



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

# Mitteilungen aus Madison

2024

NEWS FROM GERMAN AT UW-MADISON



Max Kade Writer in  
Residence: Ulrike Draesner  
page 4

Spotlight on the Classroom  
page 13

## Greetings from the German Program!



The 2024-25 academic year has gotten off to a great start for us. Our enrollments reached a record high this fall semester, spread across the undergraduate and graduate levels. We offered a total of six advanced-level undergraduate courses taught in German, including three new ones on the topics of *Asiatische Diaspora* (Asian Diaspora), *Nachkriegsdeutschland* (Postwar Germany), and *Grenzüberschreitungen* (Border Crossings). German-taught courses such as these are taken mostly by major and certificate students. For students who might not have knowledge of German, we offered ten courses in English this semester on topics that reflect the breadth of our faculty's research interests spanning German culture, literature, and linguistics as well as Dutch, Turkish, and Yiddish studies. Over the past several years we have seen steady growth in the popularity of our English-taught courses.

In the spring we celebrated our undergraduate award recipients for the 2023-24 academic year and inducted distinguished senior German majors into our chapter of the German National Honor Society, Delta Phi Alpha. Twenty-two students were recognized for outstanding achievement in intermediate-level coursework; another thirteen received advanced-level achievement awards. Every year we present four undergraduate German students with singular awards. Grace Bauernfeind received the Klaus L. Berghahn Award for an outstanding undergraduate paper written in German on a literary or cultural topic; Max Schmidt was the recipient of the Lisbeth Pisk Award for excellence at the sophomore level; Owen Pilot, a junior German major, received the Pisk and Ronda Broatch Family Award; and graduating senior Veronika Dethart was honored with this year's Dr. Karl Oskar and Theodora Pisk Award.

In May we recognized our graduate students who received their master's degree, passed their preliminary examination for the Ph.D., or successfully defended their doctoral dissertation during the past year. We are grateful for the continued strength of our graduate program and are excited to welcome five new students this fall, all of whom are teaching German language this semester. One special highlight of the fall semester was the 24th annual conference organized by our German and Dutch Graduate Student Association, which featured talks by students from our own program and several others across the U.S. The conference theme was "Movement in German and Dutch Studies," with the keynote address being delivered by Prof. Caroline Rieger (University of British Columbia). Our colleagues Profs. Mary Hennessy and Zach Ramon Fitzpatrick co-led a workshop on the topic of "Teaching Intersectionality with Moving Images."

Aside from the graduate student conference, this fall semester our program sponsored or cosponsored several public events, including five talks, four readings, two film screenings, and one symposium, "From Russia with German: Migration Experiences across Three Continents" organized by the Max Kade Institute for German American Studies. In addition to partnering with MKI, our program works closely with the UW Center for German and European Studies to sponsor a range of events that underscore the profound diversity of cultural expressions in the German-speaking world, past and present.

I want to recognize several colleagues who achieved milestones this year. In May, after over four decades at UW-Madison, Prof. Salvatore Calomino retired and was awarded emeritus status. His courses on medieval studies and philology were a mainstay of our offerings in older Germanic languages. In retirement, Sal continues his longstanding affiliation with the Newberry Library in Chicago as a Scholar-in-Residence. *Alles Gute, Sal!* This summer Prof. Sunny Yudkoff was named the Max and Frieda Weinstein Bascom Professor of Jewish Studies. Prof. Pamela Potter was awarded a WARF Named Professorship and is now the Michael Ochs Professor of German and Music. Prof. Melissa Sheedy, who joined our faculty in 2020, was appointed to the rank of Assistant Teaching Professor. And Prof. Jeanne Schueller, our Language Program Director and Director of Undergraduate Studies, received the 2024 Outstanding Educator Award at the university/collegiate level from the American Association of Teachers of German. Congratulations, Sunny, Pam, Melissa, and Jeanne!

All of us in the German program – or German+, as we often say, recognizing the inclusion in our unit of languages adjacent to German, including Dutch, Pennsylvania Dutch, Turkish, and Yiddish – are deeply grateful for the generous support of our donors, which enables us to sustain and grow our undergraduate and graduate programs and complement our curricular offerings through public events. Thank you so much for all you do on our behalf!

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Mark Loudon  
Head, German+ unit



College of Letters & Science  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

### Dean's Message

As we embark on another academic year, I look at all the work being done in the College of Letters & Science with remarkable pride. In our College, I see research opportunities that are fueling discovery, a curriculum that challenges students to think critically and alumni working across the state and world to make a difference in their communities.

The fundamental strength of our educational experience is that it is broad and inherently interdisciplinary. That diversity of thought, skills, backgrounds and lived experiences is what makes L&S such an extraordinary learning environment. And our unwavering commitment to the value of sifting and winnowing is what makes our education stand out. We're not just teaching students the knowledge of the world but helping them develop an understanding of how that knowledge is built. Every day we prepare our students with the tools they need to succeed and make their impact on an increasingly complex and nuanced society.

L&S remains at the heart of this vibrant university. Our faculty, students, alumni and staff continue to be recognized year after year for their teaching, research and service. We're also strengthening our investment in the sciences and the humanities with esteemed faculty hires, new research initiatives and plans for state-of-the-art facilities on campus.

I'm proud of what we're accomplishing in the College of Letters & Science, and I hope you are, too. Thank you for your continued support of L&S.

On, Wisconsin!

