



Mitteilungen aus Madison

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN

Performing *Woyzeck* in Madison

BY NATHANIEL TEASE

Last semester, my final semester at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, I was able to participate in a German theater course — Theorie und Praxis des deutschen Theaters (German Theater in Theory and Practice). Focusing on *Woyzeck*, by German dramatist Georg Büchner, Professor Sabine Groß led the class through an examination of texts on the historical development of theater. From Aristotle's *Theory of Poetry and Fine Art* to Bertolt Brecht's *Schriften zum Theater*, we studied the numerous ways in which theater has been thought about over time. Ultimately, we looked for theatrical techniques that would best suit our very own production of Büchner's *Woyzeck*.

How were we — a group of German students, most with little to no acting experience — going to achieve anything so spectacular?

After gaining a better understanding of theater and Büchner's play, we began to contemplate the ways in which we would be able to carry out a production. In order to better understand the play's possibilities, we attended an English-language



The two *Woyzecks*: Daniel Faust (right) and Joseph Spafford (left).

production of *Woyzeck* put on by the University's Department of Theatre and Drama. It was one of the most interesting, yet bizarre performances I have ever seen, incorporating food (peas!), blindfolds and a slight change of venue (as the audience followed the performers into a sort of circus). The play left me stunned with excitement, but nervous in anticipation. How

were we — a group of German students, most with little to no acting experience — going to achieve anything so spectacular?

Fortunately, the answer to my question arrived shortly thereafter, when acclaimed German director and distinguished visitor Manfred Roth arrived in Madison. An expert on unconventional theater — in

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particular, the Epic Theater of Bertolt Brecht — Manfred knew just how to turn our inexperience into an advantage.

We read through the play with Manfred and Professor Groß, held informal auditions, and were each provided with roles. Using our newly gained knowledge of German theater, we devised a number of changes and additions to Büchner's original script, such as beginning the performance with a puppet show and casting two actors to play the main character.

From there on out, we quickly began preparing for the performance. I played

the role of a small child — rather absurd to me, yet perfectly fitting as the production progressed. Manfred constantly came up with ideas to enhance the audience's experience in accordance with Brecht's *Verfremdungseffekt*: distancing the audience from the performance in a way that ultimately facilitates a general, higher understanding. Our primary goal, in true Brechtian style, was to break down the "fourth wall," destroying the barrier normally separating actor and audience.

Our production of *Woyzeck* was a great success. It seemed that everyone

was able to take something from the play — both those who spoke German and those who did not. Above all, I was able to work with a wonderful group of people, improve my German language skills and learn a great deal about the development and transformation of theater, in Germany and across the globe.

Nathaniel Tease graduated in May 2013 with majors in German and philosophy. He was inducted into the German honor society Delta Phi Alpha in May and received the departmental Klaus Berghahn Award for an outstanding paper in German.

Questions, comments or news you'd like to share?

Contact us at german@mailplus.wisc.edu, jvtaylor@wisc.edu or the mailing address below, or visit us online at <http://german.lss.wisc.edu>.

Mitteilungen aus Madison is the newsletter for alumni and friends of the Department of German at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Jolanda Vanderwal Taylor, chair.

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Joan Leffler at her desk in 818 Van Hise.

Best Wishes

At the end of the year, administrative assistant Joan Leffler — whose incomparable combination of knowledge,

reliability and generosity have been instrumental to the running of the department for almost two decades — will retire. What will we do without you, Joan?



Past and present chairs of the German department: left to right, Sabine Groß, Marc Silberman, Jolanda Vanderwal Taylor and Rob Howell.

Letter from the Chair

Dear alumni and friends of the department,

Warm greetings from Van Hise Hall! As I write this, the weather in Madison is turning once again to a fall pattern, and the department is a lively hub of activities. Faculty, staff and students — graduate and undergraduate — are applying their considerable talents and energy to teaching and learning, research, mentoring, co- and extra-curricular activities, administration and outreach. A major theme is thoughtful innovation in order to be great stewards of our resources of time, talents and funds. Our teaching and research missions intersect as we assess how we can more effectively honor our long-established values: keeping student learning at the center of all we do, while also serving the state and the world in the lively tradition of the Wisconsin Idea.

As the public sector provides less support for education, we are increasingly concerned about maintaining access for those who wish to learn. We are grateful for your help in supporting the current generation of students. You do so through gifts that contribute to the health of our programs and that provide student scholarships. You also do so when you demonstrate that the positive outcomes of your education in your personal life and in the world of work benefit the community in many ways.

We are grateful for your support for our students, and we love to hear from you. Please keep in touch!

Jolanda Vanderwal Taylor
— Jolanda Vanderwal Taylor

Memorial: Professor Emeritus Henry Geitz, Jr.

The German department mourns Henry Geitz, Jr., professor emeritus of German, whom we knew as Hank. He passed away on October 27, 2012. Hank had a lifelong, solid and enthusiastic interest in German-American studies. He was among those who had long dreamed of establishing an institute at the UW to promote work in this area, and he devoted energy to the founding of the Max Kade Institute. Hank's contributions and achievements were recognized by high honors that came his way, including the Outstanding German Educator Award presented by the Wisconsin Chapter of the AATG. We knew him also as a warm and generous friend, colleague and supporter.

German Chancellor Fellowship: An Opportunity for Alumni

Every year, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's German Chancellor offers a Fellowship Program for university graduates from the United States and several other nations who have an interest in international issues and have demonstrated leadership potential. The program is targeted at accomplished, young professionals who are likely to become decision makers, thought leaders and influential voices in their respective fields. Fellows are recruited from a broad range of areas, such as politics and public policy, law, media, business and the arts.

The program provides fellows the opportunity to spend one year in Germany, where they network with other prospective leaders and explore new solutions to the global issues of our times. This prestigious program builds on Germany's established and growing reputation as a favored destination for problem-focused international dialogue and a meeting place for tomorrow's international leaders.

