting a more diverse

graduate student body, and provide resources to support graduate students' professional development.

The Student Ally Diversity Grant is currently supporting graduate student Domenic Desocio as he develops a database of primary sources and pedagogical tools for teaching underrepresented authors in the German undergraduate curriculum. As a second recipient of this grant, graduate student Özlem Karuç is also working with Mary Gell and Vicki Dischler to fully revise the third semester of our undergraduate language sequence. Together, they aim to create a more flexible curriculum that also better represents the diversity of contemporary German society.

FACULTY FOCUS



Faculty Promotions

In May 2019, the Board of Regents approved recommendations for promotion for associate and full professor ranks.

Congratulations to our faculty!

Frederick R. Amrine, professor with tenure
Andreas Gailus, professor with tenure
Tyler R. Whitney, associate professor with tenure



Princeton Mellon Fellow

Kira Thurman was awarded two fellowships for the upcoming year: the Ford Foundation fellowship and a Mellon foundation fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. She will be spending the 2019-2020 academic year in Princeton completing her first manuscript and beginning her second, which explores how the relationship between sound and race developed in nineteenth century Germany. Congratulations on receiving these prestigious fellowships!

2019 John Dewey Award Recipient

The LSA Executive Committee selected Professor Andreas Gailus as one of the recipients of the 2019 John Dewey Award for his commitment to the education of undergraduate students. As Interim Dean Cole commented, "Committee members were impressed by Gailus' contributions to teaching across the curriculum within the department, as well as to the degree in which he has successfully conveyed his passion for literary studies, intellectual inquiry, and the joys of education through conversation and community to the seminar classroom." Congratulations, Professor Gailus, on being part of a very small number of Dewey Award winners!



President of the GSA

Professor Johannes von Moltke began his two-year term as the President of the German Studies Association (GSA) in early 2019. As GSA President, von Moltke articulates the intellectual course of the Association, appoints members of committees, and presides over meetings of the Executive Council, the GSA Board, and the membership. Congratulations on receiving this elected position!

Opposite Page

Left Photo Attendees of Kelly's documentary film screening

Middle Photo Natasha Kelly

Right Photo Lena von Moltke interviewing Kelly

GRADUATE STUDENT FOCUS

Bringing Berlinale to Ann Arbor

by Katy Holihan, Ph.D. Student

Ann ArBerlinale Film Festival*
Spielarten der Liebe
Forms of Love

Friday, February 15

6:45 pm Welcome and Introduction

7 pm *The Marriage Circle*
(Ernst Lubitsch, USA 1924)
86 min

9 pm *Sehnsucht / Longing*,
(Valeska Grisebach, Germany 2006)
90 min

Modern Languages Building
Lecture Room 2 (1420 MLB)

*A local film festival inspired by the Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale)
All screenings free and open to the public.

Saturday, February 16

10 am Welcome and Introduction

10:15 am *Angst essen seele auf / Ali: Fear Eats the Soul*
(Rainer Werner Fassbinder, West Germany 1974)
94 min

1 pm Welcome and Introduction

1:15 pm *Die Legende von Paul und Paula / The Legend of Paul und Paula*
(Heiner Carow, DDR 1972)
102 min

3:30 pm *Coming Out*
(Heiner Carow, DDR 1989)
109 Minutes



MLSA GERMANIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Every February the city of Berlin hosts the Berlin International Film Festival, better known by its colloquial name, the *Berlinale*. The festival program is a jam-packed 11 days, featuring over 400 feature-length, independent, experimental, short, classic, domestic, and international films. This February, doctoral candidates in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Mary Hennessy and Katy Holihan, brought the Berlinale to Ann Arbor, hosting the first-ever *Ann ArBerlinale*. Over two days, this mini film festival in the Modern Languages Building (MLB) featured five German language

films revolving around the original (and seasonal theme) "Forms of Love" (*Spielarten der Liebe*). The program kicked off with a double feature: Ernst Lubitsch's 1924 silent comedy *The Marriage Circle*, followed by Valeska Grisebach's pastoral drama *Longing* (2006). The next day featured Rainer Werner Fassbinder's acclaimed *Ali: Fear Eats the Soul* (1974), and a DEFA double feature by director Heiner Carow, including the frenetic and tragicomic *The Legend of Paul and Paula* (1973) and *Coming Out* (1989). Thank you to all who participated in this local film festival experience!

