




Department of
German, Nordic, and Slavic+
COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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2021

NEWS FROM GERMAN AT UW-MADISON



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Greetings, Friends of the UW–Madison German Program!



What a difference a year makes ... When I last wrote to you, most of us were teaching remotely and relief from the pandemic seemed far off. This semester, we are grateful to have returned to something much closer to normal. Our courses are being taught in person again, with masks required in all University buildings. As I write this letter, the vaccination rate for students and employees alike is approximately 95%, which has truly been a game changer for all of us at the University.

This fall, our enrollments in German courses are up about 25%, much of that driven by an increase in the number of courses we are offering taught in English. The topics they cover, including fairy tales, Anne Frank, Yiddish song, German women writers, early Germanic culture, Berlin, and German-Turkish connections, speak to the diversity of our unit. We aim to reach broad audiences through our English-taught courses while continuing to require that our undergraduate major and certificate students take mostly courses that are taught in German.

Among our most popular courses are those that deal broadly with the cultures of German-speaking communities, past and present, in Central Europe and the diaspora. The social and cultural impact of immigration, both to and from Europe, is a topic of particular interest among our students. In designing our courses, we faculty bring our transdisciplinary research interests directly into the classroom, which is deeply rewarding. The brief descriptions of our activities over the past year give you a sense of what we are able to share with our students.

Another positive development this year has been the reopening of study abroad programs in Germany and Austria, including our signature year-long program, the Academic Year in Freiburg. Although our major and certificate students are not required to study abroad, many do participate in UW-sponsored programs every year. Others pursue internships abroad, usually in the summer, which gives them the opportunity to hone their German skills in a non-academic setting.

Our graduate program remains strong, with students pursuing a wide range of research interests that reflect the fundamental diversity of German studies in North America. Overall, the number of students earning master's degrees and doctorates in our program is lower than a decade ago, which is consistent with the trend at our peer institutions nationally. However, a leaner graduate program means that we can fund all of our students through a combination of teaching assistantships, fellowships, and summer stipends. Each incoming student also receives funds for professional development, such as travel to conferences and research activities.

The generosity of the friends of our department has enabled us to support not only our graduate students, but our undergraduates as well, through scholarships. Our gift funds also go toward funding activities related to German studies in the department and across the University, including by bringing guests to campus for events that draw attendees from across campus and the greater Madison community, in the spirit of the Wisconsin Idea.

The overall upbeat spirit with which we have begun this academic year is of course tempered by the loss of our senior colleague, Jost Hermand. The tributes to Jost as a scholar and human being speak to the impact he had on literally thousands of students here at UW–Madison and to the legacy he leaves to us and to the multiple disciplines in which he worked. While we mourn his passing and will miss seeing him in the halls of Van Hise, we are grateful for a long life that was well lived.

Thank you so much for your support of our program and please keep in touch!

With warm regards,

Mark Loudon
Head, German+ unit



Dean's Message

September 2021

This fall marks a return to in-person classes and events, and it is exciting to be back on campus with students and colleagues! Our classrooms are full, our labs are humming and the frisbees are flying again on Bascom Hill. The university's COVID-19 protocols are continually adjusted based on the shifting state of the virus. With safe behavior and a campus vaccination rate of more than 90 percent, I am hopeful that we will successfully navigate the fall and winter.

There is much good news to share. UW-Madison welcomed our largest-ever freshman class, with more than 8,400 new students arriving in early September. In October, we celebrate the conclusion of the wildly successful All Ways Forward campaign, which has raised \$4 billion for UW-Madison, and \$652 million for the College of Letters & Science. Annual giving, too, is on track this year, mirroring strong pre-COVID giving trends. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to alumni whose unwavering support through the hardest of times enabled us to emerge stronger and ready to meet future challenges.

We have great news on capital projects to share. The Wisconsin legislature has approved funding for a new academic building for the College of Letters & Science. Departments and classes currently housed in the deteriorating Humanities Building will be relocated to a modern, interactive and world-class space that will transform the student learning experience.

A new building for our School of Computer, Data & Information Sciences is also underway, paving the way for this powerhouse new unit to meet a global need for students trained in computational thinking, big data, AI and related fields.

Finally – our highly-anticipated new Chemistry Building should open in 2022, and the impact on our STEM programs will be profound.

It feels great to look forward to so much. As always, a heartfelt thank you for all you do to support L&S. It means the world to us.

On, Wisconsin!

Eric M. Wilcots, Dean of the College of Letters & Science
Mary C. Jacoby Professor of Astronomy



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Cover photo: Jost Hermand delivering the Mosse Lecture at the Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany. Photo ©Niels Leiser, courtesy of Mosse Lectures, Humboldt Universität Berlin.

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Defining the Discipline – Remembering Jost Hermand

On October 9, 2021, Vilas Research Professor of German emeritus Jost Hermand died unexpectedly. He had just finished two new books currently in press, one on German cultural history (DIE WA(H)RE KUNST. *Deutsche Kultur im Sog sozioökonomischer Wandlungsprozesse*, forthcoming in spring 2022) and one on meaning in music: *Hearing Music in a Different Key. Ideological Implications in Works of German Music* (forthcoming in 2022 in the “German Life and Civilization” series). As always, he had already plans for new projects. His vast archive of notes, correspondence, calendars, photos, and other documents will be kept in the DLA (Deutsches Literaturarchiv) Marbach.

Jost Hermand joined the Department of German in 1958 and helped put the Department – and the UW–Madison – on the map nationally and internationally. He remained active after he attained emeritus status in 2004, publishing books and giving lectures in the US and abroad. He may have been the longest-serving William F. Vilas Research Professor on campus, having been awarded the honor in 1967. For decades, he was among a handful of Germanists with world-wide fame and name recognition, in demand all over the world as a speaker. He was a prolific scholar with a publication list that spans 44 pages and an unparalleled breadth of knowledge, but more importantly, he was a tireless innovator and pioneer

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Photo: Jost Hermand in front of the University Club.

“Nazi Culture” lectures now online

From 2007 until spring semester 2020, Jost Hermand and Marc Silberman, in the later years together also with Pamela Potter, offered every spring semester a large-enrollment, undergraduate lecture course under the title “Nazi Culture.” Over a thousand students with many different academic majors (from Engineering and Nursing to Philosophy and History) listened to the lectures during these 13 years. In spring 2010 the Department of German provided funding to have 18 of the ca. 60-75 minute lectures filmed, and this snapshot of an ever-evolving lecture series has now been added to the UW Digital Collections, freely accessible to anyone who is interested: <https://search.library.wisc.edu/digital/ASDHKYVPYJANB69B>



These are not documentary-quality films (sometimes there were sound problems, sometimes the PowerPoint slides didn't work right, etc.), but especially for “fans” of Jost Hermand – a living document of the Third Reich who talks about his own experiences being forced into the Hitler Youth in his lecture on “Youth and Education Policies” – it is an opportunity to hear one of the great storytellers in German studies talk about this important historical period and how Germans experienced Nazi culture, from popular entertainment to high culture to propaganda to everyday life in the Third Reich.

who shaped the field of *Germanistik* in major ways, helping to make it the vibrant field of “German Studies” it continues to be today by challenging the established canon, placing literary interpretation in new contexts, exploring German-Jewish culture, and highlighting minority voices and ecological concerns. The annual Wisconsin Workshop conferences he inaugurated more than 50 years ago introduced ground-breaking topics; the tradition continues today, with the 52nd Wisconsin Workshop (“German Studies and Beyond”) planned for fall 2022.