During their time in Germany, Federal Chancellor Fellows conduct independent projects at their host institutions. The project should involve original exploration of a topic or issue, or research in the fellow's respective field of interest. Projects should be of relevance to modern societies, have a long-term and visible impact, and help to advance fellows' careers. Through their experience in Germany, fellows acquire greater knowledge of their fields, gain new international experience and strengthen their intercultural competence.

For more details, visit www.humboldt-foundation.de.

Silver Jubilee: Madison-Freiburg Sister Cities



Mercedes (Sadie) Voet (second from right) and Joe Oswald (second from left), students and recipients of the Freiburg Madison Scholarship 2013, are introduced to Mayors Salomon (left) and Soglin. On this occasion, the Academic Year in Freiburg had prepared two AYF T-shirts as gifts.

Photos courtesy of the Freiburg-Madison-Gesellschaft, Freiburg (Manfred Hoefert) from freiburg-madison.de/silver_jubilee_2013

BY SABINE MÖDERSHEIM

25 years ago, Madison and Freiburg became sister cities. To celebrate, Mayor Soglin visited Freiburg in June 2013, and a large delegation from Freiburg, including Lord Mayor Salomon, returned the visit in September. Madison's sister-city relationship with Freiburg began in 1964, when the University of Wisconsin first sent students to Freiburg to enjoy the hospitality of Freiburgers and to take advantage of programs at the University of Freiburg.

In 1984, leaders in both cities began exploring ways to expand the relationship. Madison's City Council passed a resolution establishing the Madison-Freiburg Sister City Committee in December 1985. Lord Mayor Rolf Boehme of Freiburg visited Madison the following year, and Mayor Joe Sensenbrenner returned the visit in 1987 to draw up a formal agreement. Delegations from both cities exchanged visits in 1988 to sign the agreement. In the meantime, cultural-exchange activities had already begun. Madisonians have pro-

vided home stays for visitors from Freiburg and vice versa, enabling individuals to conduct research, apprenticeships and youth exchanges.

The Sister City Committee and the Freiburg-Madison-Gesellschaft continue to support the exchange of students — namely, students who visit Freiburg as Academic Year in Freiburg / UW Study Abroad participants. Anastasia Murken and Joe Oswald were awarded a grant given by the Sister City Committee to blog about their year in Freiburg as AYF students.

Read their blogs at <http://joeoswald.wordpress.com> and <http://abmurken.wordpress.com>.

Sadie Voet and Joe Oswald were the recipients of the 2012–13 scholarship given by the city of Freiburg to AYF students from Madison. For 2013–14, the Freiburg scholarship was awarded to Robert Curry and Rebecca Grzenia. Congratulations! We are looking forward to their dispatches from Freiburg.



Top: AYF Thanksgiving

Bottom: Blogger and Freiburg stipend recipient Joe Oswald (left) and his roommate Ben in the Black Forest.

Please visit the Sister City website for more information: madisonfreiburg.org/

Contacts:

- University liaison: Sabine Mödersheim (smoedersheim@wisc.edu)
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A Visit From Author Yoko Tawada

BY SABINE GROSS

Of the many visitors the Department of German hosted or co-sponsored during the year, none was met with more excitement and delight than Yoko Tawada, who spent three days in Madison in early March. Yoko lives in Germany and writes in both Japanese and German. Thoroughly at home in both languages, she lives “between” languages in a way that provides enlightening and humorous insights about them. Her *Von der Muttersprache zur Sprachmutter* describes the close relationship she develops with her typewriter while learning German. When she writes, *Übersetzungen* (translations) become *Überseetzungen* (tongues/languages from across the sea), as the title of one of her books has it, in one of the many intriguing metamorphoses that happen to words in Yoko’s work.

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Yoko’s reading and discussion in German attracted an enthusiastic group of German students, faculty and others. She also read in Japanese, gave a lecture-performance to a capacity audience of almost 100 enchanted listeners in the Vandenberg Auditorium, and discussed issues of translation with members of workshops on Translation and World Literature. To give just one example of the challenges of translation, one of Yoko’s Japanese novels features a character—human and/or bear—whose status remains undecided



Author Yoko Tawada calls attention to the visual aspects of writing in a meeting of the Mellon Workshop on Translation and Transformation.

for a long time. As Yoko explained, in German (or English, for that matter) she would have to decide early on between hands and paws, whereas the Japanese language allowed her to keep this ambiguous.

Yoko treasures discussions with students. As she explained to me when I

asked how she chose which of the many invitations to accept, “When I am told that students have read my work — how can I say no?” Many of our students had indeed read her works: for them especially, interacting with our brilliant, multi-lingual, gracious guest up close was a remarkable experience.

As an American in Berlin

BRENDAN RYAN

During the spring semester of 2013, I was an intern for the Department of State at the U.S. embassy in Berlin. Far from the average paper shuffling and photocopying for which internships are notorious, I was able to perform real diplomatic work that many people will never have the chance to perform. During my 10 weeks in Berlin,

I met international dignitaries and foreign speakers, transatlantic policymakers, members of Bundestag (German Parliament), American senators, military generals from NATO and its allies, and I even chatted briefly with the top diplomats of the United States and my adopted German home: Secretary of State John Kerry and Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle.

I was able to witness the unfolding of international incidents in Germany — including a protest against the deputy prime minister of Turkey — and examine the role that Germany plays in world politics — such as the hosting of Russian President Vladimir Putin in Hamburg. My duties as an intern were far from ordinary: more than once I was the direct link reporting back to Washington, and quite often I was the main author of short briefings sent to the soon-to-retire U.S. ambassador, Philip Murphy. I worked on projects that quite literally wrote the book on possible German national electoral outcomes in September 2013 and on American policy on Hungary, and I edited a piece for the Human Rights Report.

Looking back, I am still amazed by how much I was able to do and how much diplomacy really does to protect our interests and strengthen our international bonds. My time in Berlin required me to become a more astute observer, a more focused worker and a more diplomatic thinker — I can honestly say that since I have returned to the United States, many of my views on foreign and domestic policy have shifted in ways I never thought possible.