Rackham Predoctoral Fellows

Congratulations to Domenic DeSocio and Katy Holihan who will be Rackham Predoctoral Fellows for the 2019-20 academic year. The Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship is one of the most prestigious awards granted by the Rackham Graduate School. Awards are based on the strength and quality of dissertation abstracts, publications, presentations, and faculty recommendations.



Frank X. Braun Graduate Student Instructor Awarded to Beck and McNeill

By Peter McIsaac

Congratulations to Lauren Beck and Elizabeth (Liz) McNeill for their outstanding contributions to our department as recipients of the Frank X. Braun Graduate Student Instructor Award. Lauren and Liz are third-year graduate students who have taught for the department for five semesters, teaching courses in our beginning language and culture sequence and mentoring other Graduate Student Instructors.

In reviewing Lauren's evaluations, there is a consistent pattern of excellence that runs through all of her efforts. One student comments, "The instruction could really not have been

better. My instructor is very intelligent; she cared that we understood the material and would adjust her teaching to ensure that we were getting the help we needed. Lauren is definitely my favorite German instructor so far."



Lauren Beck

Testimony to Liz's expertise runs throughout her evaluations, with students singling out her dedication, skill and ability to allay their fears of German grammar. One student states, "Ms. McNeill is an amazing GSI.



Elizabeth McNeill

Hands-down the best I have ever had. I feel like German could have been a lot more painful if I did not take it with her. She is helpful, she's attentive, she's energetic, she's really nice and she's INCREDIBLY patient."



Veronica Williamson Wins Alan P. Cottrell Prize

Congratulations to Veronica Williamson, first year Ph.D. student, who is the 2018 Cottrell prize winner for the best paper written in a German Studies seminar. This is a well-deserved recognition of Veronica's paper on Schlingensief's *Bitte liebt Österreich* performance. Those deciding on the winner of this award congratulated Veronica on the clear focus and argumentative structure of her paper, and her careful analysis and critique of Schlingensief's work.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT FOCUS

Discovering Ladies' Bands in Germany through Postcards

by Rebecca Epstein-Boley, German BA '19

When I first started noticing images of old German postcards depicting ladies' brass bands (called *Damen-Blasorchester* and *Trompeterkorps*), I had no idea what to do with these strange documents. It was the fall of 2015, I was a first-year music student at the university, and I had never spoken a word of German in my life. When I found no English-language record of the bands depicted, I had to move on.

Somehow, though, I could never get the images out of my head. Music history classes taught me that women around the turn of the 20th century might have performed professionally as singers, violinists, or pianists, but certainly never as players of unladylike brass or wind instruments. I began taking German classes the next semester. New language skills allowed me to begin investigating the musicians the postcards depicted and, by the winter of 2018, I had added a major in German. I planned to write an honors thesis in the department, finally properly studying the ladies' bands.

Initial research revealed that these bands were part of a much larger wave of ladies' orchestras (called



Damenkapellen) in Germany at the turn of the 20th century. Hundreds of those ensembles, at least 75 of which were brass bands, performed regularly in restaurants and variety theaters. Although the ensembles were once popular sensations, it seemed, they were now largely forgotten. Very few publications so much as mentioned the

groups. In the end, I relied heavily on the images and handwriting on postcards as the main source material for my thesis. Through postcards, I discovered that ladies' bands were an important element of turn-of-the-century German culture, even though there are few official records to remind us of their existence.

None of my work would have been possible without the support of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, which gave me the language skills I needed and supported my research at every step. In supporting my education and project, the department has created academic opportunities I never could have imagined. After submitting my thesis, I was awarded both the department's Martin Haller Prize for the best undergraduate honors thesis and LSA Honors' Robert Hayden Humanities Award in the Goldberg Prizes, which recognizes an exceptional Honors undergraduate in the humanities. This past weekend, I traveled to Madrid to present a conference paper based on one of my thesis chapters. Next year, I will move to Berlin to continue researching ladies' brass bands with DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) funding. It has been an honor and an incredible joy to study German here with outstanding faculty, and I can barely express my gratitude to the department for its continual encouragement and support.