Eric M. Wilcots, Dean  
Mary C. Jacoby Professor of Astronomy



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Cover photo: Near Bascom Hall at the University of Wisconsin-Madison during autumn on November 11, 2021. (Photo by Bryce Richter / UW-Madison)

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## Faculty / Graduate Program

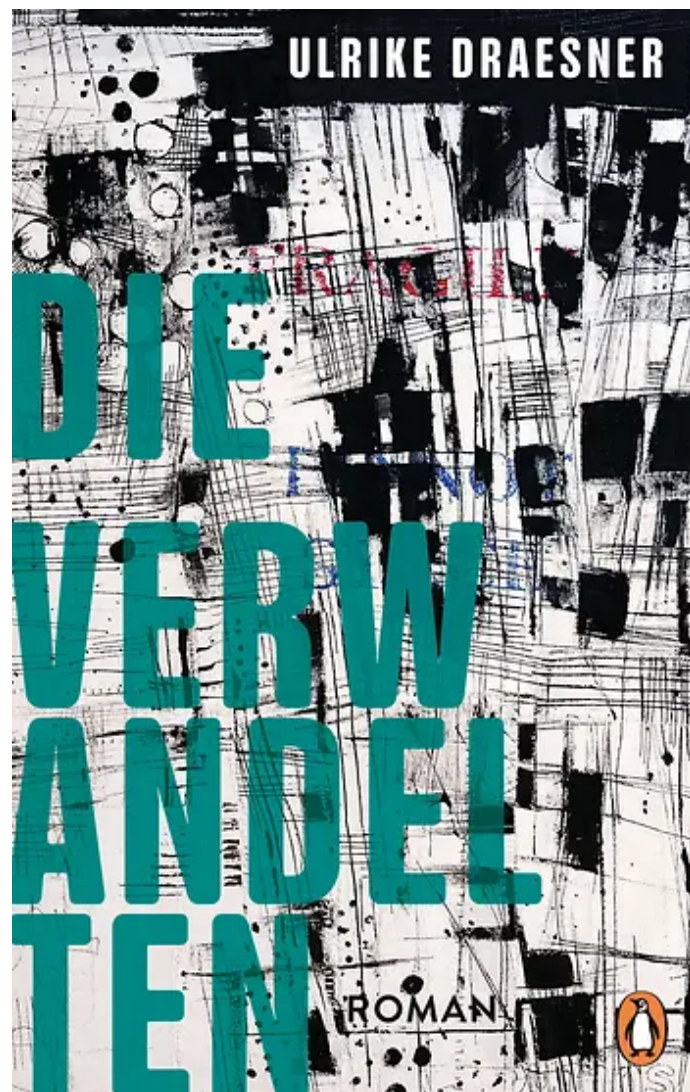
### Great opportunity for graduate students in fall 2024: Ulrike Draesner on campus as Max Kade Writer-in-Residence in the German program

By Cassandra Winkelman, Emerson McManus, and Lowell Ruck

When graduate students were excited to have the opportunity to engage with award-winning author, poet, and translator Ulrike Draesner in Madison during her time as Max Kade Writer in Residence. Alongside several volumes of poetry, short stories, and essays, her latest novels include *zu lieben* and *Die Verwandelten*. She writes regularly on life, nature, and space. Draesner is a member of the P.E.N. Germany, the Berlin Academy of the Arts, and the German Academy of Language and Poetry and recipient of numerous awards, most recently the Eichendorff Prize.

Among other events, we eagerly listened to Draesner present the first public reading of her newest novel, *zu lieben*, just days after it was published. Through memory and self-dialogue, the auto-fictional novel asks what it means to be and become a family. The same evening, Draesner presented selected poems in English and German, engaging us in a wide range of topics and writing styles. Following both reading experiences, we and other audience members were able to ask the author questions about her book, her poems, her writing process, and her personal relationship to the writings. Similarly, Cassandra Winkelman (ABD), attending the German Studies Association Annual Conference to present a paper, had the opportunity to see Draesner as part of Arts Night at the German Studies Association Conference as well as on a roundtable focusing on her writing.

Among other classes she visited, Ulrike Draesner was continuously present for six weeks in the senior capstone literature seminar “Borders and Border Crossings” taught by Professor Sonja Klocke, in which students read *Die Verwandelten*. The advanced undergraduate students enjoyed engaging with the author about the narrative, the writing process, and word choice, and upon finishing the book, they took the opportunity to have Draesner sign their copies. All in all, we are grateful to the German Program and to Ulrike Draesner for providing us with this unique opportunity and look forward to reading more of her work.



## In Memoriam

### Robert DiDonato (1945–2024)

Our former colleague Robert DiDonato passed away peacefully on June 7 in Cincinnati. A highly respected and beloved member of our professional community, he carried out wide-ranging work that centered on and vitalized the field of German Studies and particularly German language acquisition for many decades.

Bob joined our department in 1976, just after completing graduate studies at Ohio State University. Madison colleagues from those years and numerous students, grads and undergrads alike, remember “DiDo” as a whirlwind of energy, bubbling over with wit, warmth, and good humor. He joined enthusiastically in numerous departmental activities, from the weekly Kaffeestunden to the two productions of Alfons Paquet’s *Fahnen*. He was also an inspiring trainer for dozens of our TAs and numerous future high school teachers. A truly charismatic figure in the classroom, he received the University of Wisconsin’s Kiekhofers Distinguished Teaching Award in 1980. In 1984 he relocated, first to M.I.T., where he taught for three years, and then to Miami University in Ohio, where he taught until his retirement in 2015. Over the years Bob remained attached to Madison and returned from time to time to visit old friends here.