My time as an intern afforded me an interesting view of Berlin as a capital city as well. I was taken on private tours of the Reichstag, Federal Chancellery and Foreign Ministry; sat in on talks with top thinkers and diplomats; and even had a member of parliament tell the small group of which I was a part that white smoke had just arisen in the Vatican, marking the ascension of Pope Francis — an announcement that came hours before the German media picked it up.

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Brendan Ryan at the Bundeskanzleramt.

Esther Dischereit als Max Kade Distinguished Writer-in-Residence im Department of German.

SABINE GROSS

Seit Anfang des Semesters ist die jüdisch-deutsche Schriftstellerin Esther Dischereit in Madison: Sie verbringt hier (mit kleinen Unterbrechungen für Gastspiele an anderen Universitäten und Colleges) den September und Oktober, ehe sie nach Wien zurückkehrt, wo sie Professorin für Sprachkunst an der Universität für angewandte Kunst ist. Ob Essays, Gedichte, Erzählungen, Theater- und Radiostücke: Esthers Werk ist vielseitig und originell, sie verbindet gesellschaftliches Engagement und ausgeprägtes Gerechtigkeitsgefühl mit Sprachbewusstsein und performerischem Elan. Es ist ein Erlebnis, sie ihre Texte rezitieren zu hören — und für unsere StudentInnen ist es ein Erlebnis, im Beisein der Autorin über Texte zu sprechen und dann Esthers Kommentare zu hören und sie direkt ausfragen zu können.

Das Aufwachsen als nachgeborene Jüdin in Deutschland, Weiblichkeit und das Verhältnis von Minderheiten zur deutschen „Mehrheitsgesellschaft“ hat die Schriftstellerin in zahlreichen Texten zum Thema gemacht. In letzter Zeit hat sich Esther vor allem mit der rechtsextremistischen rassistischen NSU-Mordserie und der Folge-Auseinandersetzung um ihre Aufklärung befasst: als Reaktion darauf entstand eine neue Gruppe von Gedichten, die *Klagelieder* — als Teil einer im Entstehen begriffenen Oper konzipiert. Hier in Madison stellt Esther ihre Texte und Ideen in einer Reihe von öffentlichen Veranstaltungen vor (siehe Bild von ihrer Lesung am 9. September): Darunter sind eine große szenische Aufführung der *Klagelieder* mit Tanz und Musik als Wort-Klang-Bewegungs-Ensemble, eine



Esther Dischereit at a reading in Van Hise Hall.

Diskussion zur „Rhetorik der Klage“, und ein Themen-Nachmittag zu „minority positions“. Sie besucht als Gast verschiedene Literatur- und Kulturkurse, trifft sich mit Studierenden – und genießt mit ihrer

Tochter Chana den Spätsommer und Frühherbst in Madison das zweite Bild zeigt die beiden vor dem sonnenbeschienenen Mendota-See.

Sharing Research with the Public on German Speakers in Wisconsin

Between July 2011 and May 2012, doctoral students **Joshua Bousquette**, **Benjamin Frey** and **Alyson Sewell** worked with Professor Joe Salmons on the German in Wisconsin project. Expanding on the corpora of Wisconsin-German varieties recorded in the 1940s by Professor Lester Seifert (UW-Madison, German); in the 1960s by Professor Jürgen Eichhoff (UW-Madison, German); and various others in the years following, the German in Wisconsin team focused on documenting German language and community history in areas of heavy German settlement in eastern Wisconsin — specifically in the area between Lake Michigan and Lake Winnebago spanning Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Calumet and Fond du Lac Counties.

Bousquette, Frey and Sewell interviewed more than 50 consultants and recorded more than 100 hours of stories and conversation with speakers of unique Wisconsin-German varieties. In order to share their findings and follow the Wisconsin Idea that the boundaries of the university extend to the boundaries of the state, these researchers teamed up with the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies and the Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures to develop an outreach component to this project.

With support from the UW-Madison Department of German and a grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Council, Bousquette, Frey and Sewell worked with community organizations such as the Kiel Historical Society, Sheboygan County Historical Research Center, Plymouth Historical Society and Malone Area Heritage Museum to hold three public presentations and discussions within their research area. Events were held in Kiel,

WI on October 6, 2012; Malone, WI on November 2, 2012; and Sheboygan Falls, WI on November 3, 2012. A fourth talk was held in Madison on January 30, 2013. Posters about the German in Wisconsin project were also designed for participating organizations and select individuals using these funds.

Rather than focusing only on the German immigrant populations of the 1800s, the presentations addressed the social and linguistic situation of these settlers' descendants through as many as five generations of American-born German speakers. Additionally, characteristics of Wisconsin-German varieties as recorded in the 1940s and in the 2010s were discussed, along with accompanying sound clips and transcripts. After the presentations, audience members asked questions and shared stories before breaking up into small groups to socialize over cookies and coffee.

Alyson Sewell is continuing research on Wisconsin-German varieties in this area of the state as part of her dissertation research. Joshua Bousquette graduated in the spring of 2013 and is cur-



From left, Ben Frey, Alyson Sewell and Joshua Bousquette at the outreach event in Kiel, WI.



SoundScriber machine (left) used by Professor Lester "Smoky" Seifert to record Wisconsin-German speakers in the 1940s. Laptop with Samson GoMic used by current graduate students at UW-Madison to record Wisconsin-German speakers.

rently an assistant professor in the Germanic and Slavic Studies Department at the University of Georgia. Benjamin Frey also graduated in the spring of 2013 and is now completing a post-doc in American Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Thinking Transatlantic

DANIEL FAUST

It was the end of February, and the day was like any other, but in the evening I got a call from my parents about a cryptic voice mail from department chair Sabine Groß. It didn't take me long to reach her, and I received an exciting and welcome surprise.

"Would you be willing and able to go to Washington, D.C., to represent the German department in an essay competition on the transatlantic relationship between Germany and the U.S.?" she asked.

