German Day 2014

Charles J. James

Vierteljahrhundert!
Under this motto, our 25th annual German Day took place on Tuesday, April 8, 2014. This year German Day was held at Union South on the UW–Madison campus. Although Memorial Union on Lake Mendota served us well for 24 years, we like the new facilities at Union South, not far from Camp Randall Stadium, and hope to be able to host the event there again in future years.

German Day 2014 was attended by 38 Wisconsin schools (14 middle schools and 24 high schools). Two new schools joined us: the Madison Waldorf School and the German School of Madison. The contests we have organized in the past (Poetry, Spelling, Skits, Posters, DVDs, Music, and Pictionary) were repeated this year. The five top-performing middle schools were: Greenfield and Madison Waldorf School (1st place, tied), Oak Creek East (2nd place), Glenn Hills (3rd place), Oak Creek West (4th place), and Beaver Dam (5th place). The top-scoring high schools were De Forest (1st place), Mukwonago (2nd place), Nicolet (3rd place), Cedarburg (4th place), and Wauwatosa West and Beaver

Continued on page 2
German Day, continued from page 1

Dear alumni and friends of the Department,

Warm greetings from Van Hise Hall. As I write this, the leaves on trees have begun to turn. By the time you read this, they will have fallen and we will have other reasons to reflect as we approach the December holidays and the new year. We hope that this year, and the next, find you well and happy.

The university is adapting to change from within and without. New leaders appointed in the last two years include: a new Chancellor, a new Provost, a new Dean of the College of Letters and Science, and a new Vice Provost and Dean of the Division of International Studies. In the Department of German and beyond, we hold fast to our core mission and values even as we adjust to new realities: in budgets, in students’ post-college prospects, and in their interests. We are re-assessing our programs, streamlining them, and adopting innovative teaching strategies where appropriate. We are assessing our structures, programs, and devising ways to make our administration more efficient. We are committed to maintaining and improving the quality of teaching and learning in our programs.

Our students inspire us. They love German, and they understand that the world is growing ever smaller. Some enroll in a few courses in our department; a healthy number fulfill the requirements for the German certificate or the major. They are bright, engaged, and committed. We note some changes that give us pause; the stresses of the economy, which cause some students to work many hours at part-time jobs, and to accept substantial educational loans. While the evidence shows that the kind of learning—in the classroom and beyond—that our students gain here prepares them well for both life and the world of work, we aim to help them be intentional about preparing for their future.

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 appreciate your contributions to funding for our students. Please keep in touch!

With all best wishes,

Jolanda Vanderwal Taylor
jvtaylor@wisc.edu

The 2014 German Department Awards Banquet

Honing students and donors
On April 22, 2014, the Department gathered to celebrate another successful year with faculty, students, and families. This year fourteen students were inducted into Delta Phi Alpha, the National German Honor society, and eleven received awards for achievement at the intermediate and advanced levels. The banquet address was delivered with humor and insight by Professor Klaus Berghahn, whose reflections on interconnected community were confirmed by the discovery of common family history amongst several of the audience members. The banquet is always a wonderful opportunity for faculty to thank the family members who have shaped and supported our students; this year was no exception!

Annual Department Picnic

Above: Joan Leffler and Katja Mohaupt-Hedden collaborate at the grill for the annual Department Picnic, held on September 4, 2014 at Burrows Park.

Top Right: Students, faculty, and families eat and socialize in the picnic shelter.

Bottom Right: Although Madison treated us to an early fall chill, the evening ended with a beautiful sunset.

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 Vandenvaal Taylor, Chair.

818 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706
608-262-2192
608-262-7949 (fax)

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Contact for gifts information:
anne.lippincott@supportuw.org or 608-263-3604
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1848 University Ave., Madison, WI 53708

2 Department of German

German Day continues to be one of the major events sponsored by the Department of German, together with the Department of Curriculum & Instruction. Indeed, German Day brings more participants to campus than any other single event sponsored by either department. Many of the students who attend German Day return as university students in our courses, with many going on for a certificate or for a full major in German. We look forward to hosting German Day 2015 on April 22, 2015, again at Union South on the UW–Madison campus. As our extended motto this year says: “neuer Ort – alte Freunde – immer ein Platz frei!”
Reflections from Joan Leffler

Our beloved Joan Leffler retired this past year after more than 40 years of service at the UW Department members, family, and friends gathered to celebrate her retirement on December 6, 2013, at the University Club. We miss Joan very much and are happy to share her reflections on retirement—thank you, Joan!