Bob was also a skilled administrator, serving in a number of positions at Miami and in professional organizations. In the year 1986–87 he served as national president of the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG). He was known for his language-learning materials, especially his widely adopted first-year textbook *Deutsch: Na klar!*, now in its eighth edition. He was also the academic and series developer of *Fokus Deutsch*, produced by WGBH TV in Boston and the Annenberg Foundation, which illustrates his innovative skill in adapting materials from the German media for language instruction. His achievements were recognized with many awards and honors, including the Florence Steiner Award for Leadership in World Language Education (1991) presented by the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages); and the Certificate of Merit (2008) and the Outstanding German Educator Award (2010), both presented by the AATG.



Bob DiDonato at a 4th of July picnic in Madison, 2009.

Those who knew and admired Bob may wish to make memorial contributions to our program’s **Undergraduate Excellence Fund**: <http://www.supportuw.org/giving?seq=17625>,

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

or to the **DiDonato Student Scholarship Fund**, which was established at Miami University to support study abroad: [www.givetomiamioh.org/DiDonato](http://www.givetomiamioh.org/DiDonato).

## Jost Hermand's legacy: new audio files of interviews made available online

By Marc Silberman

In April 2008 Jost Hermand was interviewed for the UW-Madison Oral History Project by Robert Lange:

<https://search.library.wisc.edu/catalog/9910071059902121>

The 4.5 hour interview (in 2 parts) has now been digitized and made accessible to the public. You must contact the UW Archives Reference Desk (uwarchiv@library.wisc.edu) to request access to the 2 mp3 files and the index of topics covered.

In May 1992, Jost interviewed George Mosse in German for about 45 minutes about his youth in Berlin and how he came to teach at the UW-Madison.

<https://mosseprogram.wisc.edu/2023/09/28/hermand/>

If you scroll down you will find a transcription of the entire interview, and if you scroll down even further, there is also a translation into English of the complete interview.

This is an 80-minute interview with Jost Hermand about his relationship to historian George Mosse from the time they met in Madison in 1960 until Mosse's death in 1999. It was conducted on July 1, 2020, by John Tortorice, Director Emeritus of the George Mosse Program in the Dept. of History at the UW-Madison. The interview, conducted during the early phase of the Corona pandemic, took place in the garden behind Jost's home. The sound quality of Jost's voice is less distinct than that of the interviewer.

<https://ohms.library.wisc.edu/viewer.php?cachefile=Hermand.J.899.xml>

If you click on the above URL, you will see a list of the topics covered in the interview.

The journal "Scientia Poetica" (Vol. 26, No. 1, 429-470) published a well-researched article on "Linkssengleaner" that traces the "germanistische Schulbildung" around Friedrich Sengle and the bifurcation into conservative and progressive wings, documenting the leftist trend in the cases of Jost Hermand and Marie Luise Gansberg.

<https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.1515/scipo-2022-018/html>

Robert Holub, who passed away in August 2023 and who completed his dissertation under Jost's mentorship in 1979, published an extensive memorial tribute to him in the "Heine Jahrbuch 2022" (225-238):

[https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-662-66144-4\\_10](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-662-66144-4_10)

The typescript can be found at the Hermand Tribute page of e\_cibs (<https://e-cibs.org/tribute-to-jost-hermand/>):

[https://ecibsdotorg.files.wordpress.com/2023/01/holub\\_heine-jahrbuch-2023jost-hermand-in-memorium.pdf](https://ecibsdotorg.files.wordpress.com/2023/01/holub_heine-jahrbuch-2023jost-hermand-in-memorium.pdf)



Pictured above: George Mosse.



### Jost Hermand Graduate Fund

Help us commemorate Jost Hermand's legacy by contributing to the Jost Hermand Graduate Fund. The fund, 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:  
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## In Memoriam

### Joan Leffler (1949–2023)

By Sabine Groß and Jeanne Schueller

Joan Leffler, beloved Administrator of the Department of German (now part of German, Nordic, and Slavic+) until her retirement in 2014, succumbed to cancer in January 2023. Joan served the UW– Madison for several decades, initially in the Department of History and the College of Engineering and continuing—from 1981 to 1993—in Administrative Data Processing, a precursor of the Division of Information Technology, where she was instrumental in the implementation and support of the first Wang office word processing systems on campus. In 1993, the Department of German was fortunate to hire her, and the department became her campus “home” for more than 20 years.

Joan was a superbly capable administrator and the most dedicated colleague and staff member one can imagine. She quickly became the heart and soul of the Department of German, making it her goal and purpose to support the work of faculty, staff, and students in everything she did and to make everyone’s life easier. Her generosity toward others was simply extraordinary. Joan went above and beyond her job description in everything she did. She was a central resource for the dozens of international visitors the Department hosted: she would guide them through the maze of regulations and requirements as well as financial and tax details and greet those who came for a longer residency with a special “welcome box” of essentials she had assembled for this purpose. In addition to English, she was fluent in German, Spanish, French, and Italian, and could frequently be heard answering phone inquiries in any of these languages. Joan’s resourcefulness, her palette of skills, and her mastery of all aspects and levels of an exceedingly complicated and often changing administrative system as it applied to a language department with its complex activities were remarkable, and every member of the Department of German felt incredibly lucky to have her at the core of

