



# Mitteilungen aus Madison

NEWS FROM GERMAN AT UW-MADISON



Sunset in Freiburg

## News from AYF Freiburg: Alumni Club Forms

By Brendan Ryan, AYF 2013-2014

**O**n October 25, 2015, nine former students of the Academic Year in Freiburg (AYF) study abroad program officially founded an outreach and networking organization for alumni of the AYF program (formerly known as Junior Year in Freiburg). While this organization is based in Freiburg, the members hope that its activities will engage past, present, and future AYF and JYF students as well as friends and family all around the world.

Supported by Ulli Struve, the club's founding members set in stone the char-

itable nature of this organization and formulated a charter. The founders represent a decade and a half of AYFers who found their way back to Südbaden, and were excited to chat amongst themselves about their motives for returning to (or never leaving) Freiburg—along with the hurdles and accomplishments that an international life requires.

Although the group's members may be finding themselves at different stages in their lives—from student to *Berufseinsteiger* to parent, everyone is represented—they all share the common

bond that their study abroad experience has become a bedrock for their later life adventures.

By starting this group, the members want to ensure that this great opportunity remains available for future AYFers and connections are cultivated and maintained among alumni.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of AYF Alumni & Friends e.V., check out the website at <http://ayf-alumni.de/> or contact the group via email at [info@ayf-alumni.org](mailto:info@ayf-alumni.org).

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## Dear Friends, Warm greetings from Madison!

You have undoubtedly heard from news coverage that the University of Wisconsin System continues to face the challenges of budget cuts, freezes on tuition and hiring, and threats of losing talented faculty. But as we continue to find ourselves in challenging times, we are also aware that we have much to make us (and you) proud of our past, our present, and our future. To be sure, we are challenged on a daily basis to come up with ways to do more with less. Yet in spite of it all, we sometimes amaze ourselves with all that we have been able to accomplish in the difficult times we face.

As you will see as you page through this issue of *Mitteilungen*, our faculty, students, and alumni are doing truly outstanding things here in Madison and across the globe. While many of our colleagues in other language and humanities departments worry about shrinking enrollments, our numbers of German majors and certificate students are as strong as ever. And, with the constant and generous support of our friends and alumni, we have been able to maintain the highest standards in research, teaching, and

outreach that have made us leaders in the study of German and Dutch.

Indeed, we have faced many changes in the past year. In July we became part of the new Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic (GNS). Although this is primarily

*We have much to make us (and you) proud of our past, our present, and our future.*

an administrative merger, we have already seen how bringing together dynamic scholars and teachers in these three units into a single department has enhanced our intellectual community. We are very excited about the ways this merger will lead to more interdisciplinary training for both undergraduate and graduate students. Our new chair, Professor Manon van de Water, comes from Slavic, assisted by Professor Kirsten Wolf (Scandinavian) and myself (my new tasks include heading the German program and overseeing events, outreach, and advancement for the GNS department).

We have also had to bid our warmest wishes to three faculty

members who have retired: Charles James, Cora Lee Kluge, and Marc Silberman (see Retirement Reminiscences on page 6). Their tireless dedication and vast contributions to our students and the community at large over many decades cannot be easily measured. And we are thrilled to welcome our newest faculty member, Sunny Yudkoff, to our program (see New Faculty Profile on page 10). Sunny is an accomplished expert in Yiddish language and literature, and her appointment coincides with our celebration of 100 years since Yiddish was first taught on our campus.

On behalf of the German faculty, staff, and students, I can confidently report that in spite of a year of changes and challenges, we are not merely “weathering the storm” or “doing less with more.” To the contrary, because of the excellence of our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends, we are continuing to grow and to prosper.

On, Wisconsin!



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

Contact us at [info@gns.wisc.edu](mailto:info@gns.wisc.edu), [pmpotter@wisc.edu](mailto:pmpotter@wisc.edu), or the mailing address below, or visit us online at <http://gns.wisc.edu/german>.

*Mitteilungen aus Madison* is the newsletter for alumni and friends of the Unit of German in the Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, Pamela Potter, Associate Chair for Advancement and Outreach.

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This issue of *Mitteilungen* was edited by Hannah Eldridge, with assistance from Jeanne Schueller and Pamela Potter. Many thanks to our contributors!  
Design: University Marketing

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## 49th International Wisconsin Workshop & Max Kade Writer in Residence, Kerstin Hensel

By Sonja Klocke

At this year's International Wisconsin Workshop (September 22–24, 2016), organized by Professors Hans Adler and Sonja Klocke, scholars, writers, students, and interested members of the German-speaking community in Madison discussed works of fiction dedicated to the topic “Literature as Social Critique: Power, Science, and Knowledge after 1989.” The conference started spectacularly with a very well attended reading by two of the most prominent authors of contemporary German literature, Ulrich Peltzer and Kerstin Hensel. Both were also present during the following two workshop days, and participated in the lively discussions with the nine national and international presenters as well as the audience. The authors who were considered in the presentations are among those who participate most vigorously in the core controversy concerning the definition, necessity, and relevance of social and ethical values as well as knowledge, science, and culture in all its forms and areas of influence in contemporary Germany. The presentation topics ranged from reflections on international justice and human rights (N. Ljubic), critical notions of channeling and monitoring knowledge in modern societies (I. Trojanow), and the effects of capitalism and the new economy, including climate change and mass migration (N. Kermani; I. Trojanow; R. Kleist; M. Kröger; A.R. Strubel; U. Peltzer) to discussions about new activities and trends in the sciences as well as the affinity of science and politics, and particularly of the sciences *as* politics (K. Hensel; J. Zeh).