Top Photo *H. Brandt's Damen Blas & Streichorchester*

Middle Photo *I. Oesterr. Damen-Trompeter-Corps, "Böhème." Dir. Albert Lohmann*

Bottom Left Photo *Professor Helmut Puff and Rebecca*

Bottom Right Photo *Rebecca at graduation*

Congrats, grads!



German majors



German minors



Max Kade German Residence graduating seniors



German Honors students

U-M Confers More Undergraduate Degrees in German Than Any Other U.S. Institution

by Annie Varner

The Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at the University of Michigan confers more undergraduate degrees in German than any other U.S. institution. According to the U.S. Department of Education data published by *The Chronicle List*, U-M had 52 graduates (majors) in 2016-17.

STAYING CONNECTED

My Life Journey Through German Immersion

by Rony Wang, German and Sociology BA '05

As Pablo Picasso once said, "The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away." This statement could not be any truer for me! I found this very special gift when I learned the German language from 2003 to 2005 at my beloved University of Michigan, which transformed me from a shy and introverted young man from Taiwan to an adventurous and open-minded world citizen today.

Who would have ever imagined that my very first overseas exchange in 2003 for four months, in one of the most romantic towns in Germany, Rothenburg ob der Tauber, would have changed my life forever! I was fortunate to live with a caring German police family who treated me like one of their children. After my stay in Germany, I gratefully obtained a second set of parents, an older sister and brother, and the ability to speak basic German fluently.

In 2004, I was able to obtain an internship in Bad Duerkheim, Germany, through the support of the CDS Internship Program at U-M to work as an intern at a human resource company that



offered intercultural seminars for German companies and Asian managers. This experience provided me a strong cultural footprint and I learned that working in an international environment is a dream come true for me.

During my last year at U-M in 2005, I was able to apply successfully, based on my previous internship experience, to Robert Bosch GmbH in Stuttgart, a globalized and international German company. At the end of the internship, my department manager was happy to admit me into a

German MBA program in order to continue to support him in strategic planning for expansions in China. After my studies, I fell in love, decided to make Germany my home, and started working as an international buyer for Bosch in 2008. However, the consistent questions of my identity and my roots haunted me. I made my decided to leave Germany and moved back to Taiwan to work from 2013 to 2017. After soul searching, I decided to return to Germany in 2017, where I continue to work as a senior buyer at a new automotive parts company.

Life would not be complete without giving back to society. Currently, I am a part-time Chinese teacher teaching German children and adults the Chinese language, and I intend to continue this for a long time.

My life journey will be full of new surprises and adventures. Fortunately, learning the German language has provided me limitless opportunities. I learned a great deal from my U-M German professors Kalli, Janet, and Peggy.

Remembering Mary Seeger



“Mary’s infectious spirit animated this trove: she was full of anecdotes about her life and love for things German and Scandinavian, and a wonderful, welcoming partner in wide-ranging conversation”

Mary Seeger, donor and friend of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, died June 11, 2019. She was 79 years old. Mary and her husband, Wilhelm Seeger (A.B. German, 1959), were among the founding professors of Grand Valley State University’s Modern Languages and Literatures department in 1965, where they worked closely with GVSU’s first president—and former U-M faculty member—James Zumberge. Mary remained joyfully dedicated throughout her career to sharing her love of German language, history, and culture with GVSU students. Mary was also deeply involved in advancing women’s equity in higher education and in society at-large. She was

the first woman to hold the position of dean at GVSU, retiring as dean of Academic Resources and Special Programs and professor of modern languages and literatures in 2005, and previously serving as assistant, and later associate, dean for GVSU’s College of Arts and Sciences. She received the Progress in Equity Award by the Legal Advocacy Fund of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in 2000 in recognition of her leadership in confronting the inequities women faced on campus.

Committed to supporting German and Scandinavian studies and research at public universities, Mary and Wilhelm recently completed a gift to

the University of Michigan’s College of Literature, Science, and the Arts to establish the Wilhelm and Mary Seeger Scholarship Fund. The Seeger scholarship supports undergraduate study abroad opportunities in Germany. The first Seeger scholar recently spent the winter 2019 semester studying in Tübingen, Germany.