our community – a community that she helped build through her dedication, expertise, her cheerfulness and warmth, and her sense of humor. She was known far beyond her home department – and indeed Van Hise – for her encyclopedic knowledge of campus regulations and systems, and many members of the campus community regularly called on her for advice and help. She served on numerous time-consuming and important committees across campus. In the Department, she did it all for many years – personnel and payroll, funding, official guests and visitors, conference and events management, assisting the department chair in the full range of administrative tasks, managing the office, supporting the instructional mission and individual students as well as public outreach – and she did all this with a smile, unfailingly welcoming anyone who approached her with an inquiry or appeal for help and not resting until she had assembled and supplied the information or support needed. In a touching tribute at her retirement party, several graduate students recognized Joan’s integral role in guiding and supporting generations of graduate students in the Department through a superhero-themed comic that captured her spirit, dedication, and willingness to help. Nor did her service to our community end with her retirement: She joined the University League, became its assistant secretary and then its secretary, served two terms as its president during the challenging Covid years from 2020 to 2022, and continued as the League’s treasurer until her death. At a funeral service in February 2023, hundreds of colleagues and friends assembled to commemorate her.

Joan is remembered with love, admiration, and gratitude by all who had the good fortune to work with her on our campus, whose lives she brightened and whom she enabled to do their best work through her tireless commitment, her extraordinary suite of skills, and her unfailing generosity of spirit.

## Faculty News

### Hannah Vandegrift Eldridge

2023-2024 was another busy and exciting year. From welcoming our new colleagues to campus and chairing a tenure committee to wrapping up my term as DGS, life in the department is full, rich, and rewarding. I enjoyed teaching “Kafka and the Kafkaesque” again as well as working with graduate students in the literature survey course--which gets harder to fit in the semester every year as “1750 to the present” gets further into the 21st century! I’m excited to be on sabbatical in AY24/25 to make progress on my book project, *Lyric Whiteness: The Construction of an Invisible Category in Germany*.

### Nâlân Erbil

The most important personal milestone of the past year was adopting a kitty named Karam (my black one). Professionally, I participated in the “Cultures in Motion” workshop in December which brought together inter/national scholars on the topic of migration. The second part of the workshop took place in Berlin in May, which I attended virtually because Germany closed its borders to people with undesirable passports. I’m, however, excited for my contribution to the forthcoming edited volume emerging from the workshop with my paper on E. Sevgi Özdamar, and her literary and personal exchanges with her friend and (Turkish-language) poet Ece Ayhan.

### Zach Ramon Fitzpatrick

Some highlights from my first year include teaching “Introduction to German Cinema,” participating in the Wisconsin Idea Seminar, attending the two-part “Cultures in Motion” workshop in Madison and Berlin, traveling to Scotland for the “Future of German Screen Studies” conference, and learning elementary Vietnamese through UW’s SEASSI (Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute). My second year has also started off with a bang, as I have developed the advanced undergrad course “Asiatische Diaspora,” co-convoked the Asian German Studies seminar at the GSA, and just submitted the final manuscript for a co-edited volume on Asian German film history, appearing with Camden House in 2025.

### Julia Goetze

Last year was a whirlwind for me. I offered new courses for the department, which included an advanced German course on *Sport & Gesellschaft* and a graduate-level seminar in Second Language Acquisition on the topic of *Individual Differences*. Additionally, I received an ACTFL Research Priorities Grant in fall 2023 for a project titled *Exploring Teacher Emotions and Instructional Behaviors in Social Justice-Oriented German-as-a-Foreign Language (GFL) Classrooms*. Since then, I have been steadily working to collect, analyze, and publish data. My most recent work has appeared in *Unterrichtspraxis, Journal of Second Language Writing, and the International Journal of Applied Linguistics*.

### Sabine Groß

The greatest luxury of emerita life is being able to read extensively, deeply, eclectically without time pressure – from Auerbach’s *Dorfgeschichten* to Zuckmayer’s autobiography, from anthropology to zoology, from Herder’s optimistic holism to Tucholsky’s barbed satire. I enjoy taking on tasks and projects that come my way, contributing to occasional conferences and publication projects such as special journal issues, which still leaves plenty of time for travel as well as forays into the rich menu that our fabulous department, this extraordinary university, and the broader national and international intellectual community offer in terms of lectures, performances, colloquia, and author readings.

### Mary Hennessy

Over the last year, I’ve enjoyed experiencing all that Madison has to offer, getting to know GNS+ colleagues and graduate students, and teaching new courses in the German unit. I presented research at several conferences, including at the annual meetings of the GSA and Society of Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) and at smaller, field-specific conferences like “The Future of German Screen Studies” in St. Andrews, Scotland, and “Provincializing Weimar” in Utrecht, Netherlands. A professional highlight was the publication of an article on the role of women film editors in silent cinema in *New German Critique*.

### Charles J. James

I am still President of the Madison-Freiburg Sister City Committee as well as a member of the City of Madison’s “Sister City Collaboration Committee” (SCCC), representing Freiburg im Breisgau. I am also a member of the Kasse-Dane Taskforce and the Hessen-Wisconsin Society, representing our sister county and our sister state in Germany respectively. From 2010 to 2023 I was a member of the “Governance Council” of the Verona Area International School (VAIS). In 2021 I was appointed to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee of the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) as well as a member of the Friends of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries. Finally, I am a member of the Pastoral Council of Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church and the Membership Chair of the Westmorland Neighborhood Association Board in Madison.

### Sonja Klocke

Teaching in Madison, doing research and inviting speakers to campus have been highlights this past academic year. I accepted an invitation to talk at the Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory (University of Chicago) in May, and later that month I convened scholars from the USA, UK, and Germany for a workshop on “Cultures in Motion” for the Center for German and European Studies in Berlin (published results are forthcoming with de Gruyter, 2025). In addition to a co-edited volume on award-winning writer Juli Zeh, the first in English, seven articles have been published (two more slated to appear) and four articles were submitted this year.