His graduate students praise him as an inspiring teacher and mentor: dozens of UW-Madison alums who did their PhD work under Hermand and who now hold faculty positions across the US and internationally are continuing his legacy. For Hermand's 90th birthday last year, alumni and friends dedicated an oak tree in Allen Centennial Gardens on campus to him that bears a commemorative plaque. (See last year's article and pictures in Mitteilungen aus Madison: <https://gns.wisc.edu/gns-newsletters/>)

“Communications from the International Brecht Society,” edited by two of our alumni, Kris Imbrigotta and Jack Davis, has published an online “Hermand Tribute” issue here: <https://e-cibs.org/tribute-to-jost-hermand/>

Tributes

Tributes and memories have been pouring in, and we want to share a selection here – we also opened an online forum where you can contribute if you would like to share your memories:

I am deeply saddened by the loss of such a remarkable scholar, teacher, mentor, and man. Over the course of the past several years I have found myself thinking back to a lecture he gave in 2009 or 2010 while I was chancellor at UW–Madison. It was prescient. Jost warned about tendencies in American culture and its forms of advanced capitalism that exacerbated social, economic, and educational inequality, deepened political division, and threatened human life on our planet. Always provocative, he spoke not only with a moral urgency that we had come to expect, but also with a dark pessimism about the consequences that rattled me at the time. Every time I think of the lecture and all that I learned from Jost over the years, I am sobered, but also buoyed by his sense of moral purpose, the sheer vastness of his knowledge, his commitment to his students, and his dedication to teaching us hard truths. It's hard to imagine the world, in general, and UW–Madison, in particular, without him.

Biddy Martin, President, Amherst College

To Jost Hermand, I was a face in a lecture hall and later a fleeting acquaintance, but to me he is associated with important milestones. As a newly-minted German major from the U.S., his lectures in Berlin were badly-needed crash courses in German literary history. As a graduate student, his work on environmentalism helped me see that the inchoate ecocritical dissertation I had in mind was worth pursuing. And for all the differences in circumstance, he continues to be the role model of a transnational academic, as my own career has taken me from the U.S. to Germany to India.

Alexander Phillips, Ashoka University, Sonipat, Haryana, India

It was an honor and a privilege to learn from Jost in Madison; I've so often returned to my notes from his lectures in teaching my own students. Jost was a legend in our field and an absolute mensch, always so generous with his time and his encyclopedic knowledge of German literature and culture to those of us lucky enough to have been his students. What a treasure we, and future generations of scholars, have in the gift of his life's work.

Jennifer Jenkins, Ph.D. 2008

From Jost, I learned that literary or cultural history can be a story and that a great professor knows the history inside out. Yet, his classes also taught me that the key to being a wonderful pedagogue is to weave the story that will entrance the students. No one did it better than he.

Corina L. Petrescu, Ph.D. 2006

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He was a man of great knowledge and integrity, a prolific writer and an incomparable scholar. Our Germanist world is poorer without him but we are all certainly richer for having known him. Baruch dayan ha’emet. May his memory be a blessing.

Cynthia Klima, Ph.D. 1995

In honoring Jost Hermand, I could easily rattle off a series of anecdotes each one attesting to the prodigious scope of his interdisciplinary knowledge of literature, arts, and music of the German-speaking world. To give just one example, I certainly could not quote verbatim, as Jost did at my preliminary exam, and, mind you, without any preparation (utterly *ex tempore*), from Oswald von Wolkenstein’s “Es fügt sich,” his autobiographical song in Middle High German. Yet, what made Jost stand out more than his breathtaking erudition was his unrelenting passion for literature and the arts at large, and his ability to communicate them as an indispensable vehicle for both understanding the past and serving as a harbinger for a more democratic, just, and inclusive society.

Peter Höyng, Professor of German Studies, Emory University

Very sad news, but his was a rich and long life. I had actually been thinking about Jost recently, wondering how he was, always amazed at his incredible productivity. Many of my favorite memories of my time in Madison are associated with him, things he said, how he taught. I remember when he played Richard Strauss’s *Metamorphosen* for us in class and his eyes welled up with tears, or when he told us at the beginning of a seminar on Heiner Müller that we shouldn’t write in our evaluations that he talked too much; when he offered me the “du” after I had passed my prelims and seemed himself relieved to be able to do away with the formalities; or when he boastfully told me about the hundreds of students who came to his lectures at the Humboldt University in Berlin. Naturally, I cherish these and other memories. Jost was a *Naturkraft*. A kind one, though.

Martin Kagel

Jost lived such an amazing life and touched us all in so many ways, both scholarly and personally. He was a towering figure who shaped Germanistik like few others in the field. He had recently invited me to join him in the position of co-editor of *German Life and Civilization* - work that takes on a whole new sense of urgency now as I carry on Jost’s legacy while also being mindful of the enormous responsibility it is to assume direction for the series and follow in his great footsteps. I count myself as extremely fortunate to have experienced Jost as a stellar teacher and as a patient and helpful mentor for my own scholarship, but perhaps most of all as a kind friend.

Kristopher Imbrigotta, Ph.D 2013

Jost was a towering intellectual, but what I loved most about him was his human side. He once confided that he had given up drinking alcohol but would continue to smoke, convinced that quitting one unhealthy habit would justify the other. (He truly believed that logic!) He was modest and unpretentious when he could have lived an upscale lifestyle. At one time, Jost and Jim Steakley even had an ongoing competition over which of their old, beat-up cars would last the longest. (Jost won.) Jost refused to relinquish his manual typewriter for a computer, yet despite never using modern technology, he was an extraordinarily productive scholar. He was both brilliant and humble, a giant in his field and down to earth. Our lives are richer for having known him.

Joan Leffler

Jost was a towering figure intellectually, of course, but I’ll remember him most for the great joy he took in his work and the many small gestures of kindness, principle, and good humor that marked his presence in the department. His example helped me through some tough times as a young graduate student by reminding me about what had drawn me to the humanities in the first place and why graduate studies were worth pursuing. As I recall, Jost’s standard advice to those in doubt was “Sei schlau, bleib im Überbau.” I’m very glad I took it.

Eric Jarosinski

During the course of this fall semester when I have been teaching my survey course on German literature from 1750–1918 at the University of North Texas, there were several occasions when I was momentarily transported back to Jost’s graduate seminars. What was the significance of Heinrich Heine’s pointed critique against the *Romantische Schule*? Why was Adolph Menzel such an important painter of the *bürgerlicher Realismus*? What were the reasons for Nietzsche’s sudden falling out with Wagner? The answers to all these topics and more which I had incorporated into my teaching stem from Jost’s profound encyclopedic knowledge of German literature, history, and culture. His seminars weren’t just part of the Ph.D. course requirement but life-changing events. It is there where I discovered my passion for being a teacher and scholar. For this, I will always hold Jost dear in my memory and I am deeply grateful that I had the unique opportunity to learn from such a great mind.

Christoph D. Weber, Ph.D. 2009

Jost Hermand’s impact on my life as a mentor, colleague and friend has reverberated in my life for over half a century. He was such a brilliant, original and fearless scholar, his lectures always mesmerizing. Jost’s early, enthusiastic support of my research no doubt helped me find a place in the then male-dominated world of Kafka scholarship. I had been hoping to be with him to celebrate a belated 90th birthday or even a 95th. To say that I will miss him is a cliché that is absolutely true.

Evelyn Torton Beck, Ph.D. 1969

Recognition in the German Media

“Our” Professor Jost Hermand belonged to the world, and we must look for appraisals of what he accomplished far beyond the boundaries of Madison, Wisconsin, and to the German-speaking world and his associates there. They help us recognize his tireless devotion to his work and to the mission in life he had chosen. In the wake of his death, countless obituaries and tributes appeared in Germany that celebrate his life and honor his achievements.

Publishing houses where many of Hermand’s books appeared also put out notices of his passing, emphasizing his significance and praising his work. These include both **Peter Lang**, which has long published the series *German Life and Civilization* under Hermand’s editorship, and also the **Böhlau Verlag**. **C.H. Beck** publishers noted Hermand’s death by putting out a list of contributions concerning his work that have appeared in *literatur.de*.

The Hans-Mayer-Gesellschaft <https://www.hans-mayer-gesellschaft.de/>, which had presented Hermand with an honorary membership on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday, published a remembrance written by Heinrich Bleicher, which stressed the social-political relevance of Hermand’s contributions. Remembering that Hermand had once described Mayer as “one of the most important disturbers of the peace, an outsider, [...] or however one should call these partisan professors of the German spiritual and cultural life of the second half of the twentieth century,” Bleicher refers to Hermand in similar terms. He continues that Hermand had “represented the social significance of his profession in a most outstanding way.” In 2010, as a member of the *Schriftstellerverband VS*,



Photo: : Jost Hermand at the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Max Kade Institute, April 2009. Photo courtesy of Grant Petty.

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Photo: Jost Hermand with the plaque and his oak tree . Photo by Frank Trommler.



Photo: Jost Hermand in his office. Photo by Charles James.

