

# Mitteilungen aus Madison

## NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN



Nice work! Manfred Roth and cast after the final performance, in the Nicolet High School theater (Glendale, WI)

### Politics, Alcohol, and Love

By Sabine Groß

The Spring 2015 German Play was special: thanks to the combined efforts of Professors Cora Lee Kluge and Sabine Gross, German guest director Manfred Roth, and a group of enthusiastic German students, audiences got to see a comedy on stage that was last performed in Milwaukee 160 years ago. Professor Kluge unearthed Christian Essellen's gem "Bekehrung vom Temperenzwahn" ("Deliver us From Temperance!"), written in German in 1853 and now available to contemporary readers in her collection of literature by German Americans from 1850 to 1914. She presented her research on the author and the Milwaukee German theater to participants in German 644, and assisted with designing historically authentic costumes—

although those costume sketches were then transformed into life-size cardboard cutouts, put to hilarious use on stage under Roth's inventive direction.

Essellen's comedy has held up well even though it spoke to concerns of his time. It was prompted by a heated political-cultural debate that included an 1853 vote on a "temperance law," pitting German Americans against Anglo-Americans in Wisconsin. Essellen did his part in the campaign against temperance as the acting editor of the Milwaukee German-American newspaper *Wisconsin Banner*, but also as a playwright. Essellen had an excellent ear for the influence of English on the German spoken by German Americans; the play offers a sampling of an American-German "mishmash,"

especially among the "loafers," who will only vote for temperance when bribed ("treated") with whiskey.

All of this was a lot of extra work for the students, many of whom held jobs in addition to taking classes. With unflagging energy, professional discipline, and infectious enthusiasm, they not only gave three splendid performances in Madison, but also added a well-received guest performance in Glendale, WI at Nicolet High School, where German teacher Mark Wagner and his colleagues and students hosted our group.

A recording of the play will be available at [archive.org](http://archive.org) later this year. (Or contact Professor Sabine Groß, [sgross@wisc.edu](mailto:sgross@wisc.edu))

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## A Student's Perspective

By Tessa Coggio

*Tessa graduated in May 2015 with high honors and a double major in International Studies-Global Security concentration and German, as well as a minor in European Studies and a Certificate in Business. She is spending the 2015-16 year in Leipzig on a Fulbright grant.*



Manfred Roth in rehearsal with (from left) Erin Swierczek, Dylan Braun, and Ben Vanderlei

If college has taught me one thing, it's to not shy away from opportunities—especially when those opportunities come in the form of a German theater class. I had never really explored theater, but German 644 came highly recommended, so I registered for the class in the last semester of my undergraduate career. Embracing this opportunity proved to be one of the most unique, fun, and rewarding experiences I had at UW–Madison.

German 644 allows students a hands-on approach to exploring German culture through theater. Our class performed the piece “Bekehrung vom Temperenzwahn” (“Deliver Us from Temperance”), published and translated by UW–Madison’s own Cora Lee Kluge. Thanks to her hard work, our class learned about a facet of German culture that many of us had hardly contemplated before—the Germans who settled and shaped the Midwest in the 19th century. We discovered the religion, politics, feminism, prohibition and traditions of German-Wisconsinites.

Aiding in our German theater education every step of the way was our fearless director Manfred Roth. Simply put, Manfred was fantastic. We especially appreciated his passion and energy, and his knack for convincing us to trust his expertise, even when we had our doubts (like when he convinced us to wear cardboard costumes). But Manfred also often asked for our opinions and remained open to incorporating our ideas into the piece. Manfred made our theater experience distinctly German—everything from conducting rehearsals entirely in German to teaching us theater traditions like “Toi, Toi, Toi!” This German phrase for ‘break a leg’ additionally involves spitting over each others’ shoulders, which Manfred ritualistically showed us on the eve of our first performance. Unique for a college German class? Absolutely.

German 644 is fun because we received credit to pretend to be drunk for half the semester! Okay, let me explain... the piece was a critique of prohibition, and we really were only pretending. Nevertheless, it was the

source of many good laughs. It was precisely the combination of humor and creativity that allowed us to establish true classroom camaraderie. Nothing bonds people better than rolling around on Van Hise floors doing warm-up exercises or putting makeup on our male classmates back stage.

German 644 creates a sense of community far beyond what’s possible in an average classroom. The German department has standout faculty, and having had Professor Sabine Groß twice in four years, I can confidently say she represents the department well. She successfully encourages discussion and participation from each class member, and, despite our varying levels of proficiency in German, Professor Groß helped everyone feel comfortable sharing opinions on mimesis, Katharsis, *Verfremdung* or other theater topics. The theoretical portion of the class forms the basis for the mutual trust and understanding needed later on for the stage.

By the end of the semester, we were collectively impressed by the work and effort we put into this two-act theater production. All of my doubts, including about the cardboard costumes, had been dispelled. This class truly has something for everyone, which is why I’d recommend it to anyone studying German—even those who don’t (yet) have an interest in being on stage. I think I can speak for all of us from the *Temperenzwahn* crew in saying that we’re proud to be a part of a department that can offer such a one-of-a-kind opportunity.

## Dear Friends of the Department of German,

Warm greetings from Van Hise Hall. I wrote last year that the university and the department were adapting to change from within and without. Since then, we have come to face even greater challenges than we had anticipated. The University of Wisconsin–Madison is facing significant fiscal changes that have been reported in national news, including a \$250 million cut in state support. The department will need to contribute its share to cost-savings, especially as student enrollments in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) disciplines are currently growing nationally and on our campus, and budget priorities will reflect that reality. In the Department of German we are working on ways to become more efficient and effective while protecting the essential high quality and student-centered character of our instructional mission. The responses from our students, and the numbers in which they continue to enroll in our courses confirm that serving them well is important to us—and will remain so.