To our great delight, Kerstin Hensel stayed in Madison for five weeks. The Max Kade Distinguished Writer-in-Residence in fall 2016,



Kerstin Hensel

Hensel offered an additional reading from her work followed by discussion in German on October 14. This reading, too, attracted an enthusiastic group of German students,

faculty, and others. Met with a great deal of excitement, Hensel was a significant presence in the Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic as she engaged with students and co-taught several classes with Professors Eldridge and Klocke throughout the months of September and October. Hensel also became very involved in the work of one of our dissertators, Melissa Sheedy, and agreed to an extensive interview with her. Like Melissa, many of our students had

read and greatly appreciate Hensel's works. For them especially, interacting with this personable, gracious guest in person was a remarkable experience.

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### German Faculty New Book Celebration

By Hannah Eldridge

The academic year 2015–2016 saw the publication of five new monographs from German faculty—an unofficial record! Students and faculty gathered to celebrate *Art of Suppression: Confronting the Nazi Past in Histories of the Visual and Performing Arts* by Pamela Potter, *Inscription and Rebellion: Illness and the Symptomatic Body in East German Literature* by Sonja Klocke, *Lyric Orientations: Hölderlin, Rilke, and the Poetics of Community* by Hannah V. Eldridge, *Pennsylvania Dutch: The Story of an American Language* by Mark Loudon, and *Recoding World Literature: Libraries, Print Cultures, and Germany's Pact with Books* by B. Venkat Mani. 2015 Chair Jolanda Vanderwal Taylor introduced the authors and their books, and the faculty, graduate students, and staff enjoyed the chance to catch up and mark this accomplishment—a testament to the productivity of our faculty and the fruitful environment of the department.



Faculty books completed in 2015–2016



## Outstanding Graduate Calla Buttke

By Cora Lee Kluge

The Department of German congratulates Calla Buttke, who completed her B.A. degree last May with a triple major in German, Chinese, and East Asian Studies, in addition to a certificate in Medieval Studies and a Leadership Certificate. One of the most distinguished of our department's recent graduates, she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and Delta Phi Alpha. She received, among other honors, a Welton Summer Sophomore Research Apprenticeship, a 2015 Hilldale Undergraduate/Faculty Research Fellowship, and a University Bookstore Academic Excellence Award. Calla was also one of only three students from UW–Madison invited to present her work at the Posters in the Rotunda event in April, where research being conducted by undergraduates in the UW System was on display for politicians, members of the UW community, and members of the general public.

Calla grew up in Wausau, Wisconsin, interested from an early age in her own background as a descendant of nineteenth-century German



Calla with Chancellor Rebecca Blank at the Posters in the Rotunda event.

immigrants to that area. At UW–Madison she took courses toward the German major and courses in German-American studies. Having focused her interest on Milwaukee's German-language theater (MGT), as a sophomore she presented a paper on a little-known play by the German-American writer Fernande Richter at the 2014 symposium of the Society for German-American Studies. She used her Welton Summer Sophomore Research Apprenticeship to conduct cutting-edge research on MGT, locating and organizing

German-language newspaper announcements, reviews, and advertisements of the theater's performances and personnel. This was a daunting assignment: reading microfilms of any kind is not an easy job, and the fact that these papers were published in the old German *Fraktur* font added substantially to the challenge. Nevertheless, Calla demonstrated both independence and talent in finding, assessing, and putting together a dossier of articles concerning the theater, and she established a framework for systematizing this information

that researchers at the Max Kade Institute have continued to use. She spent her junior year at the University of Bonn, and when she returned to Madison, she wrote a Senior Honors Thesis, under the supervision of Professor Cora Lee Kluge, titled "Taking Center Stage: Bringing Light to the Golden Era of the Milwaukee German Theater." Her thesis includes transcriptions and discussions of two plays performed in Milwaukee that thematize the experience of German immigrants in America: Wilhelm Müller's *Im gelobten Land Amerika* and Hans Kissling's *Greenhorns in Amerika*. The manuscript texts of these plays can be found—to our knowledge—only in the Milwaukee Public Library's Trostel Collection of German Theater Scripts.

Calla currently holds a full scholarship at Stanford University, where she is pursuing a master's degree in East Asian Studies. In addition to studying Chinese at UW–Madison, she spent two summers in China, and thus she has become fluent in Chinese as well as German. At this point she is still exploring career options, and with her wide-ranging talents and interests and her broad academic background, the world is wide open to her. We wish her continued success.