Hermand had received Verdi's Leonhard Mahlein Medal, commended at that time for his "encyclopedic knowledge, his analytic skills, and his brilliant formulations," which made the political relevance of literature, the visual arts, and music accessible and comprehensible to his readers and his listeners.

Munich's *Süddeutsche Zeitung* published a lengthy piece by Peter Richter under the title "Literaturwissenschaftler Jost Hermand: Der Unerschrockene." https://www.sueddeutsche.de/kultur/jost-hermand-tot-nachruf-1.5437577?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=twitterbot&utm_campaign=1.5437577. Richter recalls his visit to Madison to meet the author of many highly accessible books and describes their conversations about a wide range of themes over coffee in a local diner. Recounting biographical details about the path that led Jost Hermand to the US and the Midwest, he comments on the benefits that resulted from being exposed to American pop culture as well as academic style. In the retelling of some of Jost Hermand's quips he paints a vivid picture of the witty and stimulating conversationalist he was.

Junge Welt brought news of Hermand's death in its Feuilleton section on October 12, <https://www.jungewelt.de/artikel/412284.literatur-erhellung-der-k%C3%BCnste.html> followed by an October 14 article by his former student Jürgen Pelzer; *Junge Welt* entitled *Die Gründe der Zersplitterung. Kultur als Utopie*: <https://www.jungewelt.de/artikel/412425.kulturwissenschaft-die-gr%C3%BCnde-der-zersplitterung.html?sstr=jost%7Chermand> Pelzer draws attention to Jost Hermand's stance on environmental issues as a central theme in his work since the 1980s and to his attempts to challenge the rift of so-called high and low culture by exposing the roots of this fragmentation from a perspective of cultural history.

Neues Deutschland featured an article by Erik Zielke on October 13 <https://www.nd-aktuell.de/artikel/1157526.jost-hermand-geschichtsbewusster-grenzgaenger.html?sstr=jost|hermand>, declaring the two volumes of *Kulturgeschichte der Bundesrepublik* his *opus magnum* and lauding Jost Hermand for remaining a critical and prolific mind whose distant-but-intimate views of German literature were inspired by two of his favorite progressive writers, Heinrich Heine and Bertolt Brecht.

Tributes of praise for Hermand's contributions resounded everywhere, underscoring his importance throughout the German literary world. We are grateful for the permission to reprint the contribution by Andreas Plathaus that appeared in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* on October 12, 2021, in full:

His research was without boundaries. The Germanist Jost Hermand has died

Whoever was born in Kassel and died in Madison, Wisconsin, has covered a good bit of territory. Unfortunately, many in the twentieth century were coerced into such a situation. Jost Hermand, however, emigrated to America by his own choosing. His moves earlier had not been conditioned by such freedom of choice. As a ten-year-old he had been sent in connection with the National Socialist Evacuation Program for Children (*Kinderlandverschickung*) from Berlin, where his family was living, to occupied Poland. His experiences at the time of his escape from there in the year 1945—then 15 years old—firmly cemented his stance against National Socialism. This became clear a decade later, when Hermand went from West Germany, where he had studied, to the GDR—admittedly only to be expelled again two years later. Nevertheless, this for him did not cast doubt on his socialist convictions. He continued to remain true to them from 1958 on, as he sought his academic fortune in the United States. He found it quickly in the Department of German of the University of Wisconsin in Madison. His stay there was to last for more than 60 years.

Hermand's domains were the history of his homeland's art and literature in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, but the longer he continued his research, the more current his themes became. His geographical and ideological distance from the Federal Republic made his history of the culture of the first 20 postwar years of West Germany [*Kultur im Wiederaufbau*], which appeared in 1986, into an eagerly and widely received book. It helped that Hermand from his American perspective had already introduced the buzzword "Pop" into the scholarly discourse at the beginning of the 1970s, while most of his colleagues at that time were still turning up their noses at it. With this he stood on the side of the winning culture, and shortly thereafter he was regarded for this reason as a pioneer in his discipline.

But what was his discipline? What distinguished his texts and teaching was his effort to connect the different arts: the visual with the literary. That was fruitful for his study of Menzel, Heine, or Brecht; and his approach is—even if one does not share Hermand's hope for an art that is evaluated solely "according to the criteria of an assertive humanity"—still provocative in the German academic system, where one likes to distinguish cleanly between the disciplines. Thus Hermand established and encouraged a different trend in Germanistik, especially in his new adopted home. He died there on Saturday [October 9] at the age of 91. (*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, October 12, 2021; reprinted /with permission; translated by Cora Lee Kluge)

Jost Hermand Graduate Fund

Help us commemorate Jost Hermand's legacy by contributing to the Jost Hermand Graduate Fund. The fund was initiated in 2010 at the occasion of Jost Hermand's 80th birthday by German program alumni and long-time supporters Mary and Bill Seeger to aid the department in supporting graduate student funding including, but not limited to, travel and research.

Donate to the Jost Hermand Graduate Fund:

By Mail

Send a check made payable to the UW Foundation, indicating "Jost Hermand Graduate Fund – 132436936 German, GNS," to:

University of Wisconsin Foundation

US Bank Lockbox

P.O. Box 78807

Milwaukee, WI 53278-0807

Online: <https://secure.supportuw.org/give/> - enter: "Jost Hermand Graduate Fund"

Faculty News 2020

Salvatore Calomino

During last year I led a course on palaeography for graduate students in German and related fields. I combined this area with the gradual reopening of archival access for research at the Newberry Library, Chicago. Here I continue to work with late medieval manuscripts, as well as autobiographical records and music scores from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. These sources have contributed to an ongoing translation of the memoirs of Anna Bahr Mildenburg and a study on Christoph Willibald von Gluck, both topics showing reassessment based on earlier cultural models.

Monika Chavez

I presented virtually at two major research conferences (ACTFL & AATG) and have now resolved not to submit to another conference until it allows me to go out for a real dinner with real colleagues. My graduate students have soldiered on, passing exams, writing dissertations, collecting ‘human-subject’ data under extremely adverse conditions, and looking to the future. As director of the doctoral program in Second Language Acquisition, spending quiet times working from home has enabled me to write thousands of emails and participate in almost as many (or so it seems) on-line meetings.

Hannah Vandegrift Eldridge

A second pandemic year...in 2020/2021 I revived “Kafka and the Kafkaesque” (highlight: a student’s crocheted Gregor Samsa) and taught the senior seminar on “Was ist deutsch?” (highlight: a presentation on “Die vielfältige und schöne Sprache des Schweizerdeutschen”). My second book was accepted by Oxford University Press and I’m deep into the first chapter of a new project on the co-emergence of race theory and lyric theory in the 18th century. I was surprised and pleased to be awarded a Goethe Society of North America essay prize for an article on Klopstock and the Enlightenment, and I continue to enjoy working with our fantastic graduate students as Director of Graduate Studies - most recently a summer reading group on *Putting the Humanities PhD to Work!*

Julie Larson-Guenette

It was a busy year with pandemic challenges, but I assembled a team including graduate student Sophia Strietholt and undergraduates Anna Knudten and David Owen to present at GLAC in May. Along with Jeanne Schueller, we presented at the Central States Conference in March and again at WAFLT. This past fall I participated in a GSA seminar with graduate students Sophia Strietholt and Gemini Fox to learn more about incorporating the use of corpora in language teaching. I continue to direct Stockwerk Deutsch and have assumed coordination of German 249 (Intermediate Speaking and Listening).

Sabine Groß

In 2021, attending conferences and meetings via Zoom was the “new normal”. This summer, I concluded my six years as Honors Program Director and am returning to faculty life full-time with a research sabbatical. With Hannah Eldridge, I edited a *Monatshefte* Special Issue on Rhythm (documenting the 51st Wisconsin Workshop); now Sonja Klocke and I are planning the fall 2022 Wisconsin Workshop. Being honored with the university’s Hilldale Award in the Arts and Humanities and the Herder-Medaille from the International Herder Society were bright events in a year that challenged our students and all of us in ever-new ways.