“I have fond memories of connecting with Mary over her and Wilhelm’s interest in sustaining German studies at U-M and across their different home institutions,” says Johannes von Moltke, professor of German and Film, Media & Television, and former chair of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures.

Professor von Moltke recalls the Seegers’ impressive library, which included not only German language books and historical artifacts but also, in one corner, a substantial collection of crime thrillers set in Scandinavia or the Nordic countries. Mary was an aficionado and a connoisseur of ‘Nordic Noir,’ a topic dear to her heart about which she lectured at different venues until very recently. “Mary’s infectious spirit animated this trove: she was full of anecdotes about her life and love for things German and Scandinavian, and a wonderful, welcoming partner in wide-ranging conversation,” he says. “It is with great sadness that I heard of her passing.”

IN THE CLASSROOM

The Power of Protest

by Mary Rodena-Krasan, Lecturer and Undergraduate Advisor



Why do people engage in political protest? What moves a person, a people, or a generation into the streets in resistance? These questions were central to my intermediate German course entitled “Peace, Love & Rock n Roll: Germany’s Student Movement and the Generation that Changed a Nation” but to paraphrase an old adage - some things you learn best by doing. The hands-on method in pedagogical terms translates as experiential learning. It is one of the most effective teaching tools, but it can be one of the hardest to incorporate in an academic setting.

Every once in a while, a course topic will come up that makes it easy. When I conceived of my class it was a no-brainer. Protest is not a spectator sport. Of course there exists a myriad of tangible reasons that led the ‘68 generation to

organize and participate in the many protests marking the succeeding decades after World War II. In my class, those reasons are intellectualized, parsed, analyzed, and discussed, all from the comfort of a climatized classroom. What those rationales can exclude are the motivations behind them - the non-tangible, non-intellectual, and, perhaps one would go so far as to say, trivial catalysts that drove people out into the streets and swelled the ranks of protestors as much as any other clearly defined social and/or historical impetus.

In my interview with Uwe Timm, a German author who participated in and later wrote his first books about, the Student Movement, he said something that reverberated for me: He was moved to protest because of a woman. Yes, the causes were important to him, but what got him out in the streets,

to be put in harm’s way by hostile law enforcement, to be subjected to fire hoses and tear gas, was a potential romance.

In subsequent casual conversations with members of that generation who took to the streets in post-war Germany, many similar motivations were revealed: the sense of camaraderie, the joy that came with feeling a part of something larger than self, the fact that young people then had the time to sit, talk and organize. As a pedagogue, I knew all that could be transmitted texturally, verbally and audio-visually. However, I also knew that facet could easily remain impersonal, sanitized and perhaps readily dismissed. I wanted to include a technique that would help to capture, even if just fractionally, the *feeling* of protest.

With that in mind, I had my students pick a topic to protest and set aside class time for them to create posters, chants, poems and songs in German. The module culminated with us marching through campus, chanting and holding signs. The students returned to class, flushed and laughing. The sense of empowerment was palpable. As they laughed and joked, I underscored their experience by reminding them that what they felt at that moment was also felt by the generation we were studying; and that is an inextricable part of the undeniable power of protest.

Reaching Out

by Mary Rodena-Krasan, Lecturer and Undergraduate Advisor



German foreign language classes at the K-12 level have been under siege by a variety of factors for well over a decade. The impact on universities has been profound. German language enrollments in U.S. institutions of higher learning dropped 9.2 % from 2009 and 2013 and an additional 7.1% from 2013 to 2016, leaving German departments across the nation scrambling for innovative, effective ways to recruit German language learners. One such method consists of promoting the language directly to K-12 learners and to high school German teachers.

K-12 teachers often provide the first and most indelible impression of the allure of learning German. With

that in mind, on May 6, 2019, the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures hosted *Teaching Techniques and Strategies* for K-12 instructors. The goal behind the workshop was to encourage inter-institutional community by sharing academic and professional resources, promoting continued foreign language study on the post-secondary level, and exchanging best practices for teaching German. Further, letting beleaguered K-12 teachers know their efforts are valued and supported translates into a recharged and positive interaction with their students.