### 27th Annual German Day

By Jeanne Schueller

What do *schreiben*, *lernen*, and *Hausaufgaben machen* have in common? If you guessed that they are words acted out by middle and high school students in the charades competition at German Day, you would be correct! Now in its 27th year, the UW–Madison German Day tradition continued on April 21, 2016 with a forward-looking theme ("Sprache der Zukunft") and a retro logo. Around 640 enthusiastic students hailing from 40 middle schools and high schools from across the state gave their best effort in spelling, poetry, Pictionary, charades, skits, music, and poster competitions. St. Mary Catholic High School in Neenah and Oak Creek East Middle School took top honors. Three high



school German programs—Nicolet, Mukwonago, and DeForest—have not missed a year since German Day began back in 1990! We extend our gratitude to the many faculty, graduate students, undergraduates, and staff members, and the generous support of the Department of German, all of whom make this exciting event possible. We look forward to welcoming eager learners of German to the 28th German Day on April 25, 2017.

## Your Gift Matters— Supporting German at UW–Madison

*We invite you to join your fellow alumni, active friends, and supporters who have made a gift to the German Program.*

Your support allows us to attract and reward outstanding students, run “Stockwerk Deutsch,” host special events, and invite distinguished visitors. Your gift makes it possible for us to do more.

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!*

**Pamela Potter, Associate Chair for Advancement and Outreach:**  
**(608) 262 2192 or**  
**pmpotter@wisc.edu**

### Giving Options

*You can contribute to an existing fund or provide a major gift that endows a new, named fund that you define yourself.*

#### BY MAIL

Send a check made payable to the UW Foundation (indicate “Dept. of German Enhancement Fund,” “Undergraduate Excellence Fund,” “Netherlandic Studies Fund,” or your choice of specific fund) to: University of Wisconsin Foundation  
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#### ONLINE

You may use the following links to make an online gift directly to the Enhancement Fund, the Undergraduate Excellence fund, the Ethel Antrim Bird Netherlandic Studies Fund, or the Jost Hermand Graduate Fund.

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**Ethel Antrim Bird Netherlandic Studies Fund:** <http://www.supportuw.org/giving?seq=17642>

**German Department Enhancement Fund:** <http://www.supportuw.org/giving?seq=1067>

**Jost Hermand Graduate Fund:**  
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#### PLANNED GIVING

If you are considering a planned gift, such as stocks, bonds, or mutual funds, real estate, or bequests, please contact Ann Lippincott at the UW Foundation: [ann.lippincott@supportuw.org](mailto:ann.lippincott@supportuw.org) or 608-263-3604.

**Thank you for your support!**  
Questions? Call 608-262-2193 or email Katja Mohaupt-Hedden (Financial Specialist) at [mohaupthedden@wisc.edu](mailto:mohaupthedden@wisc.edu).

Please send address changes or update your record in the Alumni Directory at [uwalumni.com/directory](http://uwalumni.com/directory).

### With Gratitude— Donors 2015-2016

We gratefully acknowledge our 2015-2016 donors. If your gift was received between October 16, 2015 and September 30, 2016, 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.

#### Ethel Antrim Bird Netherlandic Studies Fund

Carrie N. Jackson (also German Department Enhancement Fund), Jonathan M. Mertzig

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#### German Department Undergraduate Excellence Fund

William W. Seeger, Alvin Y. Yoshinaga

## Retirement Reminiscences

*We wish to express our deepest gratitude to Charles James, Cora Lee Kluge, and Marc Silberman for their many years of intellectual and personal contributions to the life of the department. We will miss you greatly, and we wish you well on your next steps!*

### Charles James

By Monika Chavez



The end of 2015 saw the retirement of Charles James after 32 years with the departments of German and Curriculum & Instruction

(C&I). Charles was instrumental in the training and subsequent careers of many, many (an educated guess would be 150) high school teachers in Wisconsin in a variety of languages, including German, Spanish, French, Latin, Japanese, and Chinese. In the German department, he trained numerous graduate students as they developed the pedagogical skills that later would earn them fulfilling careers in academia and other professional fields. The pivotal event that brought together both German and C&I every year was German Day, which brought lots of yellow busses full of energized middle and high school teachers and their excited students to campus, and brought colleagues from the full spectrum of departmental specializations together. Charles' accomplishments were recognized with awards from all major professional organizations dedicated to language teaching in the United States and, specifically, Wisconsin. To this day, it's impossible to attend one of their professional meetings without having several people inquire about and laud Charles, or better yet, run into Charles himself. One of my favorite memories of Charles is that when I got ready to present at my first major conference and was assigned the last slot on the program, nobody showed up but Charles. He cheered me up and, best of all, rounded up a few more attendees. To many in the German department, Charles is known

as the photo-journalist who captures happy moments as well as misdeeds (or bad hair days). When I recently attended the Wisconsin Workshop, I was relieved to spot Charles—with his camera—in attendance. Charles shared with me that even as he appreciates the recognitions he has received, what made the last 32 years of his professional life enjoyable were the people he interacted with. We are thankful that these interactions—though now unpaid for Charles—seem likely to continue. And even as many things have changed over the last year, we can (still) count on many of the new moments to be preserved in time—and by Charles' camera and the man behind it.

