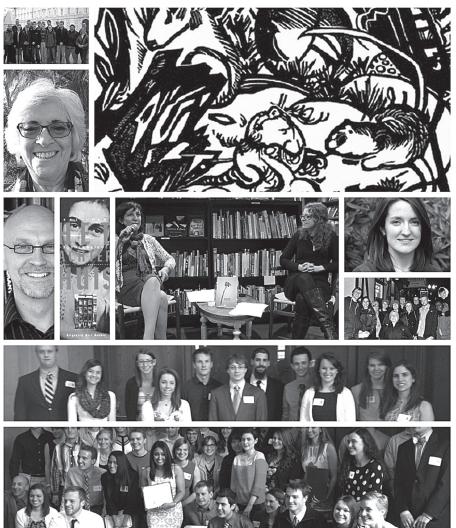


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# Sterter from the Chair



#### Dear Friends,

If one were to re-read the letters from the chair's office of past years, one would surely find that the weather is one of the themes that show up consistently. No wonder, the first letter of the academic year goes out when the fall colors are most striking, and the second one in spring, as we are transitioning into summer. The weather may even be more on our minds this year than previously. A harsh and long winter lies behind us – UM experienced its first snow day since 1978. And as I am writing we are enjoying glorious, beautiful summer weather. Yet we have much more to report on than the weather, rest assured. Here are some highlights of these past months.

First and foremost on my mind is our thriving undergraduate program. This past semester the delightful news reached me that German is now one of the most popular minors among UM students, second only to Mathematics. 185 enrolled students in March 2014 are most impressive.

A new Lecturer position we hope to fill will, among other things, bring new pedagogical focus to the German Language House (Max Kade House). And generous gifts we have been promised as a department will benefit our students' internships and studies abroad.

In order to keep our program the lively place it is we want to appeal to future students. We are lucky in that German Day, already UM's largest outreach activity, brought more high school students enrolled in German classes to campus this year than ever before: 1085! A truly fantastic number. If you have never experienced German Day, the atmosphere is hard to describe: the Rackham Amphitheatre teeming with life, the sounds of performances and recitations seeping into the corridors, myriad groups carrying their theatrical props or musical instruments from one location to another, and groups of high school students swarming across campus. It's magical!

Good news also from our graduate program: Sara Jackson, a former student of the department, garnered the university's much coveted ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award for her "Staging the Deadlier Sex: Dangerous Women in German: Text and Performance at the Fin de Siècle." This is a first for the department. We are delighted that the work of one of our grad students has found recognition in this way.

Last but not least, our faculty is in the news. The April 9 edition of the *Michigan Daily* featured an article entitled "Staffer's Pick" that honored our own Andrei Markovits as the university's best professor: "Through Prof. Markovits' class (on Comparative Politics), I learned that the best professor is ... the one who takes the time to impart their knowledge through real interaction with students and a love of sharing knowledge." Feel free to read the full article at http://www.michigandaily.com/arts/best-professor-andrei-markovits.

There is also news I need to share with you that fills me with sadness. Two of our dear faculty colleagues, Vanessa Agnew and Kader Konuk, moved to Germany where they took up teaching positions. To be sure, it is good to have friends in faraway places, and we certainly plan to stay in touch and cooperate also in the future.

I am delighted to be writing to you, the friends of the department. I hope that you will enjoy immersing yourself in the life of the department. The next letter from the chair will come from Johannes von Moltke, my successor. Please, join me in welcoming him in the office.

Wishing you a most beautiful summer,

Helmut Puff

Professor of History and of German Studies
[puffh@umich.edu]

# Faculty Focus

#### Martha Sprigge

Originally from the northwest of England, Martha Sprigge left the UK to pursue her interests in music and develop her enthusiasm for Tim Horton's coffee shops—inherited from her Canadian mother—in 2002. Martha is a music historian by training, and became interested in the intersections between German music and cultural politics while pursuing an undergraduate degree in music history and theory at the University of Toronto. This led her to cross the border for doctoral work at the University of Chicago, where her dissertation was supported by grants from the American Musicological Society, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Andrew W. Mellon foundation. She received her PhD in music history and theory in August 2013—the same month she moved to Ann for a three-year postdoc with the Michigan Society of Fellows. Martha is honored (and still a little bit amazed) that her joint appointment in the musicology and German departments allows her to pursue her interdisciplinary interests, both in research and teaching.