Although I never achieved my dream as an undergraduate of becoming a Spanish professor, I nevertheless had the good luck to become, along with my husband, Rich, a “permanent resident” of Madison after finishing our degrees, and to be employed at the UW from 1972 until my retirement in January 2014.

In summer 1993, I spotted an announcement for the position of “Department Administrator in German” tacked to a bulletin board at DoIT, where I worked at the time. I had no real experience in office management, budgeting, or interpreting state and university rules, as indicated in the job requirements. But I applied anyway. The idea of working in a foreign language department was too powerful to resist. I also (naively) envisioned that an academic department, and knowledge of the humanities enables one to handle life’s challenges more gracefully and effectively. Or, maybe it’s simply because there are a lot of wonderful people in the department.

Twenty years brought numerous technical administrative changes to campus, which staff had to master in order to do our jobs. We gained expertise in UW accounting conversions, payroll processing, international tax rules, immigration and visa regulations, online timetable entry and, as the 1993 description of my job stated, the ability to interpret and apply an ever-expanding set of regulations relating to all aspects of administration at the university. (Here is where knowledge of Kafka was good preparation.)

Retirement since January has brought relief from the ongoing worry that I neglected to perform a critical task or overlooked a deadline. I must say that I have settled into a calmer routine and do not really miss the work. But I do very much miss the people who passed through 818 Van Hise each day, many of whom are long-standing friends. Twenty years in the Department of German taught me not only useful administrative skills, but more importantly, it gave me an awareness of how much the humanities matter and deserve to be maintained and supported at the UW. I owe a debt of gratitude to the Department of German, whose members always made me feel worthwhile as an employee, and who created an environment for the most rewarding job anyone could ask for.

NEW FACULTY PROFILE: Philip Hollander

I joined the Department of German at the University of Wisconsin—Madison in the fall of 2013 as an assistant professor specializing in nineteenth and twentieth century Jewish literature and culture. I come to the department after teaching at Tulane University and in UW-Madison’s Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies; my appointment is split between the Department of German and the Mosse/Wein Stein Center for Jewish Studies. Awarded a Ph.D. from Columbia University in Modern Hebrew literature, my graduate training and research focused on the late nineteenth and early twentieth century efflorescence of Hebrew and Yiddish literatures in East Europe, the United States, and Palestine/Israel. Having taught courses at UW that treat this phenomena in comparative perspective, as well as courses dedicated to its Hebrew component, I am pleased to finally have the opportunity to teach stand-alone courses on Yiddish literature and culture. This year I am teaching European Yiddish literature and culture in the fall and American Yiddish literature and culture in the spring. If the undergraduates and auditors who studied European Yiddish literature and culture with me during the spring of 2014 are any indication, this sequence will prove thrilling to its enrollees and me. Currently, I am completing a book manuscript entitled From Schlemiel to Sabra: Contested Masculinity in Early Twentieth Century Palestinian Hebrew Culture that charts Hebrew literature’s role in Israeli culture’s pre-state development. When not at work, I can usually be found with my two young sons who have a knack for clothing decoration (mine and theirs).

NEW FACULTY PROFILE: Pamela Potter

RETURNING FACULTY PROFILES:

Philip Hollander

I have worked for the Department of German as an Administrative Coordinator since January 2014. I was born in Cologne and raised in Dreek, Germany (near Frankfurt am Main). I completed an Accounting Tax Assistant Degree from the “Steuerberater Kammer Hessen” and went on to complete my studies with an Accounting Degree from the Cologne Tax-Accounting School. I worked for almost ten years as an accountant/tax accountant in Germany before moving to Madison with my husband and son.

Prior to working in the Department of German at UW-Madison, my professional career was in bookkeeping and banking.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family. We all like travelling and the outdoors. Our weekends are filled by riding bikes in the summer and cross-country skiing in the winter.

Pamela Potter
Hans Adler, Halls-Bascom Professor

The year 2013–14 was filled with many rewarding activities, conferences, publications, and preparations for further research and teaching. It was a particularly pleasant experience to be a participant in the Wisconsin Workshop on "Anschauney Anschnitt: Visualisierung in der Geschichte der deutschen Philologie." In September, I had the good fortune to be a participant in Calomino’s seminar, "Bibliomigrancy: World Literature in the Digital Age," at the University of Michigan. In addition, I was a DAAD guest professor in the fall, teaching at the University of Iowa. This was a great year! I am now excited about the new academic year!