### Cora Lee Kluge

By Mark Loudon



This year we pay special tribute to our colleague Cora Lee Kluge who, after 51 years of service to the university, is retiring. After completing her

Ph.D. at Stanford in 1966, Cora Lee joined the Department of German and began teaching the normal load for an Assistant Professor of fourteen hours per week. She taught a broad range of undergraduate and graduate courses on German language, literature, and culture at all levels, as well as courses on German-American topics that she taught in both German and English. Cora Lee's dedication to instruction was formally honored in 1992 when she was the recipient of a Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Teaching. She received a second major honor in 2008, when she was presented by the German government with the Merit Cross on Ribbon (*Bundesverdienstkreuz am Bande*).

The quality of Cora Lee's courses was complemented by her research program and her natural gifts as a writer and editor. And not only her students benefited from her guidance with writing: Cora Lee was—and continues to be—exceptionally generous in giving her colleagues thoughtful feedback on how to improve their prose, especially during the six years (1995–2001) when she was the editor of *Monatshefte*.

Cora Lee's research, which—thankfully—is not slowing down now that she has retired from active service, has always been grounded in thorough attention to detail, thereby helping to redefine several subfields of German studies, including what she calls her “semi-historical” work on German studies in America, the UW Department of German, and German-American studies. These fields bear the unmistakable stamp of Cora Lee's devotion, insight, and wit, and much of what she has published would still be unknown to us had it not been for her inspired digging. The premier example of Cora Lee's work as a literary-cultural archaeologist is her book *Other Witnesses: An Anthology of Literature of the German Americans, 1850–1914*, which appeared in 2007 and has earned the acclaim of scholars worldwide.

Our department owes Cora Lee a special debt of gratitude for her collegiality. In a profession where egos often impede the smooth functioning of departments, Cora Lee has been a rock of humble stability in both the Department of German and the Max Kade Institute, which she directed or co-directed for most of the past decade. While we miss her day-to-day presence in Van Hise Hall, we are thrilled that she is continuing to work on a number of exciting research projects and to give generously of her time to the Max Kade Institute.



## Marc Silberman

By Sabine Gross



Marc Silberman's retirement announcement was stunning news—the consensus was that it's impossible to imagine German in Van Hise without him! We've come

to accept it, and fortunately he pays us regular visits (as his contribution to this year's faculty news attests!). Marc has been one of the centers of energy in the department for so many years and in so many ways that events and meetings still feel strange without him. When I arrived in the department in 1992, getting to know Marc was pleasant and exciting. It was also a bit scary, since every time I ran into him, he offered me at least three ideas about projects I should undertake or get involved in. I learned quickly that it was okay to say no, to pick and choose—that, indeed, was the spirit in which he offered that steady stream of information and invitations to collaborate with him and others. Marc is one of the most high-profile Germanists internationally in not just one, but three major areas—Bertolt Brecht, GDR studies, and cinema—and someone in high demand as a conference speaker, distinguished visitor, and expert referee of manuscripts and personnel cases. Besides being one of the main Wisconsin Workshop organizers, he is quite simply one of the most generous colleagues, mentors, and teachers imaginable. He has incubated countless projects and kept them on track, his knowledge of colleagues worldwide is truly encyclopedic, and he is utterly reliable and always happy to help or share ideas. Not just ideas: when I was looking for a piano that had to fit through a narrow staircase, he offered to swap his own piano, a fine family heirloom, against my larger one, telling me it would be perfectly fine for me to come and exchange the two instruments in his absence! I did not take him up on the offer, but it exemplifies why having him as a colleague, a neighbor, and a friend is such a pleasure and privilege. Happy active retirement, Marc!

## The Center for German and European Studies

By Pamela Potter

Almost two decades ago, the Center for German and European Studies (CGES) at UW-Madison was founded under the German Marshall Plan with matching grants from UW-Madison and the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Devoted to the development of the next generation of scholars and the production of new knowledge relating to Germany and Europe, the Center has maintained a vibrant program of supporting research, teaching, and outreach in a broad range of fields and disciplines.

For 2015-16, the Center was one of only a handful of North American centers to receive a two-year grant from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). With this generous support we were able to pursue three international, interdisciplinary research 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).

Among the highlights of the past year, the "Environmental Futures" project was able to organize an exciting exchange of German and American students and scholars to compare the cultural and environmental history of the Mississippi and Danube rivers. The project "Responding to Contemporary Challenges" hosted an international workshop on gender and higher education, and the "Germany and the World" group culminated its two-year project with a lecture series including an impressive roster of scholars from North America and Europe.

Last year we were also 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. This year we were pleased to welcome the renowned historian David Blackbourn, of Vanderbilt University, to deliver the inaugural Bloomenkranz Lecture in October.