Sonja Klocke

Above all, I am happy to be back in the classroom this fall, working face-to-face (if masked) with my students – who obviously are also excited to be back on campus! Despite some pandemic-related delays in academic publishing, I am happy to report that an article on right-wing extremism in Germany appeared late in 2020, another one on Heiner Carow’s film *Sheriff Teddy* (1957) will appear this fall, and three more articles were submitted this summer. While it was still impossible to hold in-person conferences this summer, I enjoyed presenting papers at two online conferences, one celebrating Kerstin Hensel in June, and the conference of the *Internationale Vereinigung für Germanistik* in late July.

Cora Lee Kluge

In the summer of 2021, I completed two years as president of the Society for German-American Studies. Because of the COVID pandemic, the organization’s annual symposium planned for April 2020 in Georgetown was canceled, and the April 2021 symposium scheduled for Madison turned into an unusual but surprisingly successful virtual conference. Planning conferences is difficult, but canceling them and re-structuring them proved equally challenging. I organized two SGAS Executive Committee meetings, traditionally held as two-day, in-person meetings, as half-day Zoom events, and I presented a paper at the SGAS in 2021 entitled “From German Medicine to War Propaganda: The ‘Hun Flu’ of 1918.” For the next two years, I continue to represent the group as a member of the board of Friends of the German Historical Institute.

Mark Loudon

Last year I published articles on linguistic aspects of mediation between Amish and Mennonites and health care providers, Pennsylvania Dutch language and identity, and minority Germanic languages around the world. The pandemic notwithstanding, I participated in 24 outreach events, most of which were virtual and (on the surface, anomalously) connected with my ongoing work with Amish and traditional Mennonite communities in North America. In the spring I cohosted two virtual conferences, the Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference–27 (with Katerina Somers) and the 45th Annual Symposium of the Society for German-American Studies, for which I serve as President.

Sabine Mödersheim

In this busy year with pandemic challenges and the renewed urgency of environmental and racial justice movements, it was necessary to pause and reflect on a meaningful, impactful, and transformative response to these global crises. Participating in an online research incubator workshop “Anthropocene for the Humanities: Values, Principles, and Practices”, I explored artworks by Otobong Nkanga that reflect the devastation of bodies and the earth in colonial and postcolonial exploitation in Namibia. Research for this project and on environmental history yielded rich materials for new courses on the African Diaspora in Germany and on German protest movements.

Pamela Potter

I sat out the pandemic with a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities, which enabled me to work on my book on Berlin as a music metropolis. “Virtually” I delivered a lecture in the spring at the symposium “Marx/ Wagner” at the *Deutsches Historisches Museum* in Berlin, gave lectures at Clark University and Western Michigan University, participated in a panel on Berlin’s image in the media at the annual meeting of the German Studies Association, and took part in a book launch of my co-edited volume, *Music in World War II: Coping with Wartime in Europe and the United States* (Indiana University Press, 2020).

Jeanne Schueller

A few events from the past year stand out for me and reflect how my pedagogical practices are shifting. A yearlong seminar I participated in on promoting inclusion, equity, diversity, and access in postsecondary language education was eye-opening and will inform my teaching practices and language program direction for years to come. A session I organized on language TA fatigue and burnout for the UW Language Institute’s Collaboratory, which promotes intercollegiate dialogue on the teaching of languages and cultures, was meaningful for all who attended. Finally, a workshop I attended on trauma-responsive teaching helped me understand how an invisible identity such as trauma affects learning and classroom behavior and offered strategies for compassionate teaching and creating a safe learning environment.

Marc Silberman

Cooped up at home owing to the pandemic, I found time not only to dig up invasive weeds in the woodland outside my house, but also to focus on various research interests. By the end of this year, my translations of Thomas Köck’s play atlas about Vietnamese in East and West Germany will be published by the online journal *The Mercurian* and some short prose texts by recently deceased Georgian-German writer Givi Margvelashvili will appear in the online journal *Delos*. Looking to the future, I’m helping with the organization of the next symposium of the International Brecht Society in December 2022 in Israel. Otherwise, I was excited to spend August and part of September in Berlin after an absence of 18 months with masked, capacity-limited theater, cinema, and museum visits.

Katerina Somers

My 2020/21 academic year was abridged in that I spent the fall semester on medical leave. In the spring, I was happy to return to the classroom, albeit in virtual space. I taught a new course, Barbarian Language and Culture, which looks at how the barbarian ideal has shaped national identities in Europe and North America. Teaching online during a global pandemic was an exhausting and rewarding experience; I believe I am now a better teacher because of it. Together with Mark Loudon, I organized and hosted the Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference, which took place in May. We had a record number of participants from around the world, one of the benefits of the online format. I also continued to work on my book, *Orality, Literacy and the Syntax of Early Medieval German*, which I hope to complete by the end of this academic year.

James Steakley

This year I was honored and humbled to receive a *Festschrift* marking my 75th birthday – quite possibly my best birthday gift ever. It’s entitled *Transatlantische Emanzipationen*, hearkening back to my 1975 book, *The Homosexual Emancipation Movement in Germany*. The volume’s 22 essays turn primarily on gay history and literary motifs. Contributors include the late, great Jost Hermand, my *Doktorvater* Sander Gilman, and Madison alumni Stephen Brockmann, Erik Jensen, and James Keller, along with other Germanists and historians in the US, Canada, Australia, Germany, Austria, and the Netherlands. (Scandinavian scholars dedicated an anthology of ten LGBTQ essays to me a decade ago.) I’m also pleased to have published *Schriftenverzeichnis Magnus Hirschfeld*, an expanded update to my 1985 bibliography of his writings with several hundred additional entries that have come to light over the ensuing years.

Adam Stern

In March 2021, I was pleased to see the publication of my first book, *Survival: A Theological-Political Genealogy* (University of Pennsylvania Press). Thanks to invitations from colleagues, I was able to present and discuss the book at a variety of venues, including Yale University, Pomona College, The University of Chicago, the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México in Mexico City, and here at UW–Madison. Although these events were limited by the pandemic, they did provide a much-needed opportunity for virtual travel.

Sunny Yudkoff

2021 was a year of virtual movement, as I had the chance to deliver talks via “zoom” in North Carolina, Michigan, and Massachusetts. Throughout the year, I also continued my research at the intersection of Yiddish text and image. What, I ask, does it mean to make Yiddish language seen? My work so far has focused on the book illustrations of Yiddish poet Jennings Tofel, the text-based painting of American conceptual artist Mel Bochner, and the family portraiture of German photographer Andreas Mühle.

Bringing the Turkish/Kurdish Experience to German+ Studies

In March 2021 our GNS+ colleague Faculty Associate Nâlan Erbil-Erkan (*she/her*) became affiliated with the German+ unit. Nâlan teaches Turkish language and culture courses, and holds an M.A. (2012) and Ph.D. (2018) in Asian Languages and Cultures with a Ph.D. Minor in Comparative Literature from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Previously she had received a B.A. (2007) in Western Languages and Literatures from Boğaziçi University in Istanbul, Turkey. She also serves as the Pedagogy Director of the Arabic, Persian, and Turkish Language Institute and the Turkish Flagship Language Initiative in the summer program.



Nâlan's research interests include nineteenth-century Ottoman and post-imperial Turkish literature; Turkish-German studies; migration; art, literature, and ethics; and social justice in language education. Her fields of research and teaching intersect in many ways with the German program's scope. Her knowledge about German speaking countries coming from the unwritten accounts of first, second, and third generation Turkish-Kurdish immigrants who are by now an *Almanıcı* (Deutschländer) branch of almost every extended family in Turkey, including her own. She is therefore particularly excited to teach a new course on Berlin-Istanbul connections this semester: A majority of the students taking the course expressed that they hadn't heard about the Turkish-Kurdish presence in Germany before reading the course description, which, she thinks, makes them even more enthusiastic about their discussions ranging from current elections in Germany to food, from hip-hop to soccer.

The German+ unit will benefit greatly from incorporating Nâlan's perspectives because Turkish speakers comprise a significant population in the German world and her research and teaching will contribute to a better understanding of Germany's Turkish/Kurdish communities. Furthermore, her approach will open avenues of reflecting how the discipline of *Germanistik* needs to incorporate these communities' contribution to German+ literature and culture, hence deepening their understanding of both cultures.