Cora Lee Kluge

My current research project concerns the Milwaukee German Theater (MG). Last year I made presentations on this at the German Studies Association conference in Denver and at the symposium of the Society for German-American Studies in Milwaukee. One of the German Department’s outstanding undergraduates, Cala Butke, was awarded a prestigious Welton Honors Summer Sophomore Research Opportunity to work on the project this past summer, and she located, scanned, and organized more than 1,600 individual newspaper reports of the theater’s activities. Our research began with the creation of an online catalog of the unique Trostel Collection of German Theater Scripts (held at the Milwaukee Public Library), and this coming spring the Department of German is generating interest by producing Christian Esselen’s Abfassung vom Treppenrechnen (1853), originally performed at the MG. In addition, I continue to teach an English-language course entitled "The German Immigration Experience," and have translated a variety of German-American texts into English so that they can reach wider audiences.

Weijia Li

I have continued to work in my dual capacities as both a faculty member within the Department of German and the director of the Global Higher Education M.S. Program at the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis. I enjoyed teaching a new course, "China aus deutscher Sicht," focusing on German perception of China reflected in literature, art, history, and mass media. Regarding my research, I published an article on the collaboration between Chinese and German left-wing activists in the Weimar Republic. This past summer, I was in Shanghai conducting archival research for my book on Jewish refugees in wartime Shanghai. Later, I was invited to deliver a paper at the Shanghai Library history seminar held at the Greenfield Summer Institute hosted by the UW-Madison Mose-Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies.

Mark Louden

This past year I completed the manuscript for my book, Pennsylvania Dutch: The Story of an American Language. The book has a companion website, http://www.padutch.net, which will feature a number of primary documents related to Pennsylvania Dutch culture. During the summer semester I was a DAAD guest professor at the University of Freiburg and taught three courses on German-American Studies. I also organized more than 1,600 individual newspaper reports of the theater’s activities. Our research began with the creation of an online catalog of the unique Trostel Collection of German Theater Scripts (held at the Milwaukee Public Library), and this coming spring the Department of German is generating interest by producing Christian Esselen’s Abfassung vom Treppenrechnen (1853), originally performed at the MG. In addition, I continue to teach an English-language course entitled “The German Immigration Experience,” and have translated a variety of German-American texts into English so that they can reach wider audiences.

V. Venkat Mani

In 2013–14, I developed and offered a new graduate seminar, “Comparative World Literature,” with students from several literature departments, and a new undergraduate seminar, “Bücher, Leser, Bibliotheken” for our German majors. I organized the visit of the famous star of the German summer theater, Sevgi Özerman in the spring semester. With my colleague Caroline Levine (English), I received the Andrew Mellon Foundation’s Sawyer Seminar Grant in Comparative Cultural Studies for the project, “Bibliomigrancy: World Literature in the Public Sphere” (2014–16). The grant funds two graduate students and a series of visitors, lectures, and conversations on campus on the theme of “Bibliomigration: the physical and virtual migration of books and narratives across national and cultural spaces.” Also finished working on my book project, Borrowing Privileges: World Literature and Germany’s Pact with Books (1780–2010), and the manuscript is currently under review.

Sabine Mödersheim

My research focused on visual culture and intellectual history, and the digital humanities, asking how Warburg’s Memeon-Atlas continued on next page
I’m learning tons from them about language and outreach. In addition to recent articles and chapters, The Oxford Handbook of Historical Phonology, with Patrick Honeybone, has appeared with Oxford Handbooks Online (hard copy coming). A second edition of my History of German (Oxford) should be out in the spring.

Jeanne Schueller

As always, it’s been a busy year. My textbook Cinéple: Intermediate German Language and Culture Through Film appeared in January. I shifted the focus of my German film and culture course to the exploration of culture through food, a theme which has sparked enormous enthusiasm (including cooking!) among my students in their projects. Film in the language curriculum is also the topic of several conference presentations I have given this year. Spending the summer in Freiburg gave me ample opportunities to find new materials (and eat at the Markthalle). This fall I embarked in my second year as German language coordinator/TA supervisor. I continue to learn, and find it rewarding to work with such a great group of TAs.

Freiburg Sister City Update

Sarah Modenschien

Returning students from the Academic Year in Freiburg Program continue to be actively engaged with the Madison-Freiburg Sister City group. This year, Freiburg Stipend recipients shared their experiences as students in the “Green City” at the annual dinner.

Each year, the Freiburg Stipend is given by the City of Freiburg to promote sister city relations between Madison and Freiburg. Awardedes use social media to share their experiences in Freiburg with the Madison community. They participate in sister city activities both in Freiburg and after their return to Madison, and they help to promote the sister city relationship and study abroad in Freiburg.