CGES is housed in the Center for European Studies, one of seven federal Title VI grants awarded to UW-Madison, alongside the European Union Centre of Excellence, and it continues to work in fruitful collaborations with numerous entities on and off campus. Dedicated to the Wisconsin Idea, it has collaborated with the Madison Warburg Chapter of the American Council on Germany (hosted in CGES), the Max Kade Institute, the Law School, the Wisconsin Energy Institute, the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies, the Havens Center for the Study of Social Justice, the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, and others to provide stimulating and accessible programs to the Madison campus and community.

For an up-to-date list of events and news, please visit our website: <http://daadcenter.wisc.edu/>.

## Faculty News

### A Selection of Activities and Publications (2016)

#### Hans Adler

##### Halls-Bascom Professor

I enjoy thinking back on my experience in the spring semester, teaching “Lachen ist gesund,” a 300-level course in which the students and I found out that smiling is indeed a healthy exercise. We had fun while reading comedies, watching movies and TV shows, and debating where and when humor is appropriate or not, and we even enjoyed discussions of challenging theoretical texts about the reasons for how and why we smile. The next fun experience was being able to support *Fermat's Last Theater* in their wonderful stage presentation of Franz Kafka's *The Trial*. To interact with the actors and discuss with the audience reminded me that literature performed on stage is ‘literature live,’ and to experience the transfer of Kafka's novel into a play was new and very rewarding for me. While recovering from hip replacement surgery, I had time to read in preparation of this year's Wisconsin Workshop on “Power, Science, and Knowledge in Literature after 1989,” which I co-organized with Sonja Klocke. And then I read some more! Many wonderful texts by Julie Zeh, Michel Houellebecq, Ulrich Peltzer, Jenny Erpenbeck, Kerstin Hensel, and others. It's unfortunately rare, but when does a professor of literature actually have time to read literature? Then, wonderful news arrived: I was awarded the Alexander von Humboldt Research Prize in recognition of my lifetime scholarly achievements. I will use the prize money to further support my research projects during the academic year 2016-17, which I will then funnel back into teaching. Finally, together with Werner Frick and Gesa von Essen (both from the Albert-Ludwigs University in Freiburg), I organized a conference at the Zentrum for Klassikforschung held in October in Weimar on “Der ‘andere’ Klassiker. J.G. Herder und die Weimarer Konstellation um 1800”. And, six scholarly articles published this year so far. Still in the middle of 2016—it is a great year, indeed!

#### Salvatore Calomino

In my research on court narrative, I have focused on late medieval prose manuscripts and incunabula in the collection of the Newberry Library, Chicago. As part of my appointment as Scholar-in-Residence at the Newberry, I have worked with documents on Gustav Mahler's reading while

he was conductor at the Hofoper, Vienna, and his attempts to integrate literary and philosophical programs in his symphonies. I also participated in a Newberry Colloquium on Mahler's competing duties and aesthetic choices in both his Vienna and New York conducting posts. During the past year, I have completed for publication the final part of a multi-chapter annotated translation of William Ritter's 1906 monograph on theories of fusion in the visual arts and music.

#### Monika Chavez

I was happy to lead two students through their dissertations into professional careers, one at the University of Virginia, the other at Indiana University. Both students were housed in African Languages and Literature (ALL) and became my advisees unexpectedly. I very much enjoyed the experience—I learned a lot about Arabic languages and cultures; met the students' families; and was able to collaborate with colleagues both in ALL and the Ph.D. Program in Second Language Acquisition (a program that has supported many graduate students in German). I published what I believe to be the last article (on the use of English in German classes) that was based on a data set collected more than 10 years ago (some of the readers of *Mitteilungen* may have participated—thank you!), giving hope to all dissertators who are aching under the load of complex and sometimes opaque data (it's all worth it in the end!). The last academic year also marked the bittersweet departure of three recent graduates, whose intellectual and personal presence all of us enjoyed tremendously: Frieda Fichtner took a position at Washington University; Kelsey White went to UC-Santa Barbara; and Jana Martin accepted an administrative position at UW-Madison. Finally, the last academic year brought some now resolved challenges with my health, which resulted in back surgery. I want to thank my wonderful colleagues and students for their support (treats, flowers, and company) that they gave so generously when I was, quite literally, down for the count.

#### Hannah Eldridge

After a semester spent making research progress in spring 2015, I was happy to return to the classroom in fall 2015 with two new (to me) courses: a graduate sem-

inar on 20th and 21st century literature and a team-taught course with Professor James Messina of Philosophy, called “Truth, Beauty, Revolution: German Philosophy and Literature 1790-1815.” Both attracted highly motivated and talented students, and it was a pleasure to work with them! I returned to my “Extreme Stories” course in spring 2016, using stories from literature, medicine, psychology, and law to help students develop writing skills and information literacy. This fall I'm teaching our double-credit intermediate course again—this time with a record 20 students. It was an exciting year research-wise, as well: my first book, *Lyric Orientations: Hölderlin, Rilke, and the Poetics of Community* appeared with Cornell University Press in February 2016!