Presentations by U-M faculty, graduate students, and staff from the Language Resource Center included: *Best Practices for Proficiency in the Beginning Language Sequence*, by Language Program Director Hartmut Rastalsky; *Comprehensible Input in the Promotion of Writing Proficiency*, by graduate student Elizabeth McNeill; and *Teaching with Technology* by Instructional Learning Senior Phill Cameron. Feedback from attending teachers was overwhelmingly positive with comments such as: “*This workshop was great! It was wonderful to learn and connect with other German instructors.*” and “*It’s about time we have a workshop dedicated to German. It’s only ever Spanish that they have these workshops for.*” Considering the workshop’s success, the plan is to make the workshop an annual event.

In addition to the workshop there was an outreach trip to talk directly to high school

students studying German. I traveled to L’Anse Creuse high school in Harrison Township to inform students about the rich opportunities and diverse course offerings the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures provides. Energetic and curious students asked a range of questions from how difficult it was to get into the university to career possibilities one could have as a German major. Answering those questions and giving them contact information for the department encourages their participation in our department, as well as their application to the university at large. Indeed, reaching out directly to K-12 students and their educators is one way to combat the decline in German studies and continue to build the robust and active program in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at the University of Michigan.

Outstanding Lecturers

Congratulations to our co-winners, **Silvia Grzeskowiak** and **Maria Gull**, as the most outstanding lecturers in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures in the 2018-19 academic year. The department executive committee chose the winners based on student nominations, curricular initiatives, and departmental engagement.



DUTCH STUDIES

Toward a More Inclusive Program

by Annemarie Toebosch, Director of Dutch and Flemish Studies



Bernice Severin

Dutch and Flemish Studies has developed from a program that promotes Dutch language and culture to a program where the teaching of a specific language, culture, and history serves as a framework to examine a world of diverse identities. In this process, and through close connections with academic and activism communities in the Dutch-speaking world, a decolonial program has taken shape that is at the forefront of another development in the academy: the move away from academic isolationism toward a culture of public scholarship and academic activism. As the University of Michigan builds centers such as Rackham's Institute for Social Change, the Dutch program is creating opportunities to address pressing social issues.

One such issue, the exploitation and exclusion facing Dutch sex workers, was examined on March 28

by Amsterdam-based social worker Bernice Severin, as she presented the 23rd De Vries – VanderKooij memorial lecture entitled "Bright Lights and Windows: A look behind the curtain of Dutch sex work". We are grateful to Professor Larry Gant and the School of Social Work for co-sponsoring Ms. Severin's important visit to our campus and our classes, providing our students with a first-hand account of social justice work.



Dr. Olga Panteleeva

A Visiting Scholar

In the 2019-2020 academic year, our program will be sponsoring Visiting Scholar Dr. Olga Panteleeva. Trained at the University of California, Berkeley as a musicologist and former Fung Global Fellow at Princeton University, she visits from Utrecht University. Her research and teaching focuses on the contemporary politics of music, the relationship between production of

knowledge and state power, and music's intersections with critical theories of race, gender, sexuality, and disability. Her work here will include research into transnational networks of antiracist scholarship and activism in the U.S., the Netherlands, and Russia. During her stay at U-M, she will be a Telluride Faculty Fellow.



Liesbeth Vicca

A Second Instructor

Dutch Studies programs in the U.S., including our own, have been less than inclusive of Flemish language and culture. As a Dutch and Flemish Studies program, we are excited to announce that we will be hosting a Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) in the 2019-2020 academic year. After years of significant growth, the program is adding a

second instructor through the U.S. Department of State Fulbright Program. In addition to teaching half of the four-semester Dutch language courses, the second instructor will be building the program's Flemish language and culture curriculum. We are very grateful to Fulbright Belgium for their support of this initiative and the generous financial support of the General Delegation of the Government of Flanders to the U.S.A.