### Cora Lee Kluge

This year in May I attended events in Washington, D.C., as a member of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the German Historical Institute, representing the Society for German American Studies. I also continue to serve on the Editorial Board of the *Yearbook of German American Studies* and help with editorial tasks for various other magazines and journals. Beyond this, I have been working on several unfinished research projects of my own, many of which are generally related to the history of German studies in America. But an unforgettable highlight this year was a large family reunion (probably some 40+ individuals), which brought people in the summer to Lake Geneva, WI, from as far away as Switzerland and all over the US.

### Julie Larson-Guenette

This past year I spent some time doing fieldwork in both LaCrosse and LaCrescent with graduate students Seth Maxfield and Patricia Haberkorn for a Civil War letters project for which we presented at GLAC back in May. Jeanne Schueller and I presented at WAFLT on taking creative risks in the language classroom and we are also presenting a panel at ACTFL with graduate students Patricia Haberkorn and Melanie Bernstein on fostering empathy in the college language classroom. For the last few years I have served on the Madison-Freiburg Sister City committee and Friends of the Max Kade Society and continue to do so.

### Mark Loudon

Last year I continued research on a previously undocumented language descended from a form of Palatine German brought by immigrants to Canada in the 1820s. I traveled to Southern Ontario last fall and presented at several public events related to the language and its close cousin, Pennsylvania Dutch. This past summer I collaborated with colleagues from the University of Zurich conducting fieldwork in Indiana on a variety of Bernese Swiss German spoken by an Amish subgroup. Most recently, I officially became a medical interpreter for Pennsylvania Dutch at the University and American Family Children's hospitals here in Madison.

### Pamela Potter

I am happy to report that my book *Music Metropolis Berlin* is finished! This project took me over twenty years and enlisted the assistance of numerous German graduate students past and present. This fall I was awarded the WARF Named Professorship and chose to name it after Michael Ochs, a music librarian, editor, researcher in Yiddish music, and mentor. I also spent some time in the summer in Berlin, embarking on a new project editing the letters of a German musician who studied in Madison in the 1960s and regularly wrote in detail to his mother about his experiences.

### Jeanne Schueller

I am excited to share that I have been selected by the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) for the 2024 Outstanding German Educator Award in the University/Collegiate category. This prestigious national award, which is AATG's highest honor, is presented annually in recognition of demonstrated excellence, innovation, and

leadership in German language education in local, state, and national arenas. Other highlights this year include teaching a German-language graphic novels course with a talented group of students who produced creative storyboards and an impressive class zine and serving as vice president of the Phi Beta Kappa Alpha Chapter of UW-Madison.

### Melissa Sheedy

In addition to a new title of Assistant Teaching Professor, this year saw the arrival of Jonesy, a small-yet-monstrous orange feline who supervises my work as Book Review Editor of *Monatshefte* as well as my new forays into Kafka for a course on his work in translation. He also makes sure I stay on top of my research goals (a chapter on Juli Zeh, an article on Kerstin Hensel, and a piece on queer depictions of 19th-century mermaids are all forthcoming). Most importantly, Jonesy's unique style of micromanagement ensures that all cats are fed in a timely manner, and that toys and catnip are plentiful.

### Marc Silberman

Retired since January 2016, my professional activities are shifting into organizing and editing. This includes several board memberships: Jost Hermand's book series at Peter Lang Publishing, now under the direction of our own alumnus Kris Imbrigotta; Gesellschaft für Sinn und Form which curates the Literaturforum im Brecht-Haus Berlin; Monatshefte board; and content editor for three websites (Brecht's Works in English Translation, the International Brecht Society's website and Facebook page). An unusual recent publication is "Gespräch mit Heiner Müller am 23. November 1975 in Madison, Wisconsin" that I edited and introduced for the new *Heiner-Müller-Jahrbuch* (Aisthesis, 2024), an unpublished "leftover" from the 7th Wisconsin Workshop on "Geschichte im Gegenwartsdrama".

### Katerina Somers

Academic year 2023-24 brought me the good news that my book, *How to create an early German scriptus: a new approach to the study of historical German syntax*, was accepted for publication at Language Science Press (Open Germanic Linguistics series). It will appear by the end of 2024. I presented this work to colleagues at the Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference at Indiana University in April 2023. I also began working on my third book, *Translation, prose, and the literization of German in the Middle Ages*, which applies the new methodology of my second book to a broader corpus of texts.

### James Steakley

For me, this has once again been a year of interviews. ARTE, the Franco-German television consortium, reached out for a forthcoming broadcast on the life and work of Magnus Hirschfeld. Most of the footage will end up on the cutting room floor, I expect, and the same is true of the interview I gave for a documentary about the New York artist, author, and LGBT historian Jonathan Katz. It is now in production by the filmmaker Philip Harrison. Finally, I was invited by the UW-Madison's Mosse Program in History to tape my recollections of George Mosse for its Oral History Project.

### Adam Stern

In 2024, I was pleased to publish two academic articles. The first, "Jewish History Must Be Defended," appeared in the summer issue of the *Jewish Quarterly Review*. The second, "Hermeneutics of the Proud," is part of the annual volume of *The Comparatist*. I am also teaching German 273: God & Money for the first time as a permanent class, now cross-listed with Sociology and Religious Studies.