Martha's research focuses on twentieth-century musical practices, particularly during the Cold War. She is interested in how composers, performers, and audiences on both sides of the Iron Curtain used music as a response to the immense political, cultural, and individual transformations of the period—from the aftermath of World War II

to the collapse of the European socialism in 1989. Her current book project, tentatively titled *Abilities to Mourn: Sounds and Spaces of Commemoration in the German Democratic Republic*, examines how music facilitated expressions of grief and loss within East Germany's tightly regulated official commemorative culture.



Martha is excited to teach both music and German courses while

at U-M. This past semester she offered a cross-listed course titled "Music, War, and Trauma in Twentieth-Century Germany," which didn't seem to leave students too traumatized, despite the heavy subject matter. She will be teaching a freshman seminar on Europe in 1989 and an upper-level musicology course on collaborative networks in twentieth-century composition next academic year. Around Ann Arbor Martha can often be found at UMS concerts, or frequenting Tim Horton's once again!

We are pleased to welcome Gizem Arslan as a Visiting Assistant Professor for the 2014-2015 academic year. Gizem will be teaching undergraduate courses on culture and identity as well as German ethnicities.

Look for a complete article on Gizem's background in the Fall 2014 newsletter.

## <u>Congratulations Graduates</u>



Tamar Laura Adler
Rachel Elizabeth Akers
Ashley Christina Allen
Mary Kate Bachler
Erin Skye Barber
Brandon Robert Barlog
Jordan Thomas Blough
Erica Latourette Brooksieker
Daniel Fletcher Brown
Danielle Helene Capitan
Christopher William Dan
Kelsey Mae Ehnle
Brianna Lynn Felten\*
Garrett William Findlater

Jason David Finney\*
Carolina Fuentes
Tucker George Gaegauf
Kathleen Mary Garner\*\*
Carolyn Anne Hagemeister
Brian Stuart Hall
Johanna Carolyn Hamilton\*
Rachel Lauren Hampton
Julie Ann Harning\*
Catherine Olivia Herron
Ashley Howard
Timothy Noah Huebner
Neha Jain
Mengyun Ji

Alexandra Marissa Kalinowski
Hayden Grey Leithauser
Ou Li
Priscilla Madeline Livingston
Kevin Michael Long
Jacob Fall Markel
Katie Marie Marney
Aaron Hernan Martin\*\*
Mackenzie Catherine Mertz
Kurt Bradley Mueller\*
Katharina Kes Nagler
Jennifer Ann Yoshino Nao
Bradley David Nash
Michael Robert Nevitt

Matthew James Riemland Sara Kathleen Robinson\*\* Zachary John Schmitt Michael H. Short\*\* Kevin Patrick Soisson Jennifer Murray Spears Stephanie Theresa Stamm\* Charles Godfrey Taylor VI Ellen Saunders Vial Madeline Sherwood Whims Connor Bruce Wilden Kimberly Amanda Woods\* Molly Wysong

#### German Minors

Molly Albertson
Amelia Josselyn Bennett
Samuel Isaac Berson
John Mark Bochnowski
Michael James Boyd
Helena Franciska Budnik
Kelly Gough Burford
Michael George Connelly
Samantha Christine Cope
Brian Robert Craft
Deborah Hannah Daniel
Brittany Doss
Jake Stephen Femminineo
Allison Cleveland Ferguson

Jessica Aline Ford
Paige Mackenzie Galecki
Geoffrey Moore Ginter
Samuel Gladstone
Joseph Philip Godlew
Karen Elizabeth Hawley
Michael Stephen Henkels
David Andrew Hunt
Stephanie Kyuwon Hur\*
Taylor Kai Jolliffe
Brianna Jordan
Anna Kiseleva
Caitlyn Mei Knoerr
Raymond Matthew Mahaffy

Christine Marie McIntyre
Mickey Cowan Crippen
McNeece
Rebecca Leigh Mitchell
Taylor Anne Oosting
Adrianna Rose Oraiqat
Naz Cagla Ozen
Brendan Jonas Person
Bradley Alan Razzano
David Henry Riley
Lauren Christen Rose
Alyse Renee Sabo
Lena Schneewind
Alexandria Jane Seekely