#### Sabine Gross

For a year now, I have divided my time between Van Hise and Washburn Observatory, home of the L&S Honors Program where I serve as the Faculty Director. It is a most enjoyable form of double duty—especially talking with Honors students who are also in German (such as Calla Buttke) about their plans, projects, and successes. Summer included a Honors Sophomore research fellows retreat, conferences in Germany and Scotland, and progress on a book, as well as getting rained out at American Players Theater in Spring Green and retreating to our cozy tent in Governor Dodge Park.

#### 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 2016 I taught a lecture course on Nazi Culture with Pamela Potter and Marc Silberman. I gave lectures on Heiner Müller's *Mauser* at the MLA Convention in Austin/Texas, on Karl Kraus and Bertolt Brecht at the Institut für Kultur und Politik in Wien, on “Hoffnungsvoll Gescheiterte. Deutsche Künstler im Exil” at the Verdi Gewerkschaftshaus in Berlin, and on “Brecht und die Literaturwissenschaft” at the GSA Conference in San Diego. I wrote book reviews for *Monatshefte* and the *Brecht Yearbook*, and published articles on Werner Mittenzwei, Wassili Lepanto, “Die Bedeutung der Begriffe Freiheit, Gleichheit und Brüderlichkeit” and on “Hochkulturhun-



ger nach 1945. Selbsterlebtes, aber später erst Begriffenes." I also brought out a book under the title *Grüne Klassik. Goethes Naturverständnis in Kunst und Wissenschaft* (Köln: Böhlau 2016). At the moment I am working on a somewhat longer study on the topic of "Die Wenigen und die Vielen. Trägerschichten deutscher Kultur von den Anfängen bis zur Gegenwart" which will hopefully come out next spring.

## Philip Hollander

### Rob Howell

Recently I gave invited talks at Indiana University in February and at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, and in May I made the trek to Iceland to give a co-authored talk at GLAC. I continue as faculty director of the Language Institute and have been working intensively on the restructuring of our language departments and programs in Van Hise. I will use my sabbatical in fall 2016 to wrap up several projects and to begin work on a new monograph, *A Social History of Dutch*.

### Sonja Klocke

Last year, I continued as faculty fellow for *Stockwerk Deutsch* (already in the fourth year now), and as every year, I very much enjoyed working with students who are 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 Conference, and at the Canadian Association of University Teachers of German Conference. Several articles appeared (one in a volume on literature and feminist theory with Cambridge University Press, one in a peer-reviewed journal, and one in an edited book), and three were submitted. I am currently working on a co-edited volume on Christa Wolf, which is under contract with de Gruyter and to come out in October 2017. Most importantly, I am proud to report that my book *Inscription and Rebellion: Illness and the Symptomatic Body in East German Literature* appeared with Camden House in October 2015, and I received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor recently. I continue to love teaching students here at UW. Last year, I was particularly happy to teach two senior seminars (one on after-images of the GDR and one on border-crossings), and to once again offer my German Women Writers in translation class, which attracts increasingly more students who do not speak German to German literature.

### Weijia Li

The past year was a hectic, productive, and gratifying one. I was happy to see that my ongoing research on Central-European Jewish refugees' writings on China started to gain more traction in the scholarly community. I was invited by Arizona State University to deliver two talks on this topic, including a keynote-opening lecture for the Jewish Refugees in Shanghai Exhibition at the Cutler-Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center. I also gave a public lecture on Jewish diaspora in China at the Jewish Museum Milwaukee. It was quite a fun experience where I connected my research with the Chinese and Jewish Mahjong tradition.

### Mark Loudon

A highlight of the past year for me was the appearance of my book, *Pennsylvania Dutch: The Story of an American Language*, in January. I had my first book signing event the following April at the Moravian Book Shop in Bethlehem, PA, the world's oldest continuously operated bookstore. Also this past spring I was honored to learn that I am the 2016 recipient of the Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm Prize from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). This past summer I returned to Freiburg as a DAAD guest professor at the Albert-Ludwigs Universität, teaching three courses on German-American linguistic topics. Throughout the year I kept busy with a number of outreach activities in connection with the Max Kade Institute, including twenty-five public presentations across the state. Finally, I continued my work as a cultural mediator to help improve the delivery of health care to Amish and Old Order Mennonite families in Wisconsin.

### B. Venkat Mani

I had a wonderful year teaching new graduate and undergraduate seminars on the history and contemporary situation of migration and refugees in Germany. I brought the project "Bibliomigrancy: World Literature in the Public Sphere" (<http://global.wisc.edu/worldlit>; a Mellon Sawyer Seminar in Comparative Cultural Studies) to a successful completion. I finished the final copy edits on *Recording World Literature: Libraries, Print Cultures, and Germany's Pact with Books* (Fordham University Press, 2017). Apart from presenting my research at conferences during the academic year, in summer 2016 I attended the Summer Institute on Israel Studies offered by Brandeis University and worked

on the 5-Volume *Wiley-Blackwell Companion to World Literature*. I am on sabbatical in fall 2016 and working on developing a new research project.