"Well, of course! That's an amazing opportunity!"

However, it soon became clear to me that among such esteemed peers, I was the only one who had spent an extended period of time in Germany, and even if I didn't have the same knowledge base, I could still offer something they couldn't — the unique perspective of someone who had lived in both countries.

But she wasn't finished. "Oh, one more thing... It's happening in about one week."

So a week later, I made my way from Madison to Washington, D.C. I arrived at the Hotel Palomar on a chilly, Sunday afternoon and was immediately impressed by the accommodations that the Think Transatlantic program had arranged for us. I walked into a giant room with two king-size beds, and thought to myself that my roommate and I were lucky to get such a nice room. When I found out that I wouldn't have a roommate, I was even more impressed, but also slightly flustered. I thought, "Wow, if the Germans wanted to impress upon us how well they are doing during this economic downturn, they've succeeded!"

That night I met the other participants, and I was quickly struck by self-doubt after seeing all of the well-versed, intelligent political science majors who were, naturally, all regular subscribers to the

Economist, *Newsweek* and the like. However, it soon became clear to me that among such esteemed peers, I was the only one who had spent an extended period of time in Germany, and even if I didn't have the same knowledge base, I could still offer something they couldn't — the unique perspective of someone who had lived in both countries.

The next morning we got up bright and early and were bused to the site of the competition — American University. While my fellow essayists and I got to work on writing our papers, another group prepared for a debate. For our essay, we were given a choice of topics without any prior knowledge of what they would be and two hours to write something on them.

The topic I chose dealt with immigration policy in Germany and America, how German-Americans helped to build America and where I would emigrate to. Living in Wisconsin, it was easy for me to give examples of how German immigrants influenced America. The policy section was a bit trickier, but in general I advocated larger quotas and an easier, more streamlined immigration process for both countries. Naturally I chose Germany as the country I would emigrate to, citing the excellent public transportation, eco-friendly



Daniel Faust with his parents at the April 2013 Honors Banquet.

legislation and the healthcare system, among (many) other things.

Afterward, we witnessed the debate teams tackle the question of whether Germany and the USA would start working together more closely in the future. Most everyone seemed to agree they would. (Keep in mind that this was months before the whole NSA scandal!)

After lunch we went on a sightseeing program during which we visited the Library of Congress and the International Monetary Fund. In the evening, a reception was held at the German embassy to honor the top three essayists and debaters. During this time, I had the opportunity to meet quite a few influential people who — funnily enough, despite working in an embassy — were surprised to meet an American who could converse in German.

The next morning, I had a wonderful, whirlwind tour of the nation's airports, flying around storms in an attempt to get back to Madison, but all I could think about was how glad I was to participate in the program and how grateful I was to the German department for providing an opportunity like this to me.

Daniel Faust graduated from UW-Madison in spring 2013. He is currently working for Epic. Daniel hails from Oregon, WI and was awarded the highest honor the Department offers — the Karl Oskar and Theodora Pisk Prize for a graduating senior — in May 2013.



Madison, Mon Amour

VON JOCHEN VOGT

Am liebsten komme ich ja mit dem Van Galder-Bus von O'Hare. Wenn einen der Transatlantikflug aus allen gewohnten Zeitordnungen gerissen hat, bringt uns das gemächliche Tempo wieder in die wirkliche Welt zurück. Und auch die Landschaft rings um Rockford und Beloit lädt eher zum meditativen Blick nach Innen ein als zum sight seeing. Es geht mir aber nicht nur um den Genuss der Langsamkeit, sondern auch um einen bestimmten, geradezu Proust'schen Augenblick: Kurz vor Madison, nach einer Kurve, scheint vorne rechts zum ersten Mal silbrig Lake Mendota auf, links grüßt das Capitol über der Silhouette der Stadt. Das empfinde ich immer wieder als ein Glücksmoment: a touch of Heimat.

Obwohl ich ja beim ersten Mal nur fünf Monate da war, im Fall Semester 1986: Tochter Kathrin, damals 14, und ich kamen — unerfahren wie wir waren — nicht mit dem Bus, sondern in einem kleinen, klapprigen Flieger, in dem wir die ganze Zeit die Tür festhalten mussten. Das erinnerte nun weniger an Proust als an die

„tollkühnen Männer in ihren fliegenden Kisten“, war aber auch die erste wohlthuende Korrektur meiner mitgeschleppten und völlig falschen Vorstellung, dass die USA ein einziges, riesiges, übertechnisiertes Manhattan seien, in dem man von Anfang an verloren war. Das alltägliche Amerika war dann auf eine ungeheuer wohlthuende Weise entspannt — und die freundliche Kollegenschaft, aus der bald Freunde und Freundinnen wurden, hat es natürlich noch angenehmer gemacht; ich denke in erster Linie an Doris und Klaus Berghahn, die Helfer in allen kleinen Nöten, aber auch an Cora Lee und ihre Familie, an Carol Poore, die Madison damals schon verlassen hatte und vor kurzem mit Freuden zurückgekehrt ist, nicht zuletzt an Felix Pollack, the late late Felix Pollack, wie er sich selbst ironisch bedichtete — den Poeten, den ich (worauf ich heute noch stolz bin) zwei Jahre später sogar zu einem Besuch und einer Lesung nach Essen bringen konnte.

Sogar Jost Hermand war da, obwohl er doch in Essen sein sollte, aber natürlich ließ er sich seinen Wisconsin-Workshop

nicht entgehen, wohnte im Hotel, denn wir hatten ja sein Haus beschlagnahmt, stand aber auch stundenlang in unserer (seiner) Küche, erzählte aus seinem Leben und verdrückte Frau Alices Schokoladentorte. Und — Achtung: Zeitsprung! — vor wenigen Wochen, im Juni 2013, hat er für meine Studenten und zahlreiche Gäste in Essen einen 90minütigen Vortrag über Goethe und die Malerei gehalten!