2012–13 award recipient Sadie Voet now serves as DAAD Young Ambassador (http://www.daad.org/ja2013–14#v1). The German Exchange Service’s Young Ambassadors are undergraduate students from North America who recently studied abroad in Germany and help promote study in Germany at their home universities. They help to inspire their fellow students by giving them useful tips on how to enjoy and make use of their own stay in Germany.

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

Marc Silberman

During the past year I continued as director of the DAAD-funded Center for German and European Studies, organizing a number of public presentations driven by faculty and graduate student research related to German topics. The current two-year funding cycle supports the work of three faculty research groups: Environmental Futures; Translation, Transformation, Transposition (Trans3), and Citizenship, Modernity, and Inclusion. During the academic year 2013–14, the CGES co-sponsored German department and campus events in a number of ways, including the residency of German-Jewish poet-writer Esther Dischereit (Sept.–Oct. 2013); the 46th Wisconsin Workshop on “Anschauung und Anschaulichkeit,” and the Trans3 speakers series with guests (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013), DEFA at the Crossroads of East German and International Film Culture (DeGruyter, 2014), and two volumes of Brecht translations: Brecht on Theatre and Brecht on Performance (Bloomsbury-Methuen, 2014). I was honored to spend summer 2014 in Berlin as a senior fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung, working at the archive of the Akademie der Künste.

The 2014 GDGSA conference: “Taking out the Trash: Assessing and Re-assessing Value in German and Dutch Studies”

This year’s conference took place in the fall semester on October 17–18, 2014. The conference explored the concept of “trash,” both literally and metaphorically, as it relates to German and Dutch Studies. The GDGSA and the Department at large were pleased to welcome Dr. Heather I. Sullivan from Trinity University in San Antonio as the keynote speaker. Dr. Sullivan’s work is in the environmental humanities, with an emphasis on Goethe, ecocriticism, and international climate change novels. She presented a paper titled “The Dark Pastoral and the Anthropocene: Trash, Waste, and Value in the Environmental Humanities.”

The conference featured twelve presenters from seven universities, including Princeton University, New York University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Michigan, Northwestern University, University of Köln, and, of course, UW–Madison. It was a great turnout for the new date and a promising sign of things to come!
Q: Tell us about yourself.
A: I am currently Associate Professor of German and Chair of the Department of German and Russian at Franklin & Marshall College, a small liberal arts college (2,400 students) in Lancaster, PA, just west of Philadelphia. Prior to joining the faculty at Franklin & Marshall, I held positions at the University of Kentucky, Ripon College, and Kalamazoo College. I initially moved from Kalamazoo to Franklin & Marshall as a visitor to lead a restructuring of the German curriculum and reinvigorate the department, but it soon turned into a tenured position. Franklin & Marshall has deep German roots. It is located in the heart of Pennsylvania German country and was founded in 1787 by German immigrant theologians with a gift of 200 pounds from Benjamin Franklin, who sought to “Americanize” the Germans in the area. Instruction was conducted in both German and English until the Civil War. My husband, Kevin Brady, is a painter and teaches painting, drawing, and collage courses in the art department at Franklin & Marshall. We met when we were both graduate students at the University of Kentucky, Ripon College, and University of Wisconsin-Madison (I was a German and Russian major, and Kevin was a German major). We initially moved from Kalamazoo to Franklin & Marshall as a visiting professor, but it soon turned into a tenured position. My focus on teaching (alongside a research position) has led me to a kind of “thesis of teaching”—how to best support students in their educational journeys. I am motivated by teaching students how to learn as well as teaching them how to be lifelong learners.

Q: Do you use German in your career or day-to-day life?
A: Absolutely! Every day. One of the things I love about teaching at a small liberal arts college is that I get to teach at all levels of the curriculum and witness students’ ever-expanding linguistic abilities as they move through the curriculum over the course of four years. I am so grateful that teaching was such a big part of my educational experience in the German Department at UW–Madison, especially that we were allowed great independence as teaching assistants. I learned a lot from Charles James and Monika Chavez, but also from my fellow TAs. I am still collaborating with fellow students Pennynlyn Dykstra-Pruim (Calvin College) and Gisela Hoeffert-Alden (Boston University). In fact, Gisela has organized an AATG-sponsored panel for the 2015 MLA convention (“Analyzing Cultural Memory in a Multi-Layered Language and Literature Curriculum”) featuring an all-Madison panel: me, Peter Höyng (Emory University), and Tim Malchow (Valparaiso University)—he did his M.A. in Madison and completed his Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota). The panel has been chosen for inclusion in the Presidential Theme, “Negotiating Sites of Memory,” and will be featured on the MLA website this fall.