Amidst these ground-shifting changes, I am proud of the accomplishments of our department's fac-

ulty, academic staff and graduate students. They are unfailingly committed to excellence in teaching, research and service. I trust that you will find much in this newsletter that illustrates the point. While some areas of the Humanities have recently seen a reduction in course enrollments, our intermediate and advanced courses draw a particularly healthy number of students. The cohort of undergraduate majors and certificate students is at least stable—and there are signs that they may be growing. The College of Letters and Science has a new focus on helping students be intentional about developing career-readiness strategies during their undergraduate years; we find that many of our students understand that foreign languages provide important skills in this global century. I also believe that the commitment, the skill, and the sheer heart of our faculty and graduate student instructors are important factors that draw students in. The department remains committed to excellence in research, including graduate instruction, to outreach and the Wisconsin Idea, and to the Wisconsin Experience for our undergraduates. We are

proud to include so-called “high impact practices” among our instructional offerings—smaller-group instructional opportunities, Stockwerk Deutsch, the German play, and many other opportunities where students can have an intensive learning experience on this otherwise large campus. We are also proud of our graduate program. Despite the challenges caused by the economic crisis, our graduate students continue to find job placement in positions that suit them and that speak to the effectiveness of the education they acquire in our midst.

I am grateful to you for supporting the mission of the department, and for supporting our students. We value hearing how you are doing, and we are very grateful for your contributions to funding for our students. Please keep in touch!



With all best wishes,  
Jolanda Vanderwal Taylor  
jvtaylor@wisc.edu

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

Contact us at [german@mailplus.wisc.edu](mailto:german@mailplus.wisc.edu), [jvtaylor@wisc.edu](mailto:jvtaylor@wisc.edu), or the mailing address below, or visit us online at <http://german.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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## Freiburg Special Section

*The Academic Year in Freiburg program at UW–Madison is more than 50 years old, leading to long-standing relationships with the city, university alumni, and even children of alumni now living in the city.*

This network helps connect visiting students with opportunities for internships, including an academic component that helps students navigate cultural differences and reflect on their experiences. UW students are desirable for German companies because of their commitment to Germany, their language skills, and their relationship to AYF as a respected program—and the students benefit from work experience in a foreign country and the German contacts (and often friends) they make in the workplace. The AYF program is generously supported by scholarships from the Madison-Freiburg Sister City Committee, the DAAD, the Max Kade Institute, and others; it is coordinated in Madison by Erica Haas-Gallo and in Freiburg by Ulrich Struve. This section highlights some of the fruits of their labors and gives a look into Madison’s delegation to the Sister City Fair this summer.



### MY INTERNSHIP AT HERDER VERLAG

By Amelie von Below



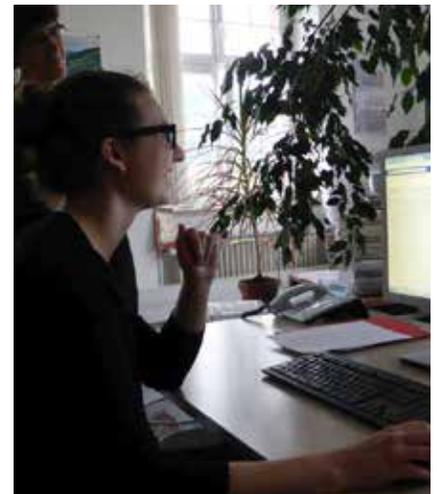
Amelie and a colleague outside the Herder Verlag.

**W**ith the help of the AYF Internship Program, I received an online marketing internship at Herder Verlag, a well-known publishing company in Freiburg. As a finance major who wants to work in

Europe after graduation, I was keen on finding a business internship to get a taste of the business culture here.

I worked in the education marketing department at Herder where I was introduced to the department’s two Facebook pages. My main duties were writing daily Facebook posts, and analyzing the Facebook pages to boost success. I also collected data on competitors’ Facebook pages and compared it to data on Herder’s Facebook pages. It is exciting to know that my analysis methods and research will continue to be used by the marketing department after my departure. I am glad to have had the chance to experience online marketing in Germany and to gain a broader perspective of the business world.

Having an internship in Freiburg was a great opportunity that was



Amelie demonstrating the magic of social media.

part of a fantastic experience. Freiburg is a great place to study and to live. Freiburg has a plethora of good (and affordable) restaurants and some beautiful views, since it is surrounded by the Black Forest. Looking back on this past year, I cannot express how grateful and glad I am to have taken part in Aca-

demic Year in Freiburg, and I would highly recommend it to anyone studying German at UW–Madison.

## A RETURN TO FREIBURG

By Brendan Ryan



Looking back as a recent German and linguistics graduate from UW–Madison, I realize my studies took me on more adventures than I would have ever imagined. Having tested out of the first four semesters of German, I enrolled in an Honors Introduction to German Literature. Although I sometimes felt that I had bitten off more than I could chew, after some encouraging words from Dr. Groß, making some close friends in my class and spending more hours than I ever thought possible with Franz Kafka, I found myself declaring German as a second major.

Following this initial shock, my second semester flowed more smoothly and introduced me to my current academic interests in German sociolinguistics. I applied and was accepted to an internship with the Department of State at the U.S. Embassy–Berlin, where I interned in the Political Section. This was also my first trip out of the country and first time using a language other than English as my primary mode of communication—let’s just say it

was an ‘immersive’ experience. As one does in a romantic European capital, I proceeded to fall in love with Berlin and vowed to find my way back to Germany.

I did not have to wait long as I spent my junior academic year in Freiburg. Once again, following this experience in Germany, I knew I wanted to find my way back to Albert-Ludwigs-Universität. Back in Madison, I enrolled in some excellent German linguistics courses and took my first graduate-level courses. With my eyes back on Freiburg, I found the Masters in European Linguistics program, an internationally respected M.A. program run through the Anglistik and Germanistik departments in Freiburg. After successfully navigating German academic and legal bureaucracy, I was accepted to this masters program and began my graduate studies this October with a focus on the German as spoken by minority groups living in Germany. Ultimately, I hope to pursue either German sociolinguistics and/or diplomacy, but currently I am just looking forward to my next adventures in the Black Forest.

## AT THE FREIBURG PARTNERSTADTMESSE

By Chris Tabisz

It was truly an honor to represent the city that I love and call my home: Madison. I went to Freiburg for the Partnerstadtmesse (Sister City Fair) in June 2015 as a part of a delegation from the Madison-Freiburg Sister City Committee. The City of Freiburg was a great host. We had amazing accommodations in one of the hotels in the center of the city.