### Sunny Yudkoff

This past year, I continued work on my second monograph, *On Yiddish Joy*, presenting material at the University of Oregon, Johns Hopkins University, and the Yiddish Institute for Jewish Research. I also had the pleasure of writing for reading audiences near and far, through publications in the *Wisconsin State Journal*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies*. The latter featured an extended essay on the use of Yiddish in the work of

contemporary German photographer Andreas Mühe. The programming of the Mayrent Institute for Yiddish Culture continues to grow and I look forward to serving as director again this coming year.

## Graduate Program Milestones

### We welcome new German graduate students:

Emerson McManus  
Oluwatosin Olanlokun  
Lowell Ruck  
Gregory Sheets  
Clara Vigener

### MA passed:

Cassandra Winkelman  
Janelle Schmidt  
Morgan Mehlberg  
Seth Maxfield  
Brandon Pahl  
Jameson Lynch

### Prelims passed:

Mavris Masterson  
Morgan Cacic  
Hannah Brewer-Jensen  
Patricia Haberkorn  
Alyssa Bryl

### Ph.D. passed:

Lisa Steiner  
Nicholas Ott  
Nicole Fischer  
Leah Ewing

## GDGSA Conference



On October 11th-12th, the German and Dutch Graduate Student Association hosted their 24th annual conference focusing on “Movement in German Dutch Studies.” The conference committee consisted of Patricia Haberkorn, Robin Cummins, Cassandra Winkelman, and Hannah Brewer-Jensen. The conference welcomed Dr. Caroline Rieger from the University of British Columbia at Vancouver who delivered the keynote address titled “Applied Linguistics and Social Justice.” Drs. Mary Hennessey and Zach Ramon Fitzpatrick of

UW-Madison held a workshop titled “Teaching Intersectionality with Moving Images.” Among several graduate students from UW-Madison, the GDGSA welcomed presenters from Kansas State University, the University of Michigan, and the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. Talks focused on themes such as pedagogy, linguistics, literature, and culture.

Below: Monatshefte reception at the GSA: Cassandra and Lauren (left photo); Marc Silberman, Friedemann Weidauer (UConn), Kit Belgum (UT-Austin) (right photo).



## Undergraduate Program

### Spotlight on the Classroom

#### “Asiatische Diaspora”

By Zach Ramon Fitzpatrick

In fall 2024, I taught the advanced undergraduate topics course “Asiatische Diaspora.” From Berlin’s Thai Park and Dong Xuan Center to award-winning writers Yoko Tawada and Mithu Sanyal, the East, Southeast, and South Asian diaspora has become increasingly visible in present-day Germany. Beginning with the early 20th century, we covered such historical topics as yellow peril discourse in Hamburg’s former Chinesenviertel, varying experiences of Japanese, Indian, and Chinese individuals during the Third Reich, divergent trends of migration and asylum in East and West Germany, and racist attacks of the 1980s and 90s. Next, we turned toward the ongoing development of an Asian German identity and community in the 21st century, despite issues such as the erasure of South Asian perspectives and the spike of anti-Asian racism during the pandemic. Throughout the course, we also covered different media (novels, comics,

films, TV, YouTube, music, podcasts, and social media). During our literature unit, I organized a Zoom talk with Berlin-based journalist and author Khuê Phạm, who discussed the new English translation of her autofictional debut novel *Wo auch immer ihr seid* (2021).



When poet Zafer Şenocak and translator Kristin Dickinson (University of Michigan) came to UW for Nalân’s event, I invited them to my class during our unit on food, when we were discussing German scandals related to MSG, bubble tea, and cultural appropriation. It has been a pleasure teaching “Asiatische Diaspora” and I look forward to adding it to our regular repertoire of courses!



## In return to Germany, Jewish refugee's daughter confronts past, pushes for remembrance

Joanne Herzberg uncovers family history, challenges local attitudes toward Holocaust memorials

By Cat Carroll (May 2025, Journalism, International Studies, German)

In 2017, Joanne Herzberg moved to Germany — the very country her Jewish parents had fled nearly 80 years prior. Driven by a desire to reconnect with her family's past, she felt ready to confront the stories her parents never told her. Herzberg made this move through a program that gives descendants of victims of Nazi persecution the opportunity to become naturalized German citizens.

Beyond wanting to connect with her family's past, Herzberg sought a future for herself in Germany. Growing up as the daughter of refugees, Herzberg said her parents' German ways were sometimes an awkward fit in her St. Louis community.

Students in Prof. Mödersheim's course *Flucht, Exil, und Heimat* heard from Herzberg in April and had the opportunity to ask questions about the ongoing impacts of Nazi persecution felt by individuals across the world. In her talk, Herzberg told students her family's story, emphasizing this shared memory for many Jews who live in the U.S. She explained how trauma from the Holocaust has permeated across generations.

Joanne Herzberg's parents fled Germany as teenagers — her mother in 1938, and her father in 1939. They were both brought to the UK through *Kindertransport*, a series of rescue efforts that brought thousands of refugee children to Great Britain from Nazi Germany.

By 1947, Herzberg's parents had made it to the U.S., where they met while on separate vacations in California. They quickly married and moved to St. Louis, where many from the German-Jewish diaspora lived. Being near individuals of the same background eased the transition to life in the U.S., Herzberg said.

Maintaining a German-Jewish identity was important for Herzberg's parents, despite living across the ocean. They kept a traditional German household in line with their centuries of heritage and raised Herzberg accordingly. Even though their country had turned on them, Herzberg's parents conserved their German identity.