My focus on teaching (alongside a literature Ph.D.) over my years as a graduate student has led me to a kind of two-pronged research agenda as a faculty member. One line of my research is focused on German language teaching and curriculum, the other on German literary and cultural studies. I have published a number of articles related to language pedagogy and curricular reform, as well as a writing textbook that I co-authored with Pennynlyn Dykstra-Pruim, Schreiben lernen: A Writing Guide for Learners of German (Yale University Press, 2011). Penny and I are now working as series editors with Yale University Press to create writing guides for other languages. Parallel to that work, I am in the midst of a book project focused on German, British, and American girls’ literature published during the First World War. I hope to have it done before the World War I centenary commemorations end in 2018!

Q: Do you have any favorite memories of your time in the German Department or at UW–Madison in general?
A: Favorite most memorable memories:
1. Acting in a scene from Franz Xaver Kroetz’ Funct and Hoffnung der BRD (with aforementioned Tim Malchow) during my first year in the Department (1991)
2. Nancy Kaiser’s course on women’s literature (1993 or 1994)
3. An evening poetry reading group led by Silvia Schlenstedt, wife of visiting faculty member from the Humboldt University Dieter Schlenstedt (1992), which led to...
4. Sunday morning brunch and poetry reading groups hosted by various graduate students, most notably Laura Tate and Martin Kagel (University of Georgia)
5. My first-ever conference presentation, at the 1993 Wisconsin Workshop on “Postmodern Concepts of Totality,” with fellow students Thomas Jung and Gisela Hoeffert-Alden. (I still remember how incredibly nervous I was!)...
6. Conversations with Richard Page (now at Penn State) in our shared office in that weird little building across from Union South. (Is that building still standing?)...
7. Last, but certainly not least: happy hours on the Terrace!

We are always interested in hearing from alumni who would like to share their experiences with Mitteilungen—you don’t need to use German every day to contribute! Email heldrige@wisc.edu if interested.

Your Gift Matters — Supporting the Department of German

We invite you to join your fellow alumni, active friends, and supporters who have made a gift to the Department of German!

Your support allows us to attract and reward outstanding students, run Stockwerk Deutsch, host special events, and invite distinguished visitors. At a time when the cost of higher education continues to shift from the state to the student, we would particularly like to:
1. Enable students to study in Germany, Austria, or Switzerland for a summer or for a year by offering them stipends. With your help, we hope to provide a stipend for every student we send abroad!
2. Offer significant fellowships to two high-achieving undergraduates in our program.

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, Department Chair 608-262-1844 or 608-262-2193 or jvtaylor@wisc.edu

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With Gratitude: Donors 2013–2014
We gratefully acknowledge our 2013–2014 donors. If your gift was received between October 16, 2013, and September 30, 2014, your name appears on the list below. (Please let us know of any inadvertent omissions, with our apologies in advance. If your gift arrived after Mitteilungen went to the printer, you will be acknowledged in next year’s issue.)

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Questions? Call 608-262-2193 or email Katja Mohaupt-Hedden at mohaupthedden@wisc.edu. Please send address changes or update your record in the Alumni Directory at uwalumni.com/directory.
Stockwerk Deutsch

After her first year as faculty director of Stockwerk Deutsch, Sonja Klocke is happy to report that thanks to the great collaboration with both the German Department’s Teaching Assistants and last year’s Graduate Language Program Coordinator, Arne Ulbrich, a lively new bunch of “Stockis” was recruited for 2014–2015. Genevieve Burgess, Ethan Gabrielse, Rebecca Grzenia, Danielle Hurst, Ellen Light, and Micah Roberts moved into the old Adams Hall dormitory on the shore of Lake Mendota this fall. They are all excited to be in this residential German immersion community, and to live here with Barbara Jedele, the Graduate Language Program Coordinator (GLPC). Barbara, an M.A. student in the Professional French Masters Program at UW–Madison, grew up in Bavaria and studied abroad in Freiburg through the Academic Year in Freiburg program. In addition to French, she is studying International Education in the hopes of working in study abroad administration. After a warm welcome including traditional “Schultüten” she made for the “Stockis,” she is now excited to organize a variety of activities, and is looking forward to being joined for some of these activities (e.g., communal dinners) by guests from the Department of German and Stockwerk alumni.

In addition to the one-credit seminar Sonja Klocke teaches on “Romeo and Juliet in the GDR,” the “Stockis” will enjoy regular dinners, movie screenings, cooking nights, arts and crafts events, German-themed trips in the greater Madison area, and regular German tutoring planned by Barbara. Everyone is looking forward to a fun and educational year during which long-lasting friendships will be formed.