Our delegation helped staff the Madison booth at the fair in front of the Rathaus (city hall). Each sister city also had cultural performances on a large stage, including Schuhplattler from Austria and taiko



drummers from Japan. To represent Madison and the United States, the AYF students created a band and sang some typical American songs on stage. The Oberbürgermeister (Head Mayor) of Freiburg and the American Consul visited our booth and even wore our famous cheese heads that we had brought.

After the fair finished on Friday afternoon, Toni Schlegel, a member of the Freiburg-Madison Gesellschaft, successful gastronome in Freiburg and graduate of UW–Madison, invited our entire delegation and members of the Freiburg-Madison Gesellschaft to one of his establishments: the Greiffenegg Schlössle, which is located on the side of a huge hill overlooking the whole city of Freiburg.

On Saturday we were at the Madison booth again, talking with the various passersby interested in Madison and the Midwest. We also screened “Wisconsin from Above,” a short film about Wisconsin. I cannot stress enough how amazing our stay was and how great the hospitality was from the Freiburg-Madison Gesellschaft and the City of Freiburg. We were treated like royalty, and upon leaving the city, I truly felt that I was leaving a piece of my heart in Freiburg. I intend to return very soon.

## Alumna Interview: Ginger Kern



**Q: Tell us about yourself.**

**A:** I'm Ginger Kern, a UW–Madison alumna from the class of 2010. I graduated with distinction with a German major and European Studies certificate and left the U.S. on a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship grant to Germany shortly thereafter. One year in Germany turned into more than three, as I ended up working in communications for the American Chamber of Commerce.

Since returning to the States in late 2013, I've moved to Boulder, Colorado to build The Traveler's Mindset, an online platform that supports Americans in traveling internationally. I spoke at TEDx in 2014 (watch online at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-KmFGIUQCQA>), sharing the key to living a life of adventure and encouraging U.S. citizens to apply for passports and travel abroad.

Outside of work, I run the Boulder Hub of Global Shapers (www.

globalshapers.org), an initiative of the World Economic Forum that exists in more than 450 cities worldwide, and is made up of people age 20-30 who are committed to creating a more peaceful and inclusive world.

**Q: Do you use German in your career or day-to-day life?**

**A:** For more than three years I used German every day in my career and my day-to-day life. The American Chamber of Commerce was a German-speaking office environment, and I enjoyed switching between English and business German on phone calls, in email threads, while editing publications, and in conversations.

Nowadays it's a rare occasion that I use German here in Colorado, though I have plenty of Skype calls and WhatsApp conversations to keep in touch with friends overseas! Aside from that, it's surprising how many German tourists visit Boulder.

**Q: What other less-specific skills that you developed in the German major do you use?**

**A:** The top benefit of mastering any language is that you enable yourself to communicate with and build relationships with a new community of people. With a German major, you gain deep knowledge of a language and culture that opens up new networks and new possibilities for your life and your career. You improve your ability to relate to people who are superficially different from you, gain understanding of how to communicate despite cross-cultural barriers, and you become an unofficial ambassador for the U.S. whenever you travel—with the potential and responsibility to shape opinions about our country and our relationship to the rest of the world.

**Q: Do you have any favorite memories of your time in the Department of German? From your time at UW–Madison in general?**

**A:** At UW–Madison I totally enjoyed my time with the professors who were native speakers, learning nuances that I otherwise would not have learned until much later. Of course, studying abroad in Bonn, Germany was a highlight of my time in the Department of German as well! My only regret? Choosing the semester program instead of the year-long study abroad program!

## Alumnus Interview: Geoff Koby



Geoff Koby with daughters Hannah and Miriam in front of Speyer Cathedral.

### Q: Tell us about yourself.

A: Geoff Koby, M.A. German 1986, M.A. Linguistics 1989, Ph.D. 1992, historical Germanic linguistics. I'm married to Almuth and I have five children; daughter Sarah holds an M.A. in German Translation and daughter Hannah is a German major at Valparaiso University.

I worked one-year jobs at University of Kentucky and University of Michigan, then sold insurance for a year before landing a tenure-track position at Kent State University, which was growing its unique program in Translation Studies. Since then, it has grown into a complete program offering a B.S. in Translation, M.A. in Translation (both with German tracks), and a Ph.D. in Translation Studies. I worked for many years as the coordinator of the B.S. in Translation program, which gives undergraduate students the basic skills needed to become professional translators.

In order to “practice what I preach,” I also started a profes-

sional practice as a German>English commercial/legal/financial translator. I got certified by the American Translators Association (ATA) in the German>English and Dutch>English language combinations (thanks especially to Rob Howell and Jolanda Vanderwaal Taylor for the Dutch classes during graduate school!). I have a thriving part-time practice in this area, because there's a good amount of demand for professional, high-quality translation.

I also volunteered to become a grader for the German>English group in the ATA Certification Program because I was interested in translation quality and translation errors. This ultimately led to me becoming chair of the Certification Committee and obtaining several years of ATA exams for research.

Last fall I was elected to the Board of the ATA and I'm enjoying working with the Board to guide the affairs of this 10,000+ member organization.

### Q: Do you use German in your career or day-to-day life?

A: Of course, in my job as a German professor, I use German every day, both as the topic that I teach and as the language that I primarily translate from. The professional texts I translate are contracts, financial reports, lawsuits, and court rulings, which usually relate to large German companies.

My wife is a native speaker of German, so we speak German occasionally at home. Also, we home-schooled all of our children, so I was the German teacher for all of our kids.

### Q: What other less-specific skills that you developed in the German major do you use?

A: In the context of professional translation and my work on the

ATA Board, I work regularly with language professionals from over a dozen cultures. My experience in German and Dutch studies at Wisconsin helped me start to understand the variety of cultural perspectives in the world. In particular, I remember attending the Dutch language and culture school at Nijenrode on a Dutch studies association scholarship. This was just after Eastern Europe had opened up, so that year the group of attendees studying Dutch included not only people from the various historically Dutch-speaking colonies such as Indonesia, but also a good number of people from Eastern Europe who were interested in Dutch. This gave us a good mix of cultures from all over the world. The most important takeaway from this kind of interaction is to be open to a wide variety of opinions and perspectives, and not to judge in advance.