But as Herzberg grew up in the U.S., she found it difficult to hold the same German-Jewish identity as her parents. Like many children of refugees, she found herself stuck between her parents' German identity and American society. Herzberg lived for years in the U.S., attending a university and pursuing a career, but said she never felt she fully fit in.

So when the opportunity to become a naturalized German citizen arose, Herzberg accepted. She decided to move to her father's hometown, Detmold, a city in North Rhine-Westphalia with a population just shy of 75,000. It was a decision that surprised and shocked many Germans, Herzberg said, but she knew she had the right to live in Germany, just as her ancestors did.

In Germany, Herzberg traced down her father's story, speaking with local residents who knew his family. She came to know the stories her father found too painful to share with her, and began to feel more connected to him.

Herzberg also wanted to learn about Germany's *Erinnerungskultur*, but found that in Detmold, the community's efforts to memorialize those persecuted by Nazis fell short. When asking for a *Stolperstein* to be placed in front of her late father's former home in commemoration of him, she was met with flares of antisemitism in her community.

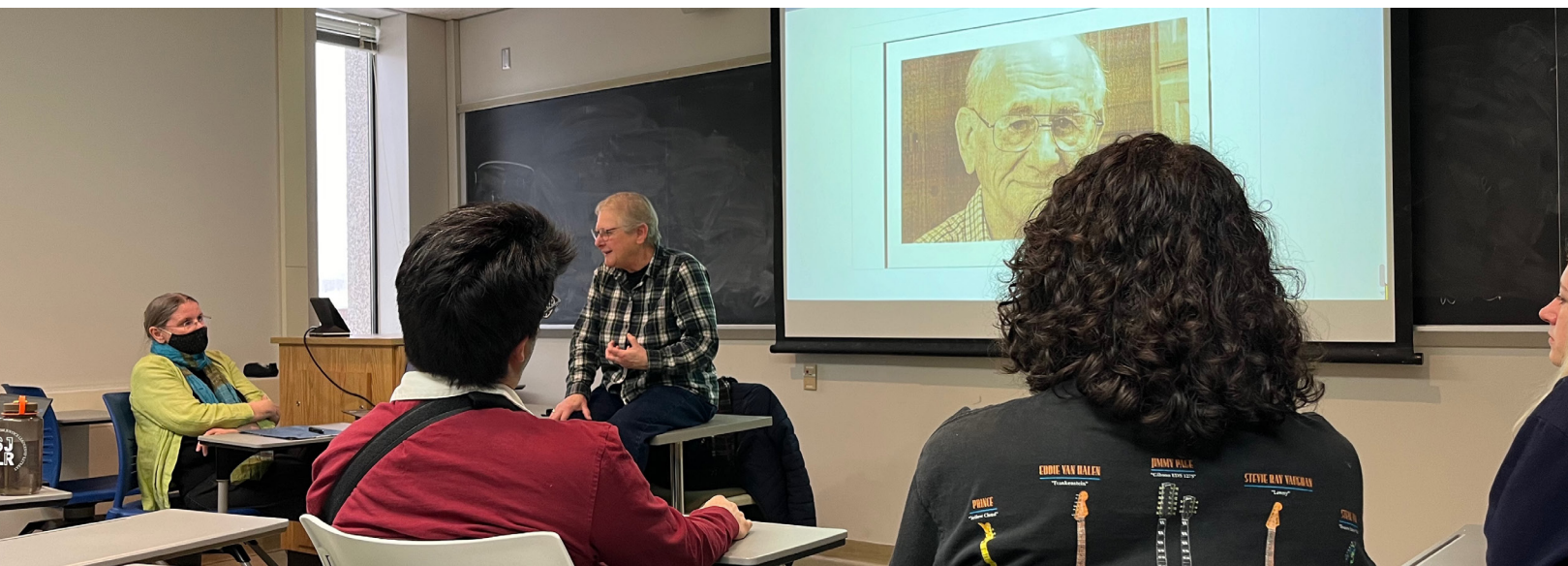
Local officials told Herzberg she must be granted permission by the owners of a property for the stone to be placed in front of their home. And when she pushed back, they placed the memorial stone in an alley, where it would go unnoticed.

Herzberg held local leaders to account and, ultimately, had the stone placed in a correct spot. The process took her two-and-a-half years, and sent a shockwave through the community, forcing many to reckon with their nation's past in a deeper way.

Now, Herzberg is working on creating a map to identify memorials in Detmold, raising awareness and encouraging German citizens to think critically about how they have moved on from the Nazi period.

Herzberg prides herself on the work she has done within Detmold to help Germans grapple with the nation's history. She said she's encouraged her nieces to also become naturalized citizens, reclaiming their German ancestry and holding the country to account.

Herzberg said her relationship with her German ancestry has changed over time — a sentiment shared by many across the world. And over the course of the semester, students in our course became familiar with such stories, thinking about the modern issues presented by Germany's past.





## 2024 German+ Program Undergraduate Excellence Awards

Our annual awards ceremony will be held on  
Wednesday, April 17, at 7:00 p.m. in Memorial Union.  
Refreshments will be served.

The following students will be honored for outstanding undergraduate work in the German+ Program.