### Sabine Mödersheim

Spending the academic year 2015-16 as Resident Director of our flagship study abroad program Academic Year in Freiburg, I had the chance to teach my course on "Green Germany-Green Freiburg" on location with hands-on research projects. We experienced the arrival of several thousand refugees in Freiburg and some of our students volunteered with student and citizen support groups. I had a chance to connect with the counterpart of our Madison-Freiburg sister city organization and give a well-received lecture on environmental pioneers from Wisconsin: John Muir, Aldo Leopold, and Gaylord Nelson. My research on-site included work on the garden city movement and the 102-year-old Gartenstadt Haslach.

### Pamela Potter

This has been a very exciting year for me, with the completion of my book *Art of Suppression* and the opportunity to give talks about it at University of Kentucky, Vanderbilt, University of Nebraska, and University of California at Berkeley. I was also thrilled to be able to attend the annual meeting of the Gesellschaft für Musikforschung in Mainz, where I was invited to respond to a series of papers exploring post-war music scholarship in Germany.

### Jeanne Schueller

On the heels of the 25th anniversary of German reunification, I tailored my film and culture class around films dealing with the Berlin Wall, the fall of the Wall, and the Wende, of which there is no shortage, including the well known cult classic *Go Trabi Go* (1990), the contemporary take on the post-Wall road trip movie *Friendship!* (2010), and many others. Film, media, and popular culture are the focus of a session I organized for ACTFL in Boston this year. The session showcases innovative ways that instructors are incorporating pop culture into their courses through films, TV shows, and video games. Spending the summer in Freiburg gave me an opportunity to charge my pop culture batteries, so to speak. Living in the Altstadt made it easy to hike the Schlossberg regularly, try out new restaurants (and old favorites, like the Markthalle), and spend time with friends.

## Marc Silberman

To my own surprise, I decided rather abruptly to retire from the University of Wisconsin at the end of fall semester 2015 rather than to take a year's leave of absence, as I had been planning. The timing seemed right: I left in April 2016 to teach at the University of Oxford (St. Hugh's College) for a term and helped organize the very successful 15th International Brecht Society Symposium there in late June. Before leaving Madison, I hosted a CGES workshop on "New Research on the GDR" whose harvest of excellent contributions will be appearing in an online journal in 2017. And in October I leave for Jerusalem, where I'll be the UW Mosse Faculty Fellow for fall semester 2016. Is this what retirement is all about?

## Jolanda Vanderwal Taylor

### Spring '17 Events

#### March 30–April 1, 2017

Max Kade Institute Conference: "People of Faith, Voices of Tradition: Germanic Heritage Languages among Christians and Jews"

#### April 25, 2017

German Day

#### May 1–3, 2017

Biennial German Play: Max Frisch's *Biedermann und die Brandstifter*, directed by Manfred Roth

## German Faculty Recognized Internationally

By Hannah Eldridge

This year, the Department was delighted to learn that Professor Hans Adler and Professor Mark Louden were each the recipient of a major international award in the field of German Studies. Professor Adler received the Humboldt-Forschungspreis from the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung in recognition of his lifetime scholarly achievements. Professor Adler will use the award to support research at the Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, where he will continue work on the edition of the works of Johann Georg Sulzer with his co-editor Elisabeth Décultot.

Professor Louden was awarded the Jacob- und Wilhelm-Grimm-Preis of the German American Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst or DAAD), designated for researchers of German Studies outside Germany, for his work on Pennsylvania Dutch, combining sociolinguistic, historical, grammatical, and phonetic lines of inquiry. The prize is endowed with 10,000 Euros and associated with a



Professor Adler

Professor Louden

four-week research stay in Germany.

Congratulations to Professor Adler and Professor Louden for their outstanding achievements and the well-deserved recognition they have received!



The Jacob- und Wilhelm-Grimm Preis Medal awarded to Professor Louden

## New Faculty Profile: Sunny Yudkoff

I joined the German unit in the Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic at UW–Madison in the fall of 2016 as an assistant professor. I also share an appointment with the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies. After three years teaching at the University of Chicago, I'm happy to be continuing my Midwestern adventures in Wisconsin, where I'll be teaching courses in my three main areas of research: Modern Jewish Literature, Yiddish Language and Culture, and the Medical Humanities. I'm currently at work on my first book titled, *Let it be Consumption!: Tuberculosis and the Modern Jewish Writer*. This work derives from research I completed while a doctoral

student at Harvard University and examines the role played by disease in the construction of a transnational Jewish literary network—a network that crisscrosses many of the languages and nations represented by GNS! It's also wonderful to engage the multiple pockets of Yiddish interest across the university—from informal conversations with graduate students, to the collection of Midwestern Yiddish journals housed at the Wisconsin Historical Society, to the Yiddish films screened around campus. For many it may come as a surprise that, far from both the East and West Coasts, the Upper Midwest was home to some of America's Yiddish literary greats. Madison, as I've



already discovered, also boasts dozens of quiet lakeside spots for reading the work of these authors and poets. Originally from New Jersey, I've also been happy to learn that you can get a good slice of pizza in Madison—the only challenge is choosing between pizzerias.