### Q: Do you have any favorite memories of your time in the Department of German? From your time at UW–Madison in general?

A: In my first year, 1985-86, Al Lareau produced an operetta, *Die lustigen Nibelungen*, as part of his dissertation work. I played König Gunter in this post-modernist minimalist production. It was a great way to bring a large group of German graduate students together and build group camaraderie.

Sitting on the Terrace with my wife and three-year-old daughter, drinking beer and eating brats, watching movies or listening to a band.

Working and chatting with Rob Howell (my Doktorvater). The road trip some of us took with him to a linguistics conference in Illinois, where he showed us the “linguo-nasal stop!”

## Faculty News

*A Selection of Activities and Publications*

### Hans Adler, Halls-Bascom Professor

Together with the Humboldt-Professor Elisabeth Décultot (Universität Halle/CNRS Paris), I am working on a ten-volume edition of the works of an 18th-century Swiss philosopher, Johann Georg Sulzer. Volume 3—an Encyclopedia of the Fine Arts of some 1200-plus pages—is a very challenging one, and with the intense help of a team of graduate students it revealed the very pleasant side of an otherwise pretty ‘dry’ business. Christine Evans, Liubov Kostyukova, Tom Massnick, Melissa Sheedy, Chris Stohs, Lisa Yager, and Mélanie Yœurp kindly agreed to help transcribe the Gothic script text of 1771/74 into MS Word files. The project is still running and is supported generously by the Halls-Bascom fund. Another enjoyable collaboration with Sabine Groß will substantiate in a book this year—the volume on *Anschauung und Anschaulichkeit*—consisting of the contributions to the 2013 Wisconsin Workshop. Besides four articles on aesthetics, intuition, and a hitherto widely unknown theory of the ‘dark corners’ of human cognition by a German pastor of 1813, I was given the opportunity to delve deeper into the connection between aesthetics/epistemology and modern neurosciences at the occasion of a keynote lecture at an Oxford University conference. Moreover, I felt honored to have been invited to keynote lectures on the concept of comparison in J.G. Herder at the conference of the International Herder Society at Purdue University and on the concept of aesthetic truth at the university of Frankfurt/Oder on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of A.G. Baumgarten’s (the founder of Aesthetics) year of birth. All in all, from my perspective, a year abundant in rich experience and learning.

### Salvatore Calomino

I have continued my work with German and French Tristan manuscripts and additional narratives based on fourteenth- and fifteenth-century documents in the collection of the Newberry Library, Chicago. As part of my appointment as Scholar-in-Residence at the Newberry, I’ve also participated in a colloquium on Gustav Mahler as conductor of both contemporary and earlier music. An extension of this work is a project on Mahler’s reading in music theory, poetics, and philosophy—medieval to modern—as a means to approaching his letters and the compositional process in his early symphonies. During the past year, I also completed the major part of my bibliography on E.T.A. Hoffmann under contract to Oxford Bibliographies in Music, OUP.

### Monika Chavez

This last year was rejuvenating! In the spring I enjoyed a sabbatical during which I worked on research on the use of English in German class; the reasons why students of German, Spanish, French, Russian, and Japanese think why one should or should not study German (or any of the other languages); and what students really hear in German class. This fall, I am trying out a new version of our advanced conversation and composition course. Inspired by the research of graduate students, I am trying to encourage language learners at the end of their UW careers to reflect on and recognize vibrant language communities in their past, present, and future—and help novice learners do the same. For example, one course activity asks advanced students to pair with beginners. A second course this semester is also new—to the department and to me. It explores Austria by linking its natural features with diverse forms of cultural

expression. So far, I find that course participants do not have a lot of prior knowledge (well—they have come to the right place then!) but lots of enthusiasm. And the realization that my students leave every class meeting being able to name a number of new things they just learned reminds me of teaching 101, which has always been one of the most rewarding courses to teach.

### Hannah Eldridge

This year has been an exciting one for both teaching and research! I’m team-teaching a course with a colleague from philosophy called “Truth, Beauty, Revolution: German Literature and Philosophy, 1790-1815.” We have a great group of curious and committed students. I’ll be returning to the case study and developing a new course on science in literature in the spring. In December, my first book will finally be coming out (it’s called *Lyrical Orientations: Hölderlin, Rilke, and the Poetics of Community*), leaving me free to travel to Germany for a conference in February and get down to work on a second project about the effects of features like rhythm and rhyme. It turns out that poets and brain scientists have some similar things to say on the subject!

### Sabine Groß

Spending a week in beautiful Konstanz am Bodensee this summer to work on a book with my co-author was a treat—as usual, summer is the time to work on some larger projects. After a summer spent in Madison, Germany, and Switzerland, I am now sharing my time between the Department of German and the College of Letters and Science Honors Program (located in the historic Washburn Observatory). As Honors Director, I am getting a much broader perspective on how we

can work to improve students' experiences during their time in Madison. Welcoming 200+ students for an Honors semester kickoff picnic was a great start, followed by the Department of German picnic: I always enjoy reconnecting with our graduate students and my colleagues while welcoming those new to the department.

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

I continued as chief editor of the series *German Life and Civilization* (Oxford). In the spring of 2015, I taught a lecture course on Nazi Culture with Marc Silberman. I gave lectures on Heiner Müller (Universität Frankfurt/Oder), Karl Kraus on Georg Knepler (Institut für Kultur und Politik, Wien), Kulturhunger nach 1945. Selbsterlebtes, aber später erst Begriffenes (ver.di Gewerkschaftshaus, Berlin), and discussed "Heiner Müller und die Wende von 1989" in October 2014 with Gregor Gysi at the Berlin Akademie der Künste. I wrote book reviews for *Monatshefte* and the *Brecht Yearbook* and published articles on Ernst Hermann Meyer, Heine's Wintermärchen, and Die Realismusthematik in the journal *Tendenzen*. I also brought out a book under the title *Das liebe Geld! Eigentumsverhältnisse in derdeutschen Literatur* (Köln: Böhlau, 2015) and the 3rd edition of *Als Pimpf in Polen. Erweiterte Kinderlandverschickung 1940–1945* (Frankfurt: Fischer, 2014). At the moment I am writing a study on Grüne Klassik. Goethes Naturverständnis in Kunst und Wissenschaft.