Our first FLTA will be Liesbeth Vicca, who comes to us with undergraduate education in modern languages and an M.A. in translation from KU Leuven. A native speaker of Dutch and Flemish. She is also fluent in English, German, Spanish, French, Russian, and Flemish Sign Language. She is certified to teach Dutch, Dutch as a Second Language, and German. Her second language teaching experience includes work in refugee communities. In her own words, a *leerkracht*, or "learning force" (the Dutch word for "teacher"), should go beyond transmitting knowledge to being a larger positive force in the lives of students.

SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES

Success of Our Program and Students

by Johanna Eriksson, Director of Scandinavian Studies



Left Photo
Matthew Schmidt, Seth Greenfield, Sheldin Wilks, Austin Teholiz, Johanna Eriksson, Kareen Seres, Nikole Hampton, Daniel Frechette, Emily Wogaman at Lund University

Middle Photo
Rundetornm Copenhagen

Right Photo
Scandinavian Minors 2019: Thomas Brooks, Emily Latham, Noah Ehrlich, Sabrina Brogren and Sean Cantrell

Scandinavian studies wrapped up the 2018-19 academic year with SCAND 325 making a Swedish dinner at Johanna's place and playing the popular Swedish lawn game *Kubb* on the Diag. Keeping traditions alive we also sang *Den blomstertid nu kommer* and other graduation songs together, celebrating the season. Did you know that you can check out both *Kubb* and the Finnish game *Mölkky* at the Ann Arbor Public Library?

In May, five students graduated with a minor in Scandinavian Studies: Sabrina Brogren, Thomas Brooks, Sean Cantrell, Noah Ehrlich, and Emily Latham. Sabrina will continue at U-M to complete a Masters in computer science. Thomas will be taking courses this summer to complete his Bachelor's in history. Sean will work locally while preparing

to apply for Ph.D. programs in history. Noah will work in California while applying to medical school. Emily, BA in sports management, is starting a job for the Miami Dolphins in Florida on July 1st. Congratulations to all five!

Three of our students are heading to Scandinavia this summer supported by scholarships from the Scandinavian program with generous contributions from SWEA Michigan, the Highfield Foundation, Scott Hedges from ByggHouse, and SWEA MAME. Mitch Mead will study sustainable pre fab house production in Sweden; Cameron Dziama will study entrepreneurship and start up culture in Copenhagen, Stockholm, and Helsinki through DIS (Danish Institute for Study Abroad); Noah Fishman (MA student

at STMD) will compose, play, and record Scandinavian folk music in Stockholm and Dalarna. All three will give presentations on their experiences in Scandinavia in the fall.

This year, Katharina Nobs and I celebrated the 15th anniversary of our exchange between Ann Arbor and Helsingborg, Sweden. This is a valuable part of our program that inspires many of our students to continue their Swedish studies at U-M and study abroad. Three students who went on the trip this year have decided to apply for the study abroad program at Uppsala University in 2019-2020: Daniel Frechette, Emily Wogaman, and Kareen Seres. The year-long collaboration with ProCivitas Gymnasium and the friendly and generous families in Sweden that host our

students are so important to the success of this exchange. Our U-M students are fantastic hosts to the Swedes when they come to Ann Arbor.

Please earmark November 6 for the next Signe Karlström Event, a talk on Swedish food culture from the Viking age until today. The talk will also highlight how 19th century food culture came to be preserved in Swedish-America. Thanks to our sponsors, The Swedish Institute, SWEA Michigan, and The Detroit Swedish Foundation.

Last but not least, congratulations to our talented and passionate Viking and Norse Mythology expert Maria Gull for being selected Lecturer of the Year in the department! Well deserved!

Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures

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Cover Photos

Top image by Pavel Nekoranec

Bottom Right image by Oliver Dumoulin

Bottom Left image by Marvin Alexander Ullrich

Table of Contents Image

Detail from Rackham Graduate School. Photo by Sarah Nesbitt.

Chair: Andreas Gailus
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The Regents of The University of Michigan

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We Want to Hear from You!

The Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures aims to update its database of information about our graduates: we want to learn where you are currently working and what professional/academic position you hold in your current workplace. While we will keep your personal identity private, we want to show our undergraduates the full range of professional trajectories that are possible for a German graduate.

To access this brief survey please visit <http://myumi.ch/LEXjd>.

If you have any questions please contact us at alumsurvey@umich.edu.