Damals, im Herbst 1986, hatten wir ja einen Austausch verabredet. Und während Jost nach Essen zurückfuhr und seine fulminante Vormärz-Vorlesung hielt (ganz nebenbei auch den zweiten Band seiner Kulturgeschichte der Bundesrepublik zu Papier brachte), musste ich in Van Hise in seine übergroßen Schuhe steigen (bildlich gesprochen) und den deutschen Roman des 20. Jahrhunderts durchackern. Lassen wir mal dahin gestellt, wie die verwöhnten graduate students das fanden. Zumindest hat meine Lehranstrengung ihre Karrieren nicht entscheidend behindert, denke ich heute, wenn ich gelegentlich einmal Julia Hell aus Michigan, Stephen Brockmann von Carnegie-Mellon oder Friedemann

Weidauer aus Connecticut auf einer GSA-Konferenz sehe, — oder auch, in meiner europäischen Nachbarschaft, Brigitte Jirku, jetzt in Valencia, Spanien.

Dass meine Vorlesung ein Highlight des Semesters war, ist eher unwahrscheinlich. Das war vielmehr ein theatralisches Ereignis von besonderer Art. Der unvergessene Reinhold Grimm hatte zum 100. Jahrestag des Arbeiteraufstands in Chicago 1886 das Drama FAHNEN von dem Journalisten Alfons Paquet, ein gutgemeintes schlechtes Theaterstück in der allertrivialsten Schiller-Nachfolge, ausgegraben, einstudiert, und neben seinen Studenten auch den deutschen Gast samt Tochter und Ehefrau zur szenischen Darstellung dienstverpflichtet. Das erste und letzte Mal, dass ich auf einer Bühne stand!

Ich hatte einen revoltierenden Handwerker (Schuhmacher?) aus Mannheim zu spielen, was meiner badischen Seele ganz sympathisch war. Weniger nett, dass ich beim ersten Auftritt schon in der Todeszelle saß und nun eine herzzerreißende Abschiedsszene mit meiner Tochter Kathrin — im Stück hieß sie „Mariechen“ — hinlegen musste. (Ich hoffe, es hat unser Verhältnis nicht dauerhaft beschädigt.) Vorher und nachher durfte ich zum Ausgleich allerdings auch markige Bannflüche gegen den Kapitalismus im Allgemeinen und den von Chicago im Speziellen schleudern — was bei der Aufführung im dortigen Goethe-Institut, mitten zwischen den berühmten Zuckerbäcker-Wolkenkratzern, und mit dem deutschen Generalkonsul in der ersten Reihe, natürlich besonderen Spaß machte.

Auch eine schwere dramaturgische Krise konnte gemeistert werden, nachdem der Darsteller des superbösen Polizeichefs von Chicago — war es vielleicht sogar Brockmann? — in Omaha, Nebraska in einem frühen Schneesturm feststeckte. Da konnte nur noch ein international renommierter Schillerspezialist helfen: Mein guter Freund Klaus Berghahn las den Sch-

urken eindrucksvoll vom Blatt (und wusste später auch, wo es in der windy city die beste Pizza für unsere backstage-Party gab). Regisseur Grimm speiste derweil mit dem Generalkonsul.

Soweit die Anekdoten. Beruflich habe ich damals im German Department der University of Wisconsin in Madison die amerikanische Universität von einer ihrer besten Seiten kennen gelernt; einen Ort, wo man nicht alles anders, aber einiges doch besser machte als zuhause, wo die deutsche Germanistik und die Universität überhaupt gerade mal wieder durch eine ihrer periodischen Krisen rutschten. Diese oder jene Idee habe ich später dann versucht, auch daheim aufzugreifen. Die geneigte Leserschaft wird einem Emeritus nachsehen, wenn er hier nicht mehr ins Detail geht. Was bleibt, sind neue Freundschaften, Erinnerungen an gute Diskussionen und nette Abende, zuletzt mit Jim Steakley, der mich schon 1986 freundlich beriet, mit Marc Silberman und Sabine Groß, die mir nun auch diese Zeilen abverlangt hat. Dies war mir eine freudige Pflicht!

Ich hatte später dann, teils durch Vermittlung von Freunden aus Madison, die Gelegenheit, an einer Reihe von amerikanischen Universitäten zu gastieren, mich dort stets wohlgefühlt und etwas ‚mitgenommen‘; zuletzt durfte ich mich einige Jahre lang im PhD-Programm der Duke University nützlich machen, wofür ich dankbar bin. Aber die Franzosen haben ja den Spruch, dass man immer zu seiner ersten Liebe zurückkehrt. Dass dies im Leben nicht zutrifft, wissen wir alle. Aber vielleicht doch im Wissenschaftstourismus: Van Galder machts möglich!

Jochen Vogt, Professor emeritus der Universität Essen und Adjunct Professor of German Studies, Duke University, Durham NC, schickte uns diesen Text über seine „erste Liebe“ in den USA: Erinnerungen an seinen ersten Aufenthalt in Madison, vor mehr als einem Vierteljahrhundert, als Austauschprofessor im Department of German.

American, continued from page 6

Beyond this, though, I feel that my strongest bonds were not with the terrific monuments of the city nor the embassy itself, but with the American and international diplomats with whom I found myself many nights well beyond 5 p.m. Sourcing diplomatic and cultural information directly from others in the coffee shops of the city became more valuable than any article I ever read in a German newspaper.

Yet as Berlin is Berlin — and while I felt that many more than 40 hours of my week were spent “diplomating” — I managed to find time to enjoy this central European capital and metropolis. As I lived in a largely Turkish and Arab district of Mitte named Moabit, my diet expanded to tastes and food combinations I never thought I would find in the West — of course, along with Weissbier and Wurst to spare. I frequented monuments and museums and found the Hauptbahnhof to be more than a mega-mall; it was actually the train station I found myself at the most.