### Intermediate

Clare Borchart  
Shea Finkel  
Emma Freisberg  
Aly Fry  
Lily Frye  
Maya Gopal  
Vienne Hermes  
Megan Hodgson  
Kelly Klobach  
Hazel Lietz  
Tova Lindberg  
Ashley Shili Liu  
Claudia Loppnow  
Ciel Murie  
Florence Robbins  
Nithila Sivapuunniyam  
Leo Strand  
Abigail Thiel  
Dimitri Ubach  
Joel Wurf  
Tommy Zakowski  
Jan Zitko

### Advanced

Adrian Asani  
Jadelyn Burris  
Katie Hickman  
Frankie Iovinelli  
Zoe Jaeger  
Alex Kresnak  
Bis Mishra  
Colleen Quinn  
Isabella Richter  
Max Rountree  
Eliana Rowell  
Evan Sidor  
Gabrielle Trieloff

### Delta Phi Alpha

Katie Hickman  
Grace Bauernfeind  
Layne Gebert  
Veronika Dethart  
Tova Lindberg

**Lisbeth Pisk Award**  
(for an outstanding sophomore German major)  
**Max Schmidt**

**Pisk and Ronda Broatch Family Award**  
(for an outstanding junior German major)  
**Owen Pilot**

**Dr. Karl Oskar and Theodora Pisk Award**  
(for an outstanding senior German major)  
**Veronika Dethart**

**Klaus L. Berghahn Award**  
(for an outstanding for an outstanding undergraduate  
paper written in German on a literary or cultural topic)  
**Grace Bauernfeind**

## Stockwerk Deutsch



ILC Convocation in September: From right to left: Parker Scarboro, Samantha Pope, Joshua Huck, Evan Good, Patricia Haberkorn, Julie Larson-Guenette, Katie Perkins, Matthew Schreck

The International Learning Community (ILC) designated hope and compassion as themes this year for roundtable dinner presentations and seminars. Students are now living in double rooms in Kronshage Residence Hal. Julie Larson-Guenette continues in her role as the faculty director for *Stockwerk Deutsch* offering one-credit seminars on service (*Freiwillige und Landdienst in den deutschsprachigen Ländern*) and resistance (*Widerstand als Hoffnung im 3. Reich*). At the end of October, Julie was the featured roundtable speaker with a talk titled

“Hope in Wartime: American Civil War Letters in Old German Script.” Second Language Acquisition and German PhD candidate Patricia Haberkorn continues to serve as the Language Program Coordinator (LPC). Patricia and the Stockis enjoy activities such as crafts, cooking, game and movie nights, along with campus area outings (e.g., bowling, performances and events). A bus trip is underway in early December to visit Ukrainian Village and the Christkindlmarkt in Chicago.

## German Club

German Club is open to University of Wisconsin–Madison undergraduates, graduate students, faculty members, community members and alumni interested in German, Swiss or Austrian culture. There is no cost or fee to becoming/being a member of the club. The German Club organizes opportunities for casual conversation and participating in cultural events. [win.wisc.edu/organization/germanclub](http://win.wisc.edu/organization/germanclub)  
[instagram.com/germanuw/](https://www.instagram.com/germanuw/)  
[facebook.com/groups/252293088142844/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/252293088142844/)



## Academic Year in Freiburg Alumni

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?

Please consider joining the AYF alumni organization and/or donating to their scholarship funds: [ayf-alumni.org/](http://ayf-alumni.org/) There are two chapters: one based in the USA and one based in Freiburg, Germany.



Storm clouds roll in over Lake Mendota near the Goodspeed Family Pier along the Memorial Union Terrace (Photo by Bryce Richter / UW-Madison) © Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System

## Dear Alumni, Friends, and Supporters of the German Program

As we move beyond the challenges of the last few years, creating and sustaining opportunities for our students remains our priority.

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:

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**JOST HERMAND GRADUATE FUND**  
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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:

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For questions, please contact Mark Loudon ([mllouden@wisc.edu](mailto:mllouden@wisc.edu)).

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

## Why German?

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



**Grace Wall, Senior / Cedarburg, Wisconsin; Computer Science and Linguistics with German Certificate**

I chose German nearly ten years ago now because it seemed like a grammatical challenge, and this was right around the time my interest in linguistics started forming, so I liked that kind of thing. Learning the language has been a continuous extension of that interest; it's one of the ways I express it in the real world, for other people, which I find quite valuable.

**Kyle DeGroot, Junior / Waukesha, Wisconsin; German and Linguistics**

As a German-Linguistics student, many of my fellow classmates are familiar with the phrase *deutsche Sprache, schwere Sprache*, and that sentiment could not be overcome without the instruction for German here in Madison. I have had the opportunity to take truly engaging courses throughout the German (and Linguistics) programs with some of the smartest, kindest educators and professors, and their contributions have not only helped me raise my understanding of German but learn to master its greatest obstacles. My passion for German and linguistics could have only found an outlet through the courses provided, and the knowledge that I have received is truly worth a lifetime. I hope to pursue and share my passion of German and linguistics in Germany next year and in graduate school thereafter. *Nur die Zeit wird zeigen, was die Zukunft mir bringt.*



**Malachi Clark, Senior / Glen Ellyn, Illinois; Computer Science and German**

I came into this university with my heart set on studying Computer Science. Due to the requirements of getting a Bachelor of Science, the university requires a language. Coming in from high school, I had taken 2 years of Spanish and 2 years of German, so I had a tough decision to make. I made the decision to study German on a pure whim—I honestly think it was a coin flip! I walked into my first course with little German language experience, but I left having expanded on my German language, history, cultural knowledge, and ready to dive deeper on the field of study. Having spent last fall in Berlin, and again last summer to work for a study abroad program teaching American high school students basic German, I am currently expanding my language knowledge daily in my GER 337 course. I'm not sure yet how I will integrate my language skills with my career path, but I'm super positive that I will find out way to keep my German language skills forever!





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