Delta Phi Alpha nominees are inducted into the society by faculty liaison Hannah Eldridge.

## News from the Undergraduate Program

By Mark L. Loudon, Director of Undergraduate Studies

The highlight of the academic year for the German undergraduate program is our annual awards banquet, which this year was held on April 25 at the University Club. More than 100 students, their family members, and friends joined our faculty in honoring our outstanding undergraduate students. Charles James, who retired in December 2015, delivered the banquet address, reflecting on his decades of service to our profession. Charles was an ideal person to speak at the banquet, since so much of his career has been devoted to undergraduate education, and especially training the teachers whose middle and high school programs are so important to the health of our undergraduate German program here at UW–Madison.

The following students received awards for outstanding work in German-language courses at the intermediate level: Emily Alff, Connor Amundsen, Andrew Awve, Shanthi Cambala, Lindsey Felth, Sascha Glaeser, Sanja Grujo, Yukiko Ikeda, Matthew Incha, Devin Johnson, Kelsey Murphy, Dorian Staeven, Lauren Steinert, Mitchell Wiemer, and Karen Wong. Award recipients for work in courses in German culture, literature, and linguistics at the

advanced level were: Christian Blank, Sophia Callahan, Yaoyao Chen, Jonathan Formella, Andrew Hahm, Beau Howes, Morgan Lilly, Colleen Miller, Clare Procknow, Neda Sattler, Luise von Below, and Yirong Wang. The Klaus L. Berghahn Award for an outstanding essay in German literature was presented to Calla Buttke. Rebecca Nye received an Outstanding Essay Award, which is presented to a student writing on a cultural or linguistic topic. Through the generosity of Ms. Lisbeth Pisk and her family, we presented Ellen Opitz with the Lisbeth Pisk Award and

Josiah Delventhal, Chloe Lake, and Sofia Linsenmeyer with the Dr. Karl Oskar and Theodora Pisk Award. The Pisk Awards are given to students at different levels for overall excellence in German studies.

At the banquet we also inducted the following students into our local chapter of Delta Phi Alpha, the national German honorary society: Christian Blank, Chase Bruggeman, Calla Buttke, Sophia Callahan, Josiah Delventhal, Wenxin Hu, Chloe Lake, Sofia Linsenmeyer, Madeline Loper, Colleen Miller, Sarah Petri, and Carley Sprackling.

### “Heimat”

#### The 18th Annual GDGSA Conference

By Matthew Boutilier

The German and Dutch Graduate Student Association held its 18th annual graduate student conference this fall. It explored the theme “Heimat: Living, Loving, and Leaving Home” and took place October 21–22 in the Pyle Center on the UW–Madison campus. Over the course of the conference’s two-day span, 16 graduate students from 13 universities in five different countries presented research papers that considered the many ways of expressing just what a home is, or might be, in the context of Germanic studies. The GDGSA was pleased to welcome our own Professor Mark Loudon as keynote speaker. Among other subjects, Professor Loudon’s research explores issues of nativity and domesticity in Pennsylvania Dutch, straddling the cultural and the linguistic domains. The conference was open to the public. Information on next year’s theme and dates can be found online at <http://gdgsaconference.german.wisc.edu/>.





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## Meet the “Stockis”

By Sonja Klocke

Sonja Klocke is happy to report that thanks to the great collaboration with both the department’s Teaching Assistants and last fall’s Graduate Language Program Coordinator, Beatrice Steinhilber, *Stockwerk Deutsch* has once again managed to attract a great number of students. For 2016-2017, we have eight “Stockis,” two of whom—Devin Johnson and Dorian Staeven—returned after they spent a wonderful year in the *Stockwerk* during which they greatly improved their German skills. The two “returners” to the old Adams Hall dormitory on the shore of Lake Mendota are joined by a lively bunch of new “Stockis:” Daniel Roth, Kyle Rentmeester, Carl Simmons, Noelle Stadler, Vincent Lucas Bensch and Jessica Brockway are all excited to be in this residential German immersion community, and to live here with Kane Neubauer, the new Graduate Language Program Coordinator (GLPC).



Kane Neubauer, an undergraduate majoring in German who just returned from living and studying in Freiburg (Germany) for two years, has absolutely outstanding German skills. After offering a warm welcome that made it easy for all “Stockis” to settle in, Kane is now excited to organize a variety of activities, and is looking forward to being joined for some of these by guests from the department, *Stockwerk* alumnae, and particularly Kerstin Hensel,

this year’s Max Kade writer in residence. In addition to the one-credit seminar Sonja Klocke teaches on “Deutschland 09,” 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 Kane. Everyone is looking forward to a fun and educational year during which long-lasting friendships will be formed.