#### Charles J. James

In addition to teaching in the Department of German, I continue as Program Coordinator of the World Language Education program in the Department of Curriculum & Instruc-

tion, working with teachers of Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Latin, and Spanish. I am a member of the School of Education's Coordinating Council for Professionals in Education, as well as its Global Education Committee, a member of the Governance Council of the Verona Area International School, a member of the Advisory Committee of the Max Kade Institute (MKI), co-organizer of the American Association of Teachers of German Wisconsin Chapter and Northern Illinois Chapters' joint Immersion Weekend for German teachers, a Reader for the AP German Test, a member of Dane County's task force for its "sister country" relationship with Landkreis Kassel, and Secretary of the Madison-Freiburg Sister City Committee. I was the recipient of AATG's "Post-Secondary Outstanding German Educator Award" in 2014. Finally, in 2015 I was given the "Distinguished German Educator Award" by the Wisconsin Chapter of AATG. Like 2014, 2015 turned out to be a busy year!

#### Sonja Klocke

Last year, I continued as faculty fellow for Stockwerk Deutsch, and I enjoyed working with students interested in German beyond the scope of the classroom setting. Academically, the year was productive, too. I presented at the German Studies Association Conference, at the Coalition of Women in German, at the Nordisch-Baltisches Germanistentreffen, and at a conference on the contemporary family novel in Zadar, Croatia. I submitted an article to appear in a volume on literature and feminist theory with Cambridge University Press in October. Most importantly, I am proud to report that my book *Inscription and Rebellion: Illness and the Symptomatic Body in East German Literature* will appear with Camden House in November. I con-

tinue to love teaching students here at UW. Last year, I took particular pleasure in teaching a graduate seminar on after-images of the GDR and an undergraduate class that was full of extremely enthusiastic students.

#### Cora Lee Kluge

I continue to work in German-American studies, and made presentations at conferences of both the German Studies Association and the Society for German-American Studies, and at the "Germany Under Glass Festival" in Milwaukee and at a meeting of the German Interest Group in Janesville. The absolute thrill of my year was the staging of Christian Essellen's *Bekehrung vom Temperenzwahn* by Manfred Roth and Sabine Groß as the department's biennial German-language play. I am credited with having "unearthed" the piece (in archives of the Wisconsin Historical Society) and have worked with it at length, but I had no inkling of how stunning it could be when performed. I gave several talks about it during the spring and wrote some short articles. Beyond this, I taught a new course on the German Americans during the World War I era, translated a number of German-American texts that have remained unknown to English-speaking audiences, and continue to teach both English- and German-language courses on various aspects of this transnational discipline.

#### Weijia Li

During the past year, I have continued to enjoy working as both an assistant professor at the Department of German and the director of Global Higher Education M.S. Program at the School of Education. While enjoying teaching German 249, I got a course release that enabled me to focus on my new book project about writings on China by German-Jewish refugees

in Shanghai during WWII. This past summer, I conducted archival research at YIVO Institute for Jewish Research and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. At the same time, I have been working on a project about German POWs in Japan during WWI.

#### Mark Loudon

In the past year I completed the final revisions on my book, *Pennsylvania Dutch: The Story of an American Language*, which is to appear this fall with the Johns Hopkins University Press. My outreach work connected with Amish and Mennonite groups across the state was highlighted in an article (“UW professor straddles English, Amish, Mennonite worlds”) that appeared in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. This year I look forward to continuing to work with colleagues in the UW School of Medicine and Public Health on a project to improve the delivery of health care to Wisconsin Amish and Mennonite families in a culturally sensitive way. I am also working with Amish and Old Order Mennonites to develop curricular materials for German-medium Mennonite schools in northern Mexico.

#### B. Venkat Mani

My project “Bibliomigrancy: World Literature in the Public Sphere” (a Mellon Sawyer Seminar in Comparative Cultural Studies) was a huge success in its first year. With Caroline Levine (Professor of English), and Karolina May-Chu (Ph.D. Candidate in German), we created a great platform for dialogue and debates about world literature, print and digital cultures, and the public sphere at UW–Madison. In conjunction with the seminar, I taught the undergraduate Bascom seminar, “From Gutenberg to the iPad: Books, World, Literature” and a new graduate seminar, “The Global Book, World Literature in the World Market.” My monograph, *Recoding World Literature: Libraries, Print Cultures, and Germany’s*

*Pact with Books* is now in production with Fordham University Press (NY), and will be published in 2016. I presented sections of the book at various universities as an invited speaker and at several conferences, including “Measuring the World,” the 47th Wisconsin Workshop, which I co-organized with Pamela Potter. I have started work on the 5-Volume *Wiley-Blackwell Companion to World Literature*. As Associate Editor, I am responsible for South Asian and European literatures. As part of my post-tenure review, I applied for promotion to the rank of Professor, and was successful.

#### Sabine Mödersheim

As a member of the Environmental Futures group at CGES and in community outreach, I continue to explore sustainable urban planning and Germany’s *Energiewende*. At the GSA conference, I shared my experiences teaching the topic on a DAAD panel about “Teaching Green Germany” in language, literature and culture courses on the intermediate and advanced level. I helped to plan the Anthropocene Slam—A Cabinet of Curiosities (<http://nelson.wisc.edu/che/anthroslam>) and participated in the closing panel. I am currently serving as the resident director of Academic Year in Freiburg. I’d like to encourage alumni to get in touch with us (<http://www.ayf.uni-freiburg.de/>).