Adam James Sentz
Ian Andrew Sheets
James Keith Shrewsbury
Anne Slovick
Leslie Ann Sommer
Nicholas Domiciano Sousa\*
Alexander Steinhoff
Brian William Wideman
Linford Anthony Williams
Mark Chen-Young Wu
Colton David Wyatt
Joyce Yoo

<sup>\*</sup> Denotes December 2013 Graduates

<sup>\*\*</sup> Honors Program Students





#### Congratulations to our Graduate Students

#### M.A. Students

Cilli Poggoda, Winter 2014 Mate Bojti, Fall 2013 Andres Gelabert, Fall 2013

#### Ph.D. Students

Solveig Heinz, Fall 2013 Urban Opera: Navigating Modernity through the Oeuvre of Strauss and Hofmannsthal

Simon Walsh, Sp/Su 2014 Music, National Identity, and the Past in Postwar Austrian Literature

Kathryn Sederberg, Sp/Su 2014 Germany's Rubble Texts: Writing History in the Present, 1943-1951

#### Congratulations to our Scandinavian Minors

Chandler Morgan Billes Mackenzie Kayla Bissett Cameryn Cecile Clark Caroline Rice Erickson Samantha Dawn Roach



# Endergrad Focus

#### Unterrichtspraxis/Teaching German

By Kathryn Sederberg

"I had abandoned all hope years ago of ever taking a field trip again, but you really came through for me on that one." This was a comment from a student at the end of "Modern German History," a fourth-semester German course taught in the winter term 2011. Students practiced and improved their language skills while learning about German history 1871-1989. Graduate student instructor Kathryn Sederberg designed the course to include experiential learning, such as field trips to the

University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA), where students worked with original works of German Expressionism, and the Stephen S. Clark Library, utilizing the collection of historic maps of Germany. Students worked with many other different kinds of primary sources, including textual, visual, and filmic

media. Based on the experience of teaching this course, Sederberg published an article in the German pedagogy journal *Unterrichtspraxis* /

Teaching German in fall 2013, entitled "Bringing the Museum into the Classroom, and the Class into the Museum: An Approach for Content-Based Instruction."

The article explores the application of interactive and experiential learning models inspired by museum pedagogy in the foreign language classroom. The idea of designing courses around a cultural theme is widely recognized as an effective technique to create more meaningful contexts for language learning. Using primary sources, and onsite learning, such as museum visits, helps create fun contexts for using the language. Sederberg's article demonstrates that museum strategies which focus on the aesthetic dimension of learning—can be productively transferred to foreign language instruction. She also highlights how this kind of content-based learning furthers interdisciplinarity in language teaching, helping students make connections between German and related fields such as architecture, art, music and literature. Reading challenging primary sources helps students develop reading and interpretation skills, transferable to many other contexts.

#### Christkindlesmarket in Chicago

By Alexandra Kalinowski

Do you smell the Bretzeln melting their salt crystals? Do you hear the bratwurst sizzling or the ornaments clanging? Now that the Christmas season is over, the Daley Plaza in Chicago is no longer filled with such delicacies and other goodies that the annual Christkindlmarket offers. However, 15 Max Kade Haus residents were given the opportunity to drive through the first snow blizzard of the season to spend a weekend visiting the traditional German Christmas Market, catching a performance of *Handel's Messiah* at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and enjoying an authentic German dinner at *Laschet's Inn*.

Inspired by the Nürnberger Christkindlesmarkt which opened in 1545, Chicago copied the identical red-and-white clothed-roofs atop wooden stalls in their first Christkindlmarket in 1996. Although the traditional German market opens at the start of the Advent Calendar (December 1st), Chicago starts the celebration early, beginning the week of Thanksgiving. But why travel all the way to Chicago when Ann Arbor has a perfectly good market of its own? Simply because Chicago's market is almost an exact replica of the real deal, especially given that visitors have a chance to speak German with the native vendors. (continued on pg. 11)

# Graduate Focus

#### Recent Successes in our Graduate Program



**Jennie Cain** has succeeded in obtaining a Rackham predoctoral fellowship for work on the final stage of her dissertation. Jennie's dissertation is titled *The Aesthetics of Rudolf Steiner and the Emergence of 'Spiritual Modernism'*. This project centers on Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925) - best known through his connection to Goethe and as an influence on canonical modernist figures, above all the pioneering abstract painter Wasilly Kandinsky and the *Blaue Reiter* group and lesser-known Austrian philosopher, artist, architect, pedagogue and social reformer. Although Steiner is often ignored or dismissed in studies of modernism, my project demonstrates how Steiner's thought—in particular his spiritually-infused aesthetics—is deeply resonant with contemporaneous figures in the visual arts, art theory, architecture and even science fiction.