Nâlan shares that she is a first-generation college graduate and first in her extended family to have a PhD. and that her upbringing in rural Turkey in a working-class monolingual family sharpened her awareness about underrepresented groups in academia. "My ancestors are nomadic goatherders (*yörüks*) from the West Taurus Mountains in Anatolia" she says, and adds that despite other socio-cultural differences, she relates to first-generation students and faculty members from predominantly rural parts of the state. Outside the campus, she enjoys conversations with friends accompanied by Turkish tea.

Article links:

Arabic, Persian, and Turkish Language Institute - <https://aptli.wisc.edu/>

Turkish Flagship Language Initiative - <https://turfli.wisc.edu/>

yörüks - <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-turkey-nomads/turkeys-last-nomads-roam-anatolia-idUSKBN1K21UP>

“A Community of Shared Values”: Sabine Gross Receives Hilldale Award

In Spring 2021, Sabine Gross received the Hilldale Award in the Arts and Humanities category, given for distinguished achievements in teaching, research, and service (<https://news.wisc.edu/four-faculty-receive-2021-hilldale-awards/>)

Griebsch-Bascom Professor of German Sabine Gross is a scholar whose research spans poetry, theater, literary analysis, philosophy, and many other fields. She has authored dozens of publications on modern writers, Enlightenment thinkers, and visual culture. She helped spur the development of new fields of inquiry with wide-ranging and influential scholarship ahead of its time. For a quarter-century, Gross has led a unique class in which students intensively study and then perform a German-language play. Through the course, Gross connects with other

German programs across the UW–System and with German speakers in the state and often arranges a residency for German directors. For this and a diverse array of other undergraduate and graduate courses, Gross has received high marks from students and was awarded the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award in 1999.

Gross also served as director of the Honors Program in the College of Letters & Science, which serves more than 1,500 students. Since 2015, she has worked to expand and update the program. Over the last year, Gross ushered the Honors Program through the pandemic, including by developing small-group seminars to maintain close student-faculty relationships. "Sabine Gross is well known and admired for her brilliant interdisciplinary scholarship, her innovative and inspiring teaching, and her unparalleled service, both within the Department of German, Nordic and Slavic and across campus," says department chair Thomas DuBois.

On the occasion of the award, Sabine offered the following remarks:

Recognition by one's colleagues is a wonderful thing, and I'm so grateful – to the committee for selecting me, and to my colleagues, for nominating me. Being rewarded for what one loves to do – life doesn't get much better. I served on the Divisional Committee in the early 2000s, and I vividly remember the annual Hilldale award nominations. Those distinguished colleagues seemed like a different species; so belonging to that group now feels pretty special.

But this reward is not just for me as an individual. Almost 30 years ago, I came to Madison, to DeJope, a beautiful place surrounded by lakes. We have a troubled history with those who lived here before us, and a commitment to be aware of the thousands of years of lived and spiritual indigenous history. We live here in the enduring presence of the Ho-Chunk community on whose land we're building a newer presence and shared future. Almost 30 years ago, I joined this university feeling that I would come into a community, not just a job. Over the years, I have worked collaboratively with many dozens of colleagues on this campus on research projects, in teaching and outreach - and with hundreds of people in administrative work. Much of that has been deeply gratifying.

That sense of community began with the colleagues who first welcomed me into the Department of German. I remember nights working late in Van Hise – no one had a computer at home then – and colleagues would stop by, offer encouragement and resources: an article, a book, a citation, an idea. Klaus Berghahn (in whose footsteps I'm thrilled to follow: Klaus received the Hilldale award in 2006), Nancy Kaiser, Valters Nollendorfs, Hans Adler, Cora Lee Kluge, Jost Hermand, Marc Silberman, and others opened doors and held them open for me; and it has been a special pleasure to continue this culture of support for younger colleagues.

There are other ways in which my achievements are not just my own. Years ago, I heard Chancellor Blank talk at a Women Faculty Mentoring celebration about choosing the right partner as an important ingredient of success. In Marcus Bullock, I've had the incredible good fortune to find a partner who has provided unconditional support for more than 10 years - first when I chaired the Department of German (before the merger with Nordic and Slavic), and then directing the Letters & Science Honors Program. There were many long nights on campus, and when I would call home to announce an even later return, Marcus's response was without fail a cheerful: "I'll have tea ready: what kind would you like?"

Our university fosters the mutual enrichment of teaching and research and service and outreach, as part of a land-grant ethos and a commitment to our students that I find deeply meaningful and that I share with so many others on this campus. We educate students and send them out into the world from this exceptional public university. This campus is my intellectual home base, my community of colleagues and friends. You have honored me as an individual, but also as a member of a community of shared values. Thank you.



New Materials for Cutting-Edge Research Through a Library Collections Enhancement Initiative Grant

By Hannah Vandegrift Eldridge

In 2019, I collaborated with German Humanities Librarian Kevin Kurdylo and co-sponsors Weijia Li and B. Venkat Mani to apply for grant to build library collections on campus. Our topic, “Race, Migration, and Critical Whiteness Studies in the German and European Context,” was funded by the University of Wisconsin–Madison Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education and Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation in December 2019. Kevin has spent the past months tirelessly tracking down novels, poetry collections, scholarly monographs and collections, and films to build its focus! The topics in this the collection represent a major direction of inquiry for German Studies and for the Humanities in the twenty-first century, and having them in Memorial Library puts materials for cutting-edge research in German, European Studies, Communication Arts, History, and beyond at the fingertips of faculty and students in those departments. Faculty and graduate students in the Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic+ are already using these collections for both courses and research projects. A quick look just at the conference sessions at the 2021 German Studies Association Conference shows just how central this area is to German Studies: there were sessions on “The New Media of Migration,” “Intersectional Collaborations on the Uses of Anger by Women of Color,” “Transnational Germans,” “The Metaphysics of Racism,” “The Politics of Home,” “Asian-German Relations,” “Germany, the Americas, and Colonialism,” “Migration and Ethno-nationalism in Germany from the Late 1980s to Today,” “Minoritized Voices—Decolonizing the East German Experience,” “A Celebration of New Monographs in Black German Studies,” “Encounters with (Colonial) Otherness,” “German-East Asian Encounters,” “Black Radical Historiography & Internationalism,” “Black European Junctions,” “German Colonialism and its Afterlives,” “Reexamining the Turkish German Archive(s),” “Black German Corporealities and Embodiment,” “Nazi German-Asian Connections,” “Black and Queer in the City,” and more. These are crucial conversations for the field, and having this collection enables our faculty, students, and staff to take part as active participants and shape their work around the turbulent discussion of the future of our disciplines.

Check out the Collection Guide and let us know what you’re excited to read: <https://researchguides.library.wisc.edu/Race-Migration-and-Critical-Whiteness-Studies!>



German Graduate Program News

Our graduate students continued to demonstrate remarkable resilience through the unprecedented times of the ongoing Covid19-pandemic. They adapted quickly and transitioned back and forth between online teaching- and learning-formats, and achieved a number of great successes. This fall, we welcomed two graduate students pursuing a PhD in German and one student pursuing a joint German and SLA PhD degree.

Berni Beringer has started the PhD program (German) in the department of German, Nordic, Slavic+ at UW-Madison in the fall of 2020, and he is very grateful that the department was able to make arrangements for him to participate in online classes remotely from Freiburg, Germany. He is very happy that he was able to move to Madison in January, where he was cordially welcomed by professors and colleagues alike. Berni is now very excited about this new academic year and he is looking forward to working on potential publications.

Melanie Bernstein has been happy to be admitted to the program last year and was able to join online classes from abroad. She is even more excited to be taking in person classes this year. She participated in a variety of German and SLA classes and is eager to start preparing for her prelims next year as well as planning on going to conferences.

Hannah Brewer-Jensen: After joining the graduate program in 2020, Hannah is excited to fully be able to experience all that UW has to offer. After exploring multiple linguistics courses over the past year and helping to host the Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference (GLAC-27) in May, 2021, she is interested in further pursuing linguistic studies. She will be taking her MA exams in spring, 2022.

Alayna Bruney received a Graduate School Fellowship for fall 2021 and spring 2022. In summer 2021, she also was the recipient of a fellowship from the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies to complete a Yiddish language summer course (level 3) at the YIVO-Bard Summer Program.

Morgan Cacic earned her master’s degree in German Studies in the spring of 2021 after giving birth to her son Brewer in February. While she already has plans for her dissertation, she is currently taking off a year, and we are looking forward to welcoming her back in the fall of 2022.