#### Pamela Potter

This past year was a very busy one, as I took on the directorship of the Center for German and European studies (see accompanying article) and completed my book *Art of Suppression: Confronting the Nazi Past in Histories of the Visual and Performing Arts*, which will appear this spring with University of California Press. I have also enjoyed working with colleagues on some very exciting events, such as organizing the Wisconsin Workshop with Venkat Mani, where we were able

to bring together scholars from across the country and across the world to consider how German ideas and ideologies had spread across the globe, and with Jeanne Schueller to host German actress Teresa Weißbach and film director Carsten Fiebeler to spend a week with our students, courtesy of the German Embassy. I was also very honored to receive the Kellett Mid-Career award from the University of Wisconsin.

#### Joe Salmons, Lester “Smoky” Seifert Professor

I’ve just returned from the Linguistic Society of America’s Summer Institute, teaching as the American Dialect Society Professor, and am settling in as director of the Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures (<http://csumc.wisc.edu/>). The past year was a time of finishing up articles and edited volumes, getting some submitted and seeing others into print. Tom Purnell, Eric Raimy and I are now finishing *Modularity in Phonology* for Cambridge University Press. This fall, I’ll teach a new class on “Language and Linguistics in the Media”, for the International Learning Community.

#### Jeanne Schueller

A true highlight of my year was co-hosting along with my colleague, Pamela Potter, German actress Teresa Weißbach and director Carsten Fiebeler as part of the German Embassy’s Campus Weeks to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. In the spring, I taught a graduate applied linguistics course on collaboration in teaching and learning that yielded deep and rewarding discussions and much creativity among the talented graduate students in the class. The year ended on a bittersweet note when it was time to say goodbye to my first Ph.D. student (co-advised with Monika Chavez) and another special graduate student, who both defended their dissertations and got excellent jobs. This

past summer I received a professional development grant to participate in a 2-week Goethe Institut seminar in Munich on youth literature and film in the German language curriculum. I enjoyed collaborating with colleagues from across the globe, including from Tanzania, Pakistan, Australia, and 16 other countries!

### Marc Silberman

I spent a quiet summer in Madison, helping out as summer chair, growing tomatoes and basil for the freezer in anticipation of another Wisconsin winter, and working on projects for the coming year, including an article on an unknown American film adaptation of the Brecht/Weill opera *Mahagonny* and a retrospective essay on how GDR

studies “entered” the American academy in the 1970s and 1980s. I will be on leave in 2016, at the University of Oxford in the spring where I will be teaching Brecht and helping to organize a symposium of the International Brecht Society on “Recycling Brecht” in June, and in the fall, I will be teaching German cinema at Hebrew University.



## 2015 Undergraduate Awards Banquet

By Mark L. Loudon

*Our annual banquet to recognize our department’s outstanding undergraduate students was held on April 22, 2015, at the University Club. We were excited to welcome over one hundred awardees, their family and friends, and Department of German faculty. The banquet address was delivered by our beloved adopted colleague, Manfred Roth, from Frankfurt, who returned to Madison to direct our biannual German play.*

Recipients of achievement awards in German coursework at the intermediate (third-year) level were: Andy Awve, Shanthi Cambala, Andrew Fabris, Sascha Glaeser, Katie Hendrickson Gagen, Colin Grosh, Kevin Hess, Casey Hutchison, Keira Jacobs, Jennifer Ostrowski, Karis Quandt-Walle, Kate Schwen, Molly Serebin, Dorian Staeven, Kaitlin Stoner, Madison Thalacker, Julianne Thorn, and Yirong (Katherine) Wang. For outstanding work in courses at the advanced level, the following students were recognized: Kristen Chalich, MaryGrace Floeter, Rebecca Grzenia, Evan Nelson, Benjamin Vanderlei, and Amelie Von Below.

Each year our department also presents a small number of especially distinguished students with awards that are sponsored by generous individual donors. Simona Gerulyte and Ziqian (Alex) Zhang were recipients of Klaus L. Berghahn Awards for outstanding papers in the field of German literature. Five additional students were recognized for overall excellence in German studies with prizes funded through the generosity of Ms. Lisbeth Pisk, of Seattle, WA, in honor of her family, which has longstanding ties to UW–Madison. This year’s Lisbeth Pisk Award went to sophomore Madeline Loper. Christian Blank, a junior, received the Pisk

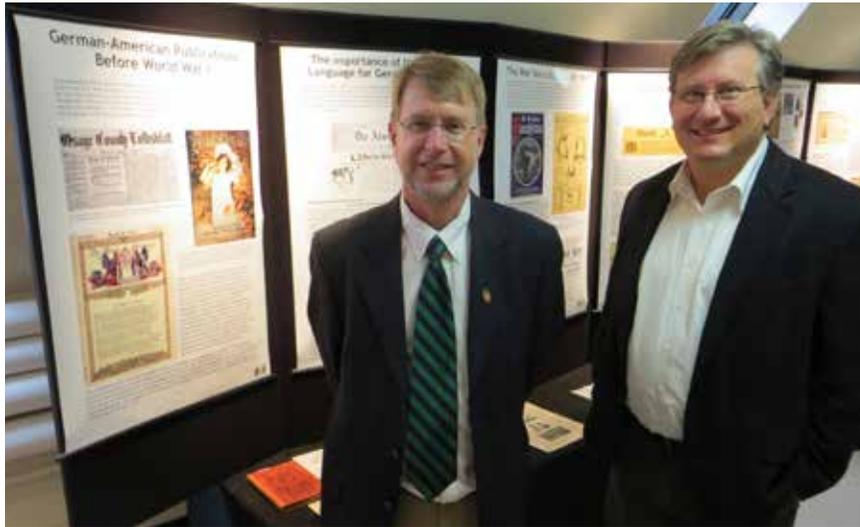
and Ronda Broatch Award. And graduating seniors Dylan Braun, Anna Meding, and Brendan Ryan were recipients of the Dr. Karl Oskar and Theodora Pisk Award.