The last two weeks of my time in the Schengen area were spent in the major German cities of Munich and Stuttgart at their Frühlingsfests and visiting friends in Halle (an der Saale), Freiburg and Hattingen, with all the train and bus transfers in between — thus making a truly German tour of the country.

I know that had it not been for the support of my family, friends or the staff of the International Internship Program of UW-Madison, I would have never been able to make my semester a success. The generous donors of the Alpha A. Wetenskap Charitable Trust Scholarship also provided much-needed financial support, which made this internship possible. I know that without the help of so many around me, I would not finally understand the true implication of the words, “Ich bin ein Berliner.”

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Jolanda Vanderwal Taylor, Department Chair
(608) 262-1844 / 262-2193; or jvtaylors@wisc.edu.

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Questions? Call (608) 262-2193 or email Jolanda Vanderwal Taylor at jvtaylor@wisc.edu.

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Faculty News — A Selection of Activities and Publications

Hans Adler, Halls-Bascom Professor

I had the privilege of enjoying a sabbatical in 2012–13. It was a pleasure to be able to use the time for intense research, publishing and travel. I stayed at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies in November of 2012 and at the Zukunfts Kolleg at the University of Constance in January/February 2013. It was extremely satisfying to finish several publications which are at press right now: among others, the 2011 Wisconsin Workshop volume on *Aisthesis and Noesis* (Fink, Munich; with alumna Lynn L. Wolff); the first volume of a ten-volume edition of the works of Johann Georg Sulzer (with Elisabeth Décultot, Paris); three articles in French on “Synonymy,” “Theory of Art and Epistemology,” and “The Sublime and the Grotesque.” Three further articles are in print. Three articles were published in 2012: one overview of German literature from its beginning to the present, one on translation and one on the “bottomless ground” of cognition. The sabbatical helped me to develop exciting new future research projects. It is great to be at a research university of the caliber of the UW!

Salvatore Calomino

I have continued work on late medieval and early modern manuscripts and on both print and digital resources for editing German and French “Tristan” narratives. I have also worked on the topic of medieval religious philosophy and its importance for Austro-German composers, ca. 1900, especially Gustav Mahler. As scholar-in-residence at the Newberry Library in Chicago, I discussed this topic while participating in the Newberry Colloquium titled *In Search of Mahler’s Letters: Critical Sources in the Newberry Library* earlier this year. As an extension of this research, I have worked on an annotated translation of Ludwig Karpach’s *Begegnung mit dem Genius*, a unique memoir by a contemporary of Mahler in Vienna and Budapest. Two substantial installments of this project have been published in recent months, with its publication in book form slated for 2014.

Monika Chavez

This past year, two students who recently completed their dissertations found academic positions. Katie Chapman went to the University of Georgia, and Julie Larson-Guenette went

to the University of Oklahoma. Katie wrote an engaging (!) dissertation on boredom in the German classroom, and Julie investigated how learners of German assess their own writing ability and that of others. Moreover, graduate students have given or are preparing to give talks at national conferences about topics such as how students and native speakers of German interpret the speech behaviors of Germans, the use of German and American expressions of affection, how students develop their views of themselves and their classmates, how students use technology to establish ties with German-speaking communities, how students’ personal decisions shape their experiences during study abroad and how students mis/interpret writing prompts. During this past year, I began co-advising two doctoral students with my colleague Jeanne Schueller, whose presence in the department has both enriched my professional life and contributed much to its genuine enjoyment. Last, starting this September, I took on leadership of the UW-Madison’s PhD Program in Second Language Acquisition.

Hannah Eldridge

It was a busy first year at Madison: I enjoyed meeting the students of UW and especially teaching an intensive Introduction to German Literature course; I participated in a Faculty Development Seminar on Psychoanalysis and Culture; and I snuck in a trip to Marbach, Germany for a conference (more like a poetry retreat) on Rilke’s “Sonnets to Orpheus.” I’ve also joined the Madison Teaching and Learning Excellence program, an initiative that helps early-career faculty become innovative and effective teachers. I’m happy to report that it was a productive research year, too: I have two articles coming out (one in *German Quarterly*, one in the *Goethe Yearbook*) and am beginning to search for a publisher for my first book.

Sabine Groß

Having finished a three-year term as chair and produced another German play under the able direction of Manfred Roth (see page 1), I was able to travel to Germany and then to Greece for conferences. At the Orthodox Academy in Crete, an international group of scholars and artists working on the subject of time assembled for a week in a spectacular setting! I am looking forward to the September Wisconsin

Workshop (which I’m co-organizing) and to visits to the department this semester by a number of visitors (a writer, a dancer, a scholar of rhetoric and a translator). The most fun this summer? Taking three-year-old granddaughter Bhavani swimming and watching her gobble up blueberries and fresh corn on the cob!

Jost Hermand, William F. Vilas Research Professor and Professor Emeritus

Jost Hermand continues as chief editor of the series *German Life & Civilization* (Oxford: Peter Lang). In fall 2012, he taught at the Humboldt University in Berlin, and in spring 2013 at the UW in Madison, giving lecture courses on German Exile Literature from 1933 to 1945 and on Nazi Culture. He gave five invited lectures on Arnold Zweig, Heiner Mueller, Ernst Hermann Meyer, Hans Fallada and Caspar David Friedrich; published four articles on Ernst von Solomon, Arnold Zweig, Hanns Eisler, and Lessing and Heine; wrote reviews for *Monatshefte* and the *Yearbook of the International Brecht Society*. He also produced three books: *Culture in Dark Times: Nazifascism, Inner Emigration and Exile* (New York, Berghahn, 2012); *Unerfüllte Hoffnungen: Rückblicke auf die Literatur der DDR* (Oxford, Peter Lang, 2013); and *Deutsche Geheimgesellschaften: Von der Frühen Neuzeit bis zur Gegenwart*, with Sabine Mödersheim (Köln, Böhlau, 2013).