Lauren Cassidy is a third-year graduate student in the Department of German, Nordic, Slavic+. She received her master’s degree in German Studies from the department in the spring of 2021 and is now working towards her preliminary exams for her doctorate degree. Before coming to the University of Wisconsin, Lauren taught English from 2018–2019 through the Fulbright Austria program. Her current research interests include East German memory and East German/Russian relations.

Robin Cummins received their MA in May of 2021. Their article on the *Hildebrandslied* has also been accepted for a forthcoming book on Germanic philology.

Leah Ewing is working on her dissertation, comparing the features of various English translations of German plays as they relate to performance practice. She is currently examining political subtleties in translations of Brecht’s *Der gute Mensch von Sezuan*. Over the summer she taught in the high school credit program at Concordia Language Villages, where her students successfully tried their hand at writing and performing a piece of Epic Theatre.

Nicole Fischer had an article “Teaching Self-Regulated Learning in Combination with Sustainability and Community Engagement” accepted by *Unterrichtspraxis* and gave papers virtually at the Medieval Congress and at the interdisciplinary conference “Vor ‚Novalis‘ – Friedrich von Hardenbergs Jugendnachlass 1788–1791: Kontexte, Korpus, Konsequenzen” (Erlangen-Nürnberg) as well as the Graduate Early Modern Student Society Symposium. She attended the Harvard Institute for World Literature and expanded her teaching portfolio through a teaching practicum in the mid-level course on Black German Literature and Culture.

Gemini Fox presented in a conference seminar alongside Julie Larson-Guenette and Sophia Strietholt for the 2021 GSA Conference on the topic of using corpora as a learning tool to encourage learner autonomy and more expressive language.

Matthew Greene is at work on his dissertation, investigating and considering alterity in German-language literature. At the moment, he’s tracing the semantic and social developments of the word and idea “deutsch” and how that comes to the fore in texts produced by migrants, minorities, and LGBT+ individuals. In May 2021, Matthew presented (virtually) at the University of Leuven’s conference *World Literature and the Minor*, and participated in the UW–Madison Yiddish Research Seminar *The Yiddish Object*. In July 2021, Matthew began working as the Mosse Annotation Project Assistant in the George L. Mosse Program in History, and in early October 2021 he was accepted into the inaugural cohort of the Oxford School of Rare Jewish Languages for a year-long course in Judeo-Italian.

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Carsten Haas received his MA in May 2021, presented a paper on “Member-for-Member Metonymy in Beowulf and Skaldic Verse” at the Vagantes Medieval Studies Conference in March 2021, and spent the summer of 2021 serving as a contributing editor of the Old English Poetry in Facsimile project.

Elin Limburg passed her MA exam focused on world literature, social justice, and decolonizing the curriculum and the canon with flying colors in spring of 2021. She’s interested in how literary works can help us challenge and problematize narrow views of ‘Germaness’ and is exploring a focus on teaching literature in translation and teaching literature with a transnational perspective. This fall, Elin is one of the TAs teaching German+’s newly-chosen textbook, *Augenblicke*, in German 101.

Mav Masterson: After a fantastic M.A. exam on language norms and their transgression in literature and linguistics (spring 2021), Mav Masterson is pursuing interests in the ways literary texts question and creatively destroy language, including through creative engagement with gendered language. Over the summer they presented at two conferences on related topics, and this fall they’re continuing study of Norwegian and building their theoretical toolbox with a feminist theory course while also teaching German 102.

Ian McQuiston is in the final stages of his dissertation studying the shifting perceptions in Germany since 1989 of the two largest post-Soviet migrant communities, Russian Germans and Russian Jews. He is currently tracing the changes in public sentiment regarding these communities following the radical change in German immigration policy following a large increase in asylum seekers in the summer of 2015. He received a Graduate School Fellowship in spring 2021 and a Chancellor’s Fellowship in summer 2021 to work on this project. In addition, he worked as a Project Assistant in the summer of 2021, providing copyediting assistance on a book manuscript on the role of narrative in American and German criminal justice systems by Professor Ralph Grunewald of the English Department.

Nick Ott joined UW-Madison’s German program in fall 2020, is already preparing for his MA exam, and received a FLAS grant to improve his Portuguese over the summer at Middlebury Language Schools.

Dis/Continuities: German Studies and Beyond

52nd Wisconsin Workshop in Honor of Marc Silberman

Sept 29 – Oct 1 (Thu-Sat), 2022

Alumni and colleagues in German, please mark your calendars for the 52nd Wisconsin Workshop at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Sonja Klocke and Sabine Gross are organizing the Workshop. Details about the program will follow closer to the date. Expect a convivial opening dinner and two days of lively exchange in areas that Marc and his students have helped shape – theater and performance, cinema, GDR culture, migration, and more. A block of rooms will be reserved for visitors. We hope to see many of you at this conference and reunion!

Contact: sgross@wisc.edu; sklocke@wisc.edu

Lisa Steiner joined the PhD program (German) in the department of German, Nordic, Slavic+ in the fall of 2020, and she is very thankful for this opportunity given by the department. She arrived in Madison in the Spring 2021 and is very happy to be a part of the GNS+ family. Lisa is looking forward to the new academic year and working on her research and future publications.

Sophia Strietholt passed her Prelims in October 2020 and presented a paper at the 27th Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference and led a workshop at the 45th German Studies Association Annual Conference.

Brandy Wilcox, PhD candidate, recently presented her paper, “Hast du schon lügen gelernt?: Sex, Truth, and Loyalty in Fairy-tale Film after DEFA” at the German Studies Association conference on the DEFA@75 panel. Her article, “Pregnancy, Purity, and Body Autonomy in ‘New Originals’ of Rapunzel” appeared in Spring 2021 in the *German Quarterly*. Earlier this year she presented her work on modern, US-American remediations of “Der Froschkönig” at the Northeast Modern Language Association’s annual convention, a chapter version of which will appear as part of an edited volume on remediation

Recent Graduates - Alumni News:

Mélanie Yœurp defended her dissertation “Generational Legacies in Family Life Narratives: Re-Examining the Mother Figure as Nazi Sympathizer at the Millennial Turn” in fall 2019. After giving birth to her daughter Flora, Mélanie has landed a great job at Epic in Madison.

Richard Hronek and his wife welcomed their daughter Marlow Millicent and moved to Greensboro (NC) where Rich accepted a teaching position as lecturer of German at the UNC Greensboro.

Julia Anderlé de Sylor transformed her dissertation into a book that was published under the title *The Heimatklänge and the Danube Swabians in Milwaukee: A Model of Holistic Integration for a Displaced German Community* with Peter Lang in 2021.

Undergraduate Program News

Awards Banquet

Celebrating Our Students – On Zoom

Rather than meeting in person, this year we celebrated our students via Zoom in an Awards Ceremony that featured Emily Janicik’s speech on “The Defining Factor of My Undergraduate Career” and the induction of students into the Delta Phi Alpha Honor Society. “The National German Honor Society, Delta Phi Alpha, seeks to recognize excellence in the study of German and to provide an incentive for higher scholarship. The Society aims to promote the study of the German language, literature and civilization and endeavors to emphasize those aspects of German life and culture which are of universal value and which contribute to humanity’s eternal search for peace and truth.”

Klaus L. Berghahn Award: Jacob Bartelt

Lisbeth Pisk Award: Paula Filios

Pisk and Ronda Broatch Family Award: Bella Lund

University of Wisconsin–Madison

German+ Undergraduate Awards

April 23, 2021

Celebrating Our Students

WELCOME

“German at UW-Madison:
The Defining Factor of My
Undergraduate Career”
Emily Janicik

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Undergraduate Achievement:
Intermediate

Undergraduate Achievement:
Advanced

Klaus L. Berghahn Award

Lisbeth Pisk Award

Pisk and Ronda Broatch
Family Award

Dr. Karl Oskar and Theodora
Pisk Award

DELTA PHI ALPHA INDUCTION

Thank you for joining us!