Our awards banquet is also the occasion on which we induct meritorious students into our local chapter of Delta Phi Alpha, the National German Honor Society. This year’s inductees were: Dylan Braun, Kristen Chalich, Tessa Coggio, Miles Edwards, Matt Fabina, Simona Gerulyte, Tiann Nelson-Luck, Matthew Sitzman, Rebecca Grzenia, Truman Storm Keys, Evan Nelson, Brendan Ryan, Benjamin Vanderlei, and Ziqian (Alex) Zhang.

## The 48<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Workshop

*“Outside the Kaiserreich: The German Diaspora in the World War I Era”*

By Antje Petty



Professor Mark Loudon and German Language Humanities and General Philosophy Librarian Kevin Kurdylo at the exhibit

The 48th Wisconsin Workshop was held October 8–10 in Madison, this year conceptualized and organized by the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies.

The symposium focused on the complex situations and dynamics of societies with German populations on the periphery of or outside the borders of the German Empire. The program began with the opening of the exhibit “In Their Own Words: German Americans in the World War I Era.” Drawing from the Max Kade Institute Library and Archives, it showcased German-language documents printed in the United States in the World War I era.

The keynote address was delivered by Werner Sollors, Henry B. and Anne M. Cabot Research Professor of English at Harvard University. Under the title “Imperial Germany as a Country of Emigration and Immigration,” he illuminated the different histories, ethnic identities, and socio-economic situations of German communities outside the Reich. He compared and contrasted these with the

conditions within the Reich itself, where eight percent of the population in 1900 consisted of non-German-speaking minorities.

Friday morning contributions focused on the German-American experience, with Walter Kamphoefner (Texas A&M University) giving an overview, and Cora Lee Kluge (UW–Madison) drawing attention to the disunity among German Americans. Felecia Lucht (independent scholar) rounded out the session with a geographical and linguistic investigation of the use of German in Metro Detroit.

Analyses of conflicting loyalties among German diaspora communities and differing reactions of host countries to the German element in their midst followed. Pamela Potter (UW–Madison) looked at the impact of the War on American classical music. Sarah Panter (Leibniz Institute for European History) examined the ‘German-ness’ of British and American Jews in this time period, while Stefan Manz (Aston University) looked at the treatment of Germans living in the British Empire, specifically

those forced into enemy alien internment camps. Weija Li (UW–Madison) explored the experiences and “Writings on China,” by POWs from the German colony of Tsingtao, who were held in prison camps in Japan.

The program continued with a look at the German borderlands. Winson Chu (UW–Milwaukee) described the Polish city of Łódź as a space where German, Polish, and Jewish inhabitants both maintained ties with their places of origin and saw Łódź as their *Heimat*. Then Julie Allen (UW–Madison) showed how the complex history of German-Danish interaction in the Schleswig-Holstein region in the period preceding the War challenges simplistic narratives of national identity.

The conference came full circle by focusing on “old-stock” Americans who still spoke the German language. Duane Stoltzfus (Goshen College) discussed the fate of four Hutterite conscientious objectors. Similar conflicts of identity and perception arose for the Pennsylvania Dutch, as Mark Loudon (UW–Madison) showed. The Pennsylvania Dutch considered themselves Americans, yet the Anglo-American majority regarded them as Germanophile during the War.

We thank the UW–Madison Anonymous Fund, the Jay and Ruth Halls Visiting Scholars Fund, and the UW Lectures Committee for their generous financial support, and gratefully acknowledge our cosponsors: Department of History, Center for European Studies, Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies, and the Friends of the Max Kade Institute.

## The Center for German and European Studies

By Pamela Potter

*In times when funding has become more scarce, UW–Madison has distinguished itself this past year with exceptional successes in receiving grants for promoting the study of Germany and Europe.*

In 2015, the Center was one of only a handful of North American centers to receive a grant from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) renewing the center's funding through 2016. The competition for funding this time around was more intense than in the past, and we are extremely grateful to DAAD and the German government for its continuous support since the center's founding seventeen years ago. This new round will allow us to continue the exciting transatlantic work we saw in the past year, including Gregg Mitman's groundbreaking experiment with the 'Anthropocene Slam' in Madison and the accompanying exhibit in Munich.

For the next two-year cycle, CGES will pursue three international, interdisciplinary projects involving students, faculty, and visiting scholars: "Responding to Contemporary Challenges in Germany" (Leader: Myra Marx-Ferree, Sociology); "Germany and the World: Transformation and Transmission of Ideas, Ideologies, and Identities" (Leader: Pamela Potter, German); and "Environmental Futures" (Leader: Gregg Mitman, History of Science). Plans include study visits for groups of German and American students and scholars to compare the cultural and environmental history of the Mississippi and Rhine rivers, a workshop exploring the intellectual influence of Germany on the world over the last three centuries, and a lecture

series featuring scholars discussing the effects of population shifts in Germany and Europe.

We are also very excited to announce the generous gift of Sol Bloomenkranz, given to the Center for German and European Studies to honor the memory of his wife. The gift gives the director discretion to use the funds to invite high-profile speakers to deliver the Gisela Imm Bloomenkranz Memorial Lecture, as well as to support graduate and faculty research.

The University of Wisconsin–Madison has also received four grants from the European Union to establish a Centre of Excellence, headed by the recipient of the new Jean Monnet Chair, Nils Ringe. Only seven U.S. universities received the Jean Monnet Centre designation, and Ringe is one of five faculty nationwide selected as Jean Monnet Chairs for 2015–18.

Lastly, the Center for European Studies received one of seven federal Title VI grants awarded to UW–Madison. "UW–Madison has the type of international expertise that is more essential than ever to Wisconsin and the nation in our increasingly interconnected world," said Chancellor Rebecca Blank. "I am proud that we can make these resources available to help prepare our students to live and work in a global marketplace." UW–Madison has consistently been among the top U.S. universities in number of Title VI National Resource Centers.

## "Relative to What?" The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual GDGSA Conference

By Christine Evans

The German and Dutch Graduate Student Association held its 17th annual conference this fall. This year's conference was titled "Relative to What? Exploring Concepts of Identity and Family in Germanic Studies," and took place November 13–14 in Union South on the UW–Madison campus. Over the two days of the conference, 15 graduate students from UW–Madison and a number of U.S. and international universities presented papers that examined literal and metaphorical families and identities through the various lenses offered by Germanic Studies. The GDGSA was pleased to have Katharina Brizic (University of Freiburg) as the keynote speaker. Dr. Brizic's research addresses migration and family languages in the biographies of language learners. The conference is open to the public, and information on next year's theme and dates can be found online at: <http://gdgsaconference.german.wisc.edu/>.