**Kathryn Sederberg** has accepted a position as Visiting Assistant Professor at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. At Bowdoin, she will be teaching courses on autobiography and WWI and Weimar Germany. She defended her dissertation in July and will begin at Bowdoin College in September. Her dissertation title is *Germany's Rubble Texts: Writing History in the Present, 1943-1951*.

The Department was proud to learn that **Sara Jackson** won the ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation award. The purpose of this award is to recognize exceptional and unusually interesting work produced by doctoral students in the last phase of their graduate work. Sara is the author of *Staging the Deadlier Sex: Dangerous Women in German Text and Performance at the Fin de Siècle* – a dissertation she defended in the summer of 2013. Last academic year, 2013-2014, Sara was a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of German Studies at the College of Wooster in Ohio. She will be employed at Vanderbilt University as a Visiting Assistant Professor during the 2014-15 academic year.



This fall, **Seth Howes** will join the Department of German and Russian Studies at the University of Missouri-Columbia as an Assistant Professor of German. Since receiving his PhD from the department in 2012, he has been a Visiting Assistant Professor of German at Oakland University. Seth's research focuses on 20th century literature and culture, and his dissertation, *Punk Avant-Gardes: Disengagement and the End of East Germany*, received honorable mention at the 2012 ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Awards.



#### **Congratulations and Best Wishes**

### outch Studies

#### Anne Frank in Context

By Annemarie Toebosch



In Winter 2014, Dutch and Flemish Studies started offering Dutch/ Judaic 351: Anne Frank in Context, a reworking of a topics course taught with great dedication by Dr. Ton Broos for the past 20 years. Anne Frank in Context examines the Holocaust and anti-Semitism through the careful analysis of The Diary of Anne Frank and related materials. Topics include Jewish immigration, the persecution of Dutch Jews and controversial issues like Holocaust exploitation. In its first semester Anne Frank in Context filled to capacity with 30 additional waitlisted students. The course will

be offered yearly, possibly with an added study abroad component in the future.

The Holocaust is a difficult topic to make real for students, because of the scope and systematic nature of the atrocities, and because many students have been desensitized to the topic. *The Diary of Anne Frank* poses an additional challenge. The implications of this iconic text (often the only contact students have had with the topic) are easily romanticized and trivialized: Anne wrote about many normal teenage topics and her writing ends before the brutality of the camps starts. In addition to an extensive list of readings and audio-visual materials, the course contains tangible experiential learning activities. This term these included:

Visit to Anne Frank Tree Exhibit at the Holocaust Memorial Center: students saw a sapling of the Amsterdam chestnut tree described in the Diary.

Class visits from survivors: Mr. and Mrs. Ed and Hanneke Bonnewit and Dr. Irene Butter gave first-hand accounts of hiding, camps and postwar trauma accompanied by real-life objects like a yellow star and death certificate from "a Polish town".

Case study of a survivor: Each student interviewed a survivor and recorded and discussed their story.

Visit to an exhibit of Queer art: Students examined how socially constructed identities like "Queer" and "Jewish" do not always fit in neat boxes. Many students for the first time considered the idea of Jewish secularism (also in relation to the Frank family).

A class visit from women in Zeitouna, a Jewish-Palestinian dialog group: Students discussed how hatred can be fought through personal connection and cultural sharing.

#### Chako Spencer, student:

"My understanding of the human condition, tolerance, race, identity, hardship... was pushed to a level I never thought any academic pursuit could. As a Jew, and more broadly as a young adult, the lessons in history and life I took from this class have caused serious reflection on my own life, attitude, bias, and awareness of past and current genocide."

**Giving to German, Dutch, and Scandinavian Studies** In these times of economic uncertainty and potential budget cuts, we are grateful to our many supporters and benefactors for their trust and gifts of support. The quality and diversity of the programs and opportunities we provide for graduate and undergraduate students would not be possible without this support. Please consider making a donation this year.