Follow us on social media!
Facebook: @UWGerman
Twitter: @UWGermanEvents
Instagram: @GermanUWMadison

Intermediate Awards

Isa Barth
Grace Bauernfeind
Alex Binley
Gretchen Bruhn
Austin John Carlson
Hunter Cochran
Annabel Frake
Laura Kelley
August Lambrecht
Jacob Lebowitz
Ann Marie Lunney
Allison Michaels
Cole Migas
Raveena Mishra
Cheryl Mulor
Hans Purisch
Colleen Quinn
Mara Rodewald
Zachary Schumacher
Brenna Simmons
Klaus Wang
Rex Wenger
Brian Wiedenfeld

Klaus L. Berghahn Award
Lisbeth Pisk Award
Pisk and Ronda Broatch Family Award
Dr. Karl Oskar and Theodora Pisk Award

Delta Phi Alpha



Advanced Awards

Samuel Charnon
Aleksander Cwalina
Aaron Greenberg
Charlotte Herbolzheimer
Lauren Iverson
John Kappler
Robijn Kleijwegt
Kevin Koesser
Kate Krueger
Anna Lied
Eric Martin
Andrew Marco
Milena Maroske
Josh Riebe
Rachel Riese
Lizzie Schuetz
Allison Sundeen
Molly Teske
Joey Washburn
Claire Wierschke
Ge Xu
Nick Zeinemann

Jacob Bartelt
Paula Filios
Bella Lund
Emily Janicik

Jacob Bartelt
Clarice Danen
Charlotte Herbolzheimer
Emily Janicik
Valentino Juergens
Emma McKeel
David Owen
Alannah Rapp
Sarah Wilhite

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German at UW–Madison: The Defining Factor of My Undergraduate Career

German Awards Speech by Emily Janicik

Hello everyone! My name is Emily Janicik, and I am a senior majoring in German and Economics. To begin, I would like to extend many thanks to the University of Wisconsin–Madison German Program for hosting this event, all the generous donors, including Ms. Lisbeth Pisk, Professor Venkat Mani for nominating me for this award, and all the faculty, students, family, and friends here today. I am honored to accept the Dr. Karl Oskar and Theodora Pisk Award and am thrilled to tell you about my experience with German studies at UW–Madison.



Coming into college, I knew that I wanted to continue to study German, but I had no idea how much of an impact it would make on my experience here. Starting out in German 284, I was incredibly intimidated by taking a six-credit honors course in my first semester of college. Although the course was difficult, I thoroughly enjoyed my experience and learned so much along the way. After my first semester, I was hooked and knew I would major in German and continue to take courses throughout my college experience. I can confidently say I've enjoyed every single course I've taken. Of course, there were times when I didn't want to read 50 pages of Kafka for Vorbereitung or complete Konjunktiv exercises, but I can walk away and say I've learned meaningful content in German classes, something that is not true for other courses I've taken.

An important turning point happened spring of my sophomore year in German 411 with Professor Mani. Our four-person class started a unit on refugees within the context of Germany, which I had learned little about in the past, but my interest was piqued. Learning about Germany's history of Gastarbeiter and how they dealt with the 2015 refugee crisis was so impactful to me, and I wanted to continue this inquiry. After approaching Professor Mani to become a mentor for a summer apprenticeship with the L&S Honors Program, my German research career began, and it has defined my undergraduate experience since.

That summer, I helped Professor Mani find documents at the United Nations High Commission for Refugees archives as he traveled to Geneva, Switzerland, and I learned valuable research skills. He then invited me to take a graduate course he was teaching about refugees, and I began the foundations of my senior thesis, *Xenophobic Policies in the Name of Gratitude: Refugee Experiences with the German and Austrian Governments*. Professor Mani encouraged me to apply for grants that would allow me to conduct research in Europe after my study abroad semester in Vienna ended. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, I was not able to stay in Vienna, but I adjusted my research and continued on. Although this process has been challenging to say the least, I have learned so much valuable content and skills that I would not have encountered otherwise.

German studies at UW–Madison addresses not only language acquisition, but also cultural themes, which I am grateful for. From refugees to letter writing to folklore, each class extends outside of the classroom, and I find connections to the real world every day. The students and faculty that facilitate these courses go above and beyond to create meaningful ideas and conversations, which I will carry with me after my time here. Not only does the German program engage with German cultures, we often explore the intersection of American and other cultures as well. The COVID-19 pandemic, German-Wisconsin history, and the Black Lives Matter movement all have been discussed in my courses as important themes. Through my time here, my reading, analysis, and conversational skills have been strengthened and my perspective has been broadened.

When thinking about how German has impacted my life, it's hard to put it into words. I have been learning German since age 11, and it's been a constant in my life. Learning a new language can be frustrating, yet incredibly rewarding at the same time. This language has taught me to work hard, persevere, and push myself to excel. German has allowed me to connect with so many students from different backgrounds, whether they grew up speaking the language at home, learned it in school, or are even learning it as a third or fourth language. I am constantly challenged to think in new ways, which has benefited me as a student and global citizen. I am so grateful for the people and experiences it has brought me, and I don't plan on ending my studies any time soon.

I would like to give a special thank you to Professor Mani for being the best mentor and thesis advisor one could ask for. Your dedication, encouragement, and wisdom have helped me get to where I am today, and I cannot thank you enough. Again, thank you to the German Program for hosting this event, and congratulations to all of the students here tonight. Danke schön!!

Lisbeth Pisk Awardee Paula Filios: Discovering Black German Literature

As a German major in the department, some of the most rewarding experiences I have had thus far have been through my advanced electives courses. These courses allowed and continue to allow me to view the German language through different lenses. They address nuanced topics in German language and culture, with both enthusiastic students and professors which leads to insightful discussions! In the 2021 spring semester I was fortunate to have the opportunity to take an elective on the topic Black German Literature. While the department as a whole works to provide diverse and inclusive materials in the curriculum, this course opened my eyes to a whole new world of material. The pervasive narrative of Germany, especially in secondary education, tends to revolve around the stereotypical traditional southern German identity. While this is obviously inaccurate for many reasons, it especially neglects the reality that diverse identities have been present but neglected for much of Germany's history. Exploring this fact through the consumption of Black German music, poetry, books, media, and spoken word was enlightening. Learning the history of the Black diaspora with relation to Germany and its colonial times, as well the modern day efforts to strengthen the Black community and racial justice in Germany broadened my view of what it means to be German. We discussed works of many Black Germans who are active in their community such as Tupoka Ogette, Alice Hasters, Sharon Dodua Otoo, Sammy Deluxe, and Aminata Toure to name a few. Through my semester project on the impact of social media on the Black German Community I have been connected with a vast online network of Black German activists. This is a gift from the course that keeps on giving, as I continue to be able to interact with and consume media from diverse German sources on platforms such as Instagram, Spotify, and YouTube. I've come into a whole new world of topics in the German language through which I can remain observant of the dynamic reality of Germany today.



German Club

German Club is meeting again in person since pre-Covid for Stammtisch in the Rathskeller and other activities! UW German Club is for anyone interested in learning more about the German language and culture! We host a bi-weekly German conversation table (called "Stammtisch") as well as events throughout the semester. Stammtisch is held every other Tuesday at 7:00 PM in the Memorial Union Rathskeller. It's a great way to meet other German speakers and practice your German in a fun, casual setting outside of the classroom. We welcome all members of the community! You do not have to be a student to attend. All levels of German are welcome.

Connect on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/252293088142844/>

Stockwerk Deutsch Update

It's great to be back in-person! The International Learning Community (ILC) and Stockwerk Deutsch welcomed Patricia Haberkorn as the new Graduate Language Program Coordinator (GLPC). Patricia is a doctoral student in German and Second Language Acquisition. Julie Larson-Guenette continues in her role as the director of Stockwerk Deutsch teaching a one-credit seminar titled "Die Wende und die 90er: A decade like no other!" This past fall the Stockis have participated in ice-skating, a daytrip to Miller Park (Go Brewers!), karaoke nights, a baking session (Apfelkuchen!) along with alternating craft, game and movie nights, including making lanterns for St. Martin's Day.

Photo (left to right): Layne Gebert, Juliana Loehr, Bri Saenz, Patricia Haberkorn, T. Innis, Bella Blaetter, Olivia Melson. (Front) Lauren McKay



Academic Year in Freiburg



Academic Year in Freiburg Resumes After Covid Hiatus

Ulli Struve was excited to welcome a new cohort of *Academic Year in Freiburg* students this fall: "BADGERS ARE BACK IN FREIBURG!!! It's been absolutely wonderful to welcome our Academic Year in Freiburg 21-22 students to Freiburg this week. With 3G Rules and precautions, life is beginning to return to Freiburg University and to the AYF office."