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We depend on your generosity—your contribution to the Department of German Enhancement Fund will allow us to reach these two goals.

Please contact me anytime with your questions and suggestions. I am happy to talk to you!

Jolanda Vanderwal Taylor,  
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We gratefully acknowledge our 2014-2015 donors. If your gift was received between October 16, 2014 and September 30, 2015, your name appears on the list below. (Please let us know of any inadvertent recording omissions, with our apologies in advance).

If your gift arrived after *Mitteilungen* went to press, you will be acknowledged in next year's issue.

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## German Day 2015

By Jeanne Schueller

After 25 years of dedicated service, Charles James handed me the reins to organize the 26th annual German Day, held on April 22. Since April 22 was Earth Day, our theme "Global denken ... auf Deutsch" and logo acknowledged Germany's role as Europe's green leader and its strong environmental policies and efforts to develop renewable energies.

Speaking of energy, more than 500 middle and high school students from 27 schools across Wisconsin impressed the judges with performances in seven competitions, including favorites such as poetry recitations, skits, musical acts, and Pictionary. New this year was an entertaining round of charades, which challenged students' miming and gesturing skills.

Both top-scoring middle and high schools, Nicolet High School and Glen Hills Middle School, are from Glendale, WI. Two schools, Nicolet and Mukwonago High School, have attended since the inaugural German Day in 1990. We congratulate all the participating students on a job well done; we know they worked hard to prepare. Our nearly 40 volunteers from the Department of German and the community also worked hard to make German Day happen. Several volunteers were UW students who had participated in German Day while in high school!

We are already looking forward to our 27th annual German Day on April 21, 2016!

## Commemorating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall

By Jeanne Schueller



Teresa Weißbach and Carsten Fiebeler model "25 years after the wall" fashion.

Several events stand out this year among the author readings, lectures, and performances. One particular highlight for faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students in the department was a visit by German actress Teresa Weißbach and director Carsten Fiebeler.

With generous support from the German Information Service, the German Embassy, the Department of German, and the UW Center for German and European Studies, Weißbach and Fiebeler were the guests of honor as we commemorated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. We kept them busy during their stay with multiple class visits, a film screening, a reception, and a public lecture.

Weißbach may be best known for her portrayal of the "die schulschönste, die weltschönste, die unantastbare" Miriam in the cult Wall comedy *Sonnenallee* (1999). After our students in the intermediate German reading course tackle the novel

*Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee* by Thomas Brussig, they are rewarded by watching the film *Sonnenallee*, whose screenplay was also written by Brussig. Imagine the students' excitement to then meet Weißbach! She was even more enchanting in person. Our students were entertained by her recollections of making her debut film (including a bout with food poisoning) and were touched by her personal stories of her childhood in the East before the fall of the Wall.

At a film screening, Fiebeler shared memories of directing his critically acclaimed film *Sushi in Suhl* (2012) about East German restaurateur Rolf Anschutz, who is drawn to the Japanese lifestyle and cuisine, which he recreates against all odds in Thuringia in the 1970s. Fiebeler visited classes as well, including spending two class periods with students in our German film and culture class, who had watched, discussed, and analyzed *Sushi in Suhl*. It was a rare treat to talk face-to-face

with a director about technical and aesthetic decisions made during filming and the challenges of creating an authentic set with the look and feel of the GDR. Fiebeler's stories of growing up in the East were equally compelling. Dabbling as an auto mechanic and t-shirt entrepreneur in the East, it was not until later that Fiebeler found his calling and attended the Hochschule für Film und Fernsehen Konrad Wolf in Potsdam. Many of his films to date deal with culture clashes between "Ossis" and "Wessis."

In their joint public presentation, Weißbach and Fiebeler captivated the audience with stories of their experiences growing up in divided Germany, their recollections of November 1989 and the "Wende," and their reflections on their film experiences and how their work strives to convey to a new generation what life was like before the fall of the Wall.

We are grateful to our sponsors for the financial and logistic support that enabled us to invite Teresa Weißbach and Carsten Fiebeler to UW–Madison. Their visits to our classes and our discussions beyond the classroom walls were inspiring and thought-provoking. Their enthusiastic interaction with our undergraduate and graduate students and colleagues reflected their deep passion for their work and their eagerness to learn about and from us.



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## Meet the Stockis

By Sonja Klocke

Thanks to the great collaboration with the German Department's teaching assistants and last fall's Graduate Language Program Coordinator, Barbara Jedele, Stockwerk Deutsch has nearly doubled since last fall! For 2015–2016, we have eleven "Stockis," two of whom—Ethan Gabrielse and Ellen Light—returned after they spent a wonderful year in the Stockwerk during which they greatly improved their German skills. They are joined in Adams Hall, on the shore of Lake Mendota, by a lively bunch of new "Stockis:" Ian Fox, Devin Johnson, Allie Kober, Erica Kreunen, Stephanie Kuster, Kelsey Murphy, Dorian Staeven, Lucas Stiemann, and Shiring Xing. All are excited to be part of the residential German immersion community, and to live with Beatrice Steinhilber, the new Graduate Language Program Coordinator (GLPC). Beatrice, an M.A. student in the Spanish Department, grew up in Darmstadt, Germany. Now that



the "Stockis" have settled in, Beatrice is excited to organize a variety of activities, and is looking forward to having guests for some of these (e.g., communal dinners) from the German Department and Stockwerk alumnae. In addition to the one-credit seminar Sonja Klocke teaches on "Romeo and Julia in the GDR" (part III due to

popular request), the "Stockis" will enjoy regular dinners, movie screenings, cooking nights, arts and crafts, German-themed trips in the Madison area and regular German tutoring planned by Beatrice. Everyone is looking forward to a fun and educational year during which long-lasting friendships will be formed.