Philip Hollander

I recently had the pleasure of joining the Department of German and welcome the opportunity to expand its curricular offerings. I’m a specialist in early-twentieth-century Hebrew literature who’s currently completing a study focused on the development of Israeli culture, but I’m excited to begin teaching a two-semester sequence dedicated to Yiddish literature and culture. In spring 2014, I’ll introduce Yiddish Literature and Culture in Europe and in spring 2015, I’ll teach Yiddish Literature and Culture in America. Those interested in learning about my research on Israeli culture should read my article “Shifting Manhood: Masculinity and the Lebanon War in *Waltz with Bashir and Beaufort*” that appeared in *Narratives of Dissent: War in Contemporary Israeli Arts and Culture*, edited by Rachel Harris and Ranen Omer-Sherman.

Rob Howell

This fall I have taken on the role of director of the Language Institute. The Language Institute will continue in its traditional role of promoting the study of world languages through lecture series and outreach (World Languages Day, for example) and will continue as the administrative home for the PhD program in second language acquisition. Beyond that, however, I will also chair a new Task Force on World Languages, Literatures and Cultures, which will develop a plan for the restructuring of the Van Hise departments and for sharpening and modernizing the intellectual mission of the language departments. I am also working hard to complete the first volume of the *Cambridge History of the Germanic Languages* with Joe Salmons and Paul Roberge. This past year marks the formal establishment of the Corpus History of Dutch project, a long-term study of the history of Dutch based on a large and growing corpus of texts stored in an online database. This project involves former departmental doctoral students Todd Ehresmann (Berlin), Mike Olson (Utrecht) and Jennifer Boyce Hendriks (Canberra).

Charles James

I continue as program coordinator of the World Language Education program in Curriculum & Instruction, working with teachers of Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Latin and Spanish. I am currently serving as a member of the School of Education's Global Education Committee, on the governance council of the Verona Area International School (a Chinese-immersion charter school located in Fitchburg), as faculty advisor to the UW German Club, as the organizer of German Day, on the advisory committee of the Max Kade Institute, as treasurer of the Wisconsin chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German, as co-organizer of the chapter's immersion weekend for German teachers and as secretary of the Madison-Freiburg Sister City Collaboration Committee. In September 2013, we co-hosted a delegation of representatives from Freiburg, headed by the mayor, Dr. Dieter Solomon. This fall I am teaching a 300-level course *Deutschsprachige Lieder*, which I developed and taught twice last year. It has been a busy year!

Sonja Klocke

My first year at UW-Madison was very exciting and enjoyable. I finished my three-year service on the Steering Committee of Women in

German in fall 2012, and I presented at the German Studies Association Conference. I spent considerable time writing a new article, co-editing a book on Christa Wolf (forthcoming 2014) and working on my monograph. Most importantly, I greatly enjoyed teaching students here at the UW and felt very honored to be asked to deliver a speech at the department's awards banquet in April 2013. I am now looking forward to working even closer with students as the new faculty advisor of Stockwerk Deutsch! Another highlight of the past year was, no doubt, participating in the Wisconsin Idea Seminar in May. And, yes, I like it so much in Wisconsin, and particularly in Madison, that I actually bought a house.

Cora Lee Kluge

Most of my teaching, research and public outreach this year has focused on topics in German-American studies. I developed a couple of new courses in German-American literature and culture, and last spring I taught once again — now for the eighth time — my annual, large-enrollment course *The German Immigration Experience*. Meanwhile, I have continued to work on the Milwaukee German Theater and German theater scripts; and I have spoken at a number of conferences, workshops and other events on a wide range of topics, from the Forty-Eighters' role in the American Civil War, to pedagogical questions, to the role of POWs in building the Mississippi Basin Model. In the summer months, I worked hard to catch up on my academic work, at least theoretically, while in fact I was enjoying the chance to get away from Madison to visit my husband in Germany.

Mark Loudon

Just over a year ago I rejoined my colleague Cora Lee Kluge as co-director of the Max Kade Institute. The long-awaited renovation and remodeling project on the fourth floor of the University Club is now under way, and we hope to relocate there later this year. My research on Pennsylvania Dutch continues to progress. I inaugurated the MKI-sponsored Pennsylvania Dutch Documentation Project with several colleagues from across the country, including one of my doctoral students, Joel Stark, who will be writing his dissertation on the language. I am completing work on my book manuscript for Johns Hopkins University Press, *Pennsylvania Dutch: The Story of an American Language*, and in June I led a semi-

nar on the topic at an Amish-studies conference at Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania.

B. Venkat Mani

After spending a year in Leipzig as an Alexander von Humboldt (AvH) Experienced Research Scholar, it was great to come back to Madison and to the classroom. Last year I developed and taught a new Bascom Seminar for undergraduates, *From Gutenberg to the iPad: Books, World, Literature*. I am thankful to students of this course for nominating me as an Honored Instructor. Another highlight was the Capstone seminar on Migration, Literature and Culture, for which my students wrote excellent pieces on their relationship with German language. It was also a great year for the World Literature/Research Workshop. In June, we hosted the Hermes Consortium for Literary and Cultural Studies Annual. A volume edited with Caroline Levine (UW-Madison, English) on *What Counts as World Literature* (*Modern Language Quarterly* 74.2.2013) also came out in June. I spent my summer at the German National Library in Leipzig, once again through the AvH Foundation, getting closer to finishing my book manuscript, *Borrowing Privileges: Bibliomigrancy and the (Un)-Making of World Literature in Germany (1800–2010)*.

Sabine Mödersheim

In the past year, I served as the director of the Center for Early Modern Studies and organized a conference on Jesuits and Visual Culture that explored how the early modern period constructed knowledge through symbolic representation. One of the highlights was Laurence Grove's keynote lecture on "Emblems with Speech Bubbles" that compared Jesuit emblems and modern Catholic comic books. In May, I organized sessions at the Medieval Congress at Kalamazoo on the "digital humanities" in emblem studies. At the invitation of Charles James, I participated in the German immersion weekend for high school teachers. This year's topic was Green Germany, and I taught workshops based on my experience developing and teaching a new intermediate course on the topic with a focus on Freiburg's sustainable neighborhood Vauban.