### Scandinavian Studies

#### Signe Karlström Event 2014

By Johanna Eriksson

The Kristina Lugn-themed days had to be modified at the last moment, since the poet, playwright and Swedish academy member Kristina Lugn was not able to make it to Ann Arbor for personal reasons. We were still able to showcase Kristina Lugn's drama and poetry in a couple of very interesting events.

On April 15, the theater group Akvavit from Chicago presented the play 'Ruth and Roger', translated by Verne Moberg, at Hatcher Graduate Library. The play has two characters, a married couple who has decided to get divorced. Now, they are planning their divorce ceremony, which will be celebrated with their family and friends, similar to a wedding. This play was first performed in 1997 at Kristina Lugn's theater Brunnsgatan 4 in Stockholm, where Kristina herself played the female part against the wonderful actor Allan Edwall. Strange as it may sound, this is a rapid and humorous play, which the audience truly appreciated.

During the winter semester, the second and third year Swedish students prepared for Kristina Lugn's visit by reading, translation and interpreting her poetry, as well as acting it out. They came to appreciate her poems, which deal with anxiety, death, being a woman, being accepted as normal among many other things – in short, the difficulties of being human – but not without humor. In place of Kristina, the translator Mariela Griffor came to the classes to discuss the translation of poetry in

general and specifically Kristina Lugn's. We also learned about Mariela's life in Chile, Sweden and the US.

On April 16, a poetry reading was held at Literati Bookstore, followed by a Q & A session and a reception, part of the Helen Zell Visiting Writers Series. Mariela read Kristina Lugn's poems in English, while I read the original in Swedish.

Even if Kristina Lugn could not be with us in person, she was certainly with us in spirit. We hope that we will be able to host Kristina Lugn in 2015, when the translations of the book of poetry "Hej

då, ha det så bra" will be published in London.

Many thanks to the Swedish Institute, SWEA Michigan and the Humanities Institute for the support of these events, and last but not least to



Mariela Griffor and Johanna Eriksson, at Literati bookstore.

the Helen Zell Visiting Writers' Program and Megan Levad for a good collaboration that we would love to continue in the future. We are also planning to have *Akvavit* back for more staged readings of modern Scandinavian drama.

## Donor Spotlight

#### Bill ('59) and Mary Seeger Take Giving Seriously

Mary's interest in language and travel began as a young woman; she travelled to Germany as an American Field Service student in 1956 and has been an active and lifelong member of the Girls Scouts of America. The international group she helped to convene for a conference in Mexico City in 1963 still meets, husbands included. She received her bachelor's from the University of

Minnesota and a doctorate in German from the University of Wisconsin.



Growing up in Grand Rapids, Bill's first language was actually German; his family owned the popular Schnitzelbank Restaurant, which operated from 1934 to 2006. Bill came to Michigan (LSA '59) to study

business but soon decided that studying and teaching in his mother-tongue offered a more compelling career path. He majored in German and then pursued his doctoral studies at the University of Wisconsin, where he and Mary met.

It was not family connections that drew Bill and Mary back to Grand Rapids. They were among the first round of permanent faculty hires made by a fledging university established by the Michigan legislature in 1960 to serve students in western Michigan: GVSU. There, they and several other young faculty launched the Foreign Language Study Program.

According to Bill, James Zumberge, who taught at U-M before becoming GVSU's first president,

played a pivotal role: "Jim gave us the opportunity to get in on the ground floor in building GVSU's foreign language program, which was very exciting." Mary and Bill were also instrumental in developing GVSU's International Studies Program, which sent its first student to Germany in 1967.

The couple's many philanthropic endeavors earned Mary the Arend D. Lubbers Award from the Grand Valley University Foundation in 2010. The Lubbers Award honors a Grand Valley State University (GVSU) faculty member for service to the university and community. As a testament to the devotion felt by current and former students, a group of GVSU graduates began an endowment in Bill and Mary's name, which awarded its first scholarship in 1992.

Their pride in this ongoing educational legacy inspired the Seeger's to expand study abroad and internship opportunities at the couple's various alma maters, including the University of Minnesota, the University of Wisconsin, and the University of Michigan. "We were so honored by our students' generosity that we wanted to give back to the places that gave so much to us," says Mary Seeger. "Our students' generosity continues to inspire us, and to remind us how important it is to help future students find opportunities."