Evan Keamoku Lee, recipient of the Madison-Freiburg Sister City Scholarship, gets ready to pursue his studies with an eye on graduate school: "This will be my 5th year in higher education, I am extending my time as an undergraduate to pursue this opportunity. I have long-term goals of either residing in Europe, or working with the German language on a daily basis. My professional training has been in the historical discipline; this year I completed a 71-page senior thesis on the politics of forced labor in the Third Reich. The intention is to leverage my scholarship into a history PhD program after graduation. Not only will a year in Freiburg constitute a new, exciting event, but a possibility to seek academic connections. The Universität Freiburg is exceptionally well suited in this regard. For many decades, one of the leading historians of National Socialist forced labor 'Dr. Ulrich Herbert' taught at the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität. His monograph on the subject (*Hitler's Foreign Workers: Enforced Foreign Labor in German under the Third Reich*) is a defining element within my own writing. As I plan to expand my work to other areas in the history of the National Socialist economy, the opportunity to work with German and European professionals is unprecedented."

The students went on the traditional hiking tour with friends from the Freiburg-Madison-Gesellschaft (pictures here: http://www.freiburg-madison.de/whats_new.htm) and visited Strasbourg, a special treat for history and political science buffs.

Photos:

Top left - Jacob Broehm on a visit to Strasbourg. Bottom left - "In political science heaven!" at the Parlement européen de Strasbourg. Photos courtesy of Jacob Broehm

AYF Alumni Club

The AYF Alumni Club, the alumni association of the Academic Year in Freiburg program (formerly Junior Year in Freiburg), has two chapters, one based in the USA <https://www.ayf-alumni.com/> and one based in Germany <https://www.ayf-alumni.de>. They both support the AYF program in fostering intercultural exchange and an appreciation of American and German cultural differences and similarities.

The support we received from the AYF program was vital to our successful study abroad experiences, language study, and cultural integration in Germany. We wish to pay this forward by supporting AYF and its student participants. By doing so, we hope that current and future generations of AYFers will also be able to develop an appreciation for Freiburg and the German way of life.

For 60 years, American students from universities nationwide have traveled to the gateway of the Black Forest, Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany, to study at Albert-Ludwigs-Universität. The program was founded in 1960 as Junior Year in Freiburg, and it is still going strong today under its new name Academic Year in Freiburg.

Do you have fond memories of your year abroad in Freiburg? Are you interested to see what former study abroad classmates are up to? Are you looking to reconnect or maybe you just fancy a trip down memory lane? Then join us in making AYF Alumni & Friends a lively forum for Freiburg Alumni from the JYF and AYF program, and don't be afraid to share your memories of life in Freiburg as well as your current pursuits!

We are looking forward to hearing from you and hope to welcome you soon as an official member of AYF Alumni & Friends or during a Reunion in Freiburg!

Photos:

Top Right - Ulli Struve with Badgers. Bottom Right - AYF students from Madison in front of Freiburg's City Hall. Photos courtesy of Ulli Struve



AYF 60+2 Anniversary Celebration and Reunion to be Held in 2022?

AYF alumni plan to meet in Freiburg in 2022, hopefully. Due to the pandemic, the 60th Anniversary Celebration and Reunion planned for 2020 had to be postponed after the City of Freiburg cancelled events celebrating the 900-Year Anniversary. Fingers crossed, the reunion will take place, after being cancelled twice, from July 7-10, 2022. For more information, please visit <https://www.ayf-alumni.de/ayf-anniversary-celebration-reunion-602-in-2022/>

If you would like to receive updates regarding the AYF Anniversary Celebration and Reunion, please provide your contact information through the RSVP Interest Survey page <https://www.ayf.uni-freiburg.de/alumni/visits/reunion-2022-survey/>



Why German?

Each spring, a number of our undergraduates win awards for their outstanding work in German. Here's what a few of them have to say about their experiences with German:

Isa Barth from Hartland, WI, is pursuing a major in Mathematics and a certificate in German.

Studying German in GNS has provided me with a connection to both a rich world of language and an incredible group of peers, and is a step towards creating a more globally involved and cognizant future for myself.



Aleks Cwalina Political Science and Journalism, Russian Flagship Program.

I study the German language because academically and professionally I focus on the European Union and Germany plays a crucial role in the politics of Central and Western Europe. Learning languages allows me to better understand not only the politics of a country but the culture that drives political thought among the country's citizens. "Walking a mile in their shoes," but through a linguistic and sociological lens. As one of Europe's predominant economies, Germany is also greatly influential beyond its own borders and is one of the great decision-makers of the EU and other international organizations. Personally, the language also allowed me to examine my relationship with further language learning and has led me to make many valuable connections at UW-Madison.



Jenny Davis from Glendale, WI, majors in German

Through learning German, I've met so many great people and learned about a fascinating language and culture. I hope to travel in the German-speaking countries in the future and use my German skills in my career.



Paul Lyons hails from Eau Claire, WI. He is pursuing a double major in German and Genetics/Genomics

Learning German at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has been a wonderful experience. The professors in these classes are always truly passionate about teaching students not only about modern and traditional German culture, but linguistic concepts as well. I recently traveled to Germany during the summer of 2021 to visit my former host family and they were all thrilled with how much my German had improved simply by taking college-level German courses; along with this, they were quite taken aback to hear me reference one of their coffee mugs with the four animals from *Bremer Stadtmusikanten*, an old German folk tale which I had learned about in one of my German courses. This German program not only helps to hone speaking, writing and comprehension abilities, but the ability to relate to and reference German culture as well, which I would argue is just as important as the language itself.



A bronze statue, titled *The Badger*, created by late Ho-Chunk artist Harry Whitehorse sits across from Camp Randall Stadium and the UW Field House at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on Sept. 17, 2019. (Photo by Bryce Richter / UW-Madison)

Dear Alumni, Friends, and Supporters of the German Program

During this time of upheaval and adjustments, creating opportunities for our students is more important than ever.

Your support is vital in allowing us to:

- Offer fellowships to high-achieving students
- Leverage high-impact teaching practices to enhance student learning
- Sustain the long, nationally recognized rigor and vitality of UW-Madison's German Program.

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

We invite you to join your fellow alumni, friends, and supporters who have made a gift to German! Your gift makes it possible for us to do more.

Use the following links to make an online gift directly to:

UNDERGRADUATE EXCELLENCE FUND (GERMAN)

<http://www.supportuw.org/giving?seq=17625>

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 HERMANN GRADUATE FUND

<http://www.supportuw.org/giving?seq=10349>

You can also find donation links and information at: <https://gns.wisc.edu/donate/>

Send a check made payable to the UW Foundation (indicate "German Department Enhancement Fund," "Undergraduate Excellence Fund (German)," "Netherlandic Studies Fund," or your choice of specific fund) to:

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN FOUNDATION
US Bank Lockbox, P.O. Box 78807
Milwaukee, WI 53278-0807

For questions, please contact Mark Loudon (mloudon@wisc.edu).

For planned giving, please contact Ann Lippincott (608-308-5320) or (ann.lippincott@supportuw.org).



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Why German?

Hear from some of our students on why they study German at UW-Madison!



Ken (Klaus) Wang from Beijing, China, is triple-majoring in Political Science, International Studies (Global Economy Track), and Journalism as well as earning certificates in German and Public Policy.

Studying German at UW-Madison not only helped me understand the German language, history, and culture, but also the German heritage in Wisconsin. I had the pleasure of featuring Prof. Mark Loudon on the Badger Herald podcast and had a conversation about the German cultural heritage in Wisconsin. When I first learned German, I had to choose between Spanish, French, Latin, and German. Eventually, I decided to study German because Germany has always been an important nation both economically and politically. As a political science student, I am deeply interested in international politics and institutions and it is extremely difficult to comprehend that without learning about Germany and its past. Learning German has helped reading some primary historical documents as well as deepen my understanding of German history, culture, and politics. More importantly, I have enjoyed learning the language and I was able to use what I learned in classroom when I studied abroad in Germany during high school; that was a great feeling. Studying German has helped me expand my personal network as well.

for more student experiences see page 22