Pamela Potter

I am thrilled to be back in the German department as a full-time faculty member. I am just returning from a year-long sabbatical, which afforded me valuable time to work on

my book, *Art of Suppression: Confronting the Nazi Past in Histories of the Visual and Performing Arts*, scheduled to appear in the Weimar and Now series at the University of California Press. I am also awaiting the appearance of the Portuguese translation of my *Most German of the Arts* (1998; German edition 2000). My plans to deliver the keynote address at the Händel Festival in Halle were unfortunately “dampened” by the severe flooding in June, but it was nevertheless wonderful to be back in Germany after a five-year hiatus. Thanks to the generosity of an Education Innovation grant, I will spend the spring semester converting my course on Yiddish song into a technologically enhanced “blended learning” course and eventually into an online course.

Joe Salmons, Lester “Smoky” Seifert Professor

A bunch of outstanding graduate students and I have been recording heritage speakers of German and other immigrant languages, in addition to continuing our work on the history and contemporary status of English in Wisconsin, plus analyses of older recordings. The data have been amazing, and students from the MA level through new PhDs are

producing presentations and papers that I and others are constantly learning new things from. In addition to various journal articles and book chapters, Tom Purnell, Eric Raimy and I just published *Wisconsin Talk: Linguistic Diversity in the Badger State* (University of Wisconsin Press). The *Oxford Handbook of Historical Phonology*, edited with Patrick Honeybone, is now in production.

Jeanne Schueller

This year I took over coordination of our German language program from my colleague Monika Chavez, who is a tough act to follow! I enjoy working with the TAs and am grateful to have such capable graduate students serving as TA mentors and head TAs. I also take pleasure in teaching our graduate SLA course. Last semester’s topic on crosscultural understanding and authentic materials gave us practical and theory-driven insights into language teaching and learning. Speaking of authentic materials, my second-year textbook, *Cineplex: German Language and Culture Through Film* (Focus Publishing), will be released this fall. And finally, a chapter I co-wrote with Jennifer Ham at UW-Green Bay — “Transformations and Traditions: Signature Pedagogies in the Language Curriculum” —

appeared in an edited volume, *Exploring More Signature Pedagogies: Approaches to Teaching Disciplinary Habits of Mind*. I feel very lucky to work with such inspiring and supportive colleagues.

Marc Silberman

This past year I invested energy both in the Center for German and European Studies (CGES) and the German department. As CGES director, I succeeded in renewing the center’s DAAD funding with three new research teams (see <http://daadcenter.wisc.edu/>), and together with colleagues in the Departments of History, History of Science and the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, we are now hosting (for two years) a DAAD-funded guest professor of environmental history, Professor Wilko Graf von Hardenberg from München. Meanwhile, my research continues, a volume having appeared in 2012: *Walls, Borders, Boundaries: Spatial and Cultural Practices in Europe*, co-edited with Karen E. Till and Janet Ward (Berghahn Books); and four additional book projects are planned for 2013 and 2014. Stay tuned!

Jolanda Vanderwal Taylor

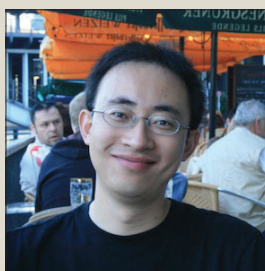
See chair’s letter on page 3.

New Faculty Profile

WEIJIA LI

I joined the Department of German at UW-Madison in 2013 as an assistant professor. I specialize in transnationalism, Asian-German studies, and German-Chinese cultural encounters. I also hold an appointment as coordinator of the Global Higher Education Master of Science Program in UW-Madison’s School of Education.

Born and raised in China, I have



been fascinated with language, culture and travel since childhood. Largely due to a complicated history of my family, which kept living in diaspora, I always wanted to be able to understand and communicate with “others.”

After completing my undergraduate major in German and teaching German for several years at Beijing International Studies University, I came to the U.S. in 2003 to further my academic career. I received my PhD in Germanic Languages and Literatures from Ohio State University in 2009. Before joining UW-Madison, I had taught and served as head of the German Program at Western Illinois University for over three years.

Currently, I am working on my second book on German and Yiddish publications by Central-European Jewish refugees in Shanghai, and for this project, I am experiencing the beauty, joy and awe of learning yet another language — Yiddish.

Aside from research, I greatly enjoy teaching and interacting with students (in English or German, and occasionally in Chinese) both inside and outside of the classroom. Outside of work, I enjoy cooking and trying new food that is anywhere between extremely tasty and extremely healthy. (Sadly, “tasty” and “healthy” seldom go in tandem.)



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Stockwerk Deutsch

As the new faculty director of Stockwerk Deutsch, Sonja Klocke is happy to work with five new undergraduate students — our “Stockis” — this coming academic year. Mitchell Ewald, Erika Hetzel, Kassandra Jean Rauch, Phillip Jan Stubna and Amelie Marie von Below moved into the old Adams Hall dormitory on the shore of Lake Mendota on the 28th and 29th of August. They are all excited to be in this residential, German-immersion community and to live in this dorm together with Arne Ulbrich, the graduate language program coordinator. Arne, a PhD student of analytical chemistry at UW Madison, is a native of Bremen (Germany). He is excited to organize a great variety of activities for the Stockis and is looking forward to being joined by guests from the Department of German and Stockwerk alumni/ae for some of these. In addition to the one-credit seminar Sonja Klocke teaches on films of the GDR, the Stockis will enjoy regular dinners, a weekly screening of an episode of a popular German *Krimi*, a bonfire out by Picnic Point, weekly participation in Trivia Night at Union South and regular German tutoring planned by Arne, among other activities. Everyone is looking forward to a fun and educational year, during which long-lasting friendships will be formed.



Some of this year's Stockis, together with faculty director Sonja Klocke and graduate language program coordinator Arne Ulbrich.