So it is only fitting that the endowment they have established at the University of Michigan will help support internship and study abroad opportunities for undergraduate students who wish to pursue study, research and work opportunities in German speaking countries. Thank you, Mary and Bill!

## <u>Kade Haus Happening</u>

#### Max Kade Spring Break 2014

A group of fourteen students from the Max Kade House traveled to Vienna for Spring Break. We stayed at a hostel near the Danube Canal in the 2<sup>nd</sup> district of Leopoldstadt, well within walking distance of the university area, as well as the 1<sup>st</sup> district city center. We experienced many highlights, including the Jewish Museum, Kunsthaus, Freud Museum, Belvedere, Art History Museum, and Schloss Schönbrunn.

Thanks to a generous grant from Arts at Michigan, the group attended Beethoven's Ninth Symphony performed by a visiting Japanese Tsunami Charity choir along with the Vienna Boys' Choir, Chorus Viennensis, and accompanied by the Vienna Chamber Orchestra at the Musikverein.

We took a day trip to Melk in the Wachau Danube River Valley, where we had the great pleasure of By Vicki Dischler

a private tour by one of the Benedictine monks, Pater Felix, at Stift Melk, a former Babenberg castle and abbey founded in 1089. The connection to Felix was made by students from the Spanish Department who met him on their CGIS-sponsored

hiking tour of the Camino de Santiago in 2011. On our way back to the train station, we landed in the middle of Karneval celebrations in the streets of Melk. For German 312, each student chose a topic to research in person while on the trip. Topics included coffee house



culture, opera, bookstores, Beethoven, and St. Stephen's Cathedral.

#### (continued from pg. 6, Christkindlesmarket in Chicago)

There is something for everyone whether that be spicy gingerbread cookies and other sweets, hand-crafted ornaments, candles, lanterns, windmills and of course, to keep warm, Glühwein (mulled wine).

When residents weren't listening to the glorious "Hallelujah" chorus or enjoying their Wiener Schnitzel, they spent many hours roaming the festive streets or bonding in close living quarters. Although it's a pretty cramped weekend (think 8 people in one house and 5 people in one hotel room!), this madness served a purpose building close-knit friendships. Even though residents technically live together, there's something about a car ride or having to share a bed that forces people out of their comfort zone and really makes them get to know one another. So many commented

on how many new friends they had made, how they felt more comfortable to show their goofy side and how experiencing the German culture with those who share an equal love for it made for

a more enriching experience. Perhaps the best part is that the relationships formed on this trip were brought back to the Kade Haus, where residents aren't so timid to speak in German with one another, and who now do

almost everything together.





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### Staying Connected

#### Nancy Rando ('71, '73)

Herzliche Grüsse aus Maryland!

It is hard to believe that in August of this year it will have been 45 years since the start of a great

adventure: my Junior Year Abroad in Freiburg!



How fortunate I was to spend a glorious year in the heart of the Black Forest. The experience forever framed my view of the world and belief in the possibility of peace through understanding of peoples and cultures.

Thanks to Waltham, Massachusetts schools, I began studying German *an der Schule* in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. When I entered Michigan in 1967, I had six years of the

language under my belt, as well as three years of Russian, plus six weeks in the summer of '67 living with a family in Aachen, through the German Consulate of Boston. Having grown up hearing my grandparents and parents speak Italian, foreign

language was a part of my heritage. So, naturally, I could not pass up the chance for an immersion year in Germany.

So many amazing memories of 1969-70 (missed the anti-war demonstrations and BAM strikes in Ann Arbor): crossing the Atlantic on the SS Statendam; practicing German live—in Bäckereien (mmhhh!), grocery stores, Bierstuben, and classes an der Uni; seeing art and architecture in person; fondue in a charming chalet under the stars in the Swiss canton of Wallis; six weeks traveling in a 1969 VW pop-up camper (learned to drive a stick shift!) through Switzerland, Austria, (the former) Yugoslavia, Greece, and Italy—where we watched the Pope celebrate Easter Mass in St. Peter's Square. Then there was that near-miss when we ended up on the S- rather than U-Bahn in Berlin...

Looking back—a lot of water under the bridge (or over the *Wall*) since then, and a fulfilling career with the Department of Defense—I know Freiburg is forever in my bones.