Letter from the chair

Peter Fenves

We are now reviving a tradition in the Department of describing the events, activities, and achievements of our students and faculty through a quarterly newsletter.

The past few academic years have been particularly eventful for the Department. Before we recount the events of this last year, let me describe a few highlights from the previous years. In the spring of 2015, Anna Parkinson was promoted to the position of Associate Professor with tenure. Beginning in the fall of 2015 Jan Behrs entered the Department as our new DAAD Professor. In the spring of 2016 the Department received a major gift from the Friedman-Kline Foundation that will be used for the support of our study-abroad programs. During the spring quarter of 2016, with support from the Max Kade Foundation, we hosted Hans-Jörg Rheinberger, who had recently retired from the directorship of the Max-Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin. The Max Kade Foundation has been supportive of the Department in many other ways as well: it provided upwards of $25,000 per year for the support of student travel to Berlin and Hamburg. Our faculty continued to win prestigious awards and fellowships, including two Humboldt Research awards and fellowships from such prestigious institutions as the University of Vienna and the US Holocaust Museum. Finally, I should note that the Department underwent an extensive process of Program Review during the 2016-17 academic year. The review culminated in the campus visit of two distinguished scholars, John Hamilton (Harvard) and Rüdiger Campe (Yale), whose report on the Department, in conjunction with our own self-study and further evaluations from the College and University, will guide us into the future.

The German Department continues to be a vital part of the Northwestern community. Faculty members in the Department direct or co-direct a remarkable variety of programs, clusters, and committees, including the Council on Language Instruction, the Paris Program in Critical Theory, the Critical Theory cluster, and the cluster in Global Avant-Garde and Modernist Studies. This, however, is only the beginning of the list of units at the University with which we are closely associated. Others include the Program in Comparative Literary Studies, the Jewish Studies Program, the Gender and Sexuality Program, the Kaplan Institute for the Humanities (including its First-Year Humanities Program), the Eastern European Cluster, the Media and Design Studio, and the Global Languages Initiative.

There is much to recount of our activities and accomplishments in the last year, but two events were particularly meaningful. During Homecoming 2016 we hosted a gathering for more than 50 former students who had graduated from the Department over the past 30 years. And in the winter of 2017 the Department hosted a colloquium with the chairs and coordinators of all the German departments in the Big Ten Academic Alliance, where we discussed the range of opportunities and challenges of German studies in the coming years. In the following pages you will read more about these—and many other activities and events with which our faculty and students are involved.
What’s been happening in the department

Fall 2016

The academic year began with an auspicious event: after two years away from the main campus, temporarily housed in the cramped quarters of our “swing space” on Sherman Avenue, the Department returned to the newly rebuilt and fully renovated Kresge Centennial Hall, where it now occupies a spacious suite of offices on the north side of the third floor. Congratulations to our sole departmental assistant, Kathy Leoni, for her expertise in negotiating the move, which was accomplished without any disruption in any of our operations or activities! A second major event marked the beginning of the academic year: Christine Helmer, the Arthur E. Andersen Teaching and Research Professor, became an official member of the German Department. Earlier, as an adjunct member of the Department, she taught cross-listed classes with the Department and participated in faculty searches; but now, as a full member, she significantly extends the range of our teaching and research. The Department has been known primarily for its research and teaching in the field of modern German literature and thought. Recently, however, Samuel Weber has taught seminars on the German baroque, and now, with Professor Helmer’s internationally recognized expertise in the field of Luther and Reformation studies, the Department will be able to include a broader range of courses in terms of both historical depth and thematic concentration.

The fall quarter 2016 was filled with events and activities of all kinds. Alongside the yearlong film series and the weekly Kaffeestunden on Wednesday afternoons, the Department hosted three colloquia in conjunction with associated units on campus. In early October the Department held an event around the work of the widely-known German author Thomas Meinecke, who, equipped with the requisite technology, led a discussion under the title “Recordplayer—Plattenspiele.” Later in October Nikolaus Müller-Schöll, a professor of theater and performance studies at the Goethe-University (Frankfurt am Main), delivered a paper entitled “Derrida’s Theater.” Soon thereafter Eyal Peretz (Indiana University) presented a chapter of his recently published book entitled The Off-Screen: An Investigation of the Cinematic Frame. In the following month, under the guidance of Christine Helmer, the Department joined with numerous other units at the University in convening an international conference commemorating the 500th anniversary of Luther’s “95 Theses.”

Also in November, the Department hosted the distinguished Turkish-German writer Selim Özdogan, who read a portion of his new novel, Wiese Heimat, ich wohne zur Miete. The events of November were then rounded out by a lecture from Rupert Gaderer (Bochum) entitled “Sense of Justice: Paranoia, Files, Bureaucracy.” Finally, as part of the 2017 Homecoming Celebration, the Department invited all of its alumnae to join us in celebration of the new Kresge Hall. Some 50 former students from the Department accepted the invitation and travelled to Evanston for the events. On Friday afternoon of Homecoming Weekend the Department organized a panel discussion in which six of its graduates told an assembly of current undergraduates about the many professional possibilities available to German majors and minors. After a tour of the new facilities, led by Adrian Randolph, Dean of Weinberg College, the alumnae joined us for a catered dinner in the lobby of the new building, which was preceded by a brief presentation in which each member of the faculty described a new departmental initiative.
Winter 2017

During the winter quarter, the Department hosted the annual conference that brings together the chairs and coordinators of the German studies departments in the Big Ten Academic Alliance. The two-day event included more than 40 participants from over 12 institutions, and it covered all aspects of departmental operations, from beginning German to the placement record of graduate programs. Several new cooperative initiatives came under discussion, and all of us are working with our respective administrative units to bring the proposals to fruition. Next year’s conference will be held in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

In addition to the continuation of the German film series and the Kaffeestunden, members of the Department participated in another regularly scheduled forum: “Voices of Experience: The Value of Foreign Languages in the Working World,” hosted by the Council on Language Instruction and featuring recent graduated majors in foreign-language departments. As part of the German graduate-student lecture series the Department hosted in January a paper by Fabian Goppelsröder (University of Chicago) entitled “Poetics of Small Form.” In February, the Department joined the Department of Spanish and Portuguese along with the graduate clusters in Critical Theory and Latin American and Caribbean Studies for the purpose of bringing to campus Rocio Zambrana (University of Oregon), who led a colloquium on critical theory at the intersections between German and Latin America.

Professor Zambrana will return in the spring of 2018 as the Krieger-Wolff Professor. The colloquium in which she participated marks the beginning of a series of events, the second installment of which took place in early March, when Jorge Coronado (Spanish and Portuguese) and Peter Fenves discussed their work in relation to the theme of Critical Theory and the Global South. This was responsive to the Mellon Foundation, which had awarded a group of scholars at Northwestern over $1,000,000 for the purpose of developing and enlarging this theme over the next three years. Of the five principal participants in the grant, two are from the Department (Anna Parkinson and Professor Fenves). At the end of the winter quarter, another important series of colloquia began, as the Department joined the Holocaust Educational Foundation in launching a Holocaust Studies lecture series, beginning with a paper by Erin McGlothin (Washington University, St. Louis) entitled “Confessional Performance and the Holocaust Perpetrator.”

Spring 2017

The spring quarter is often the busiest time for the Department in terms of its events and colloquia—and 2017 was no different. In the first week of the quarter, the Department in conjunction with the Comparative Modernism Workshop hosted a paper by Alys George (NYU) entitled “Egon Schiele in the Clinic: Medicine, Motherhood and Viennese Modernism.” Soon thereafter, the Department joined the Program in Middle East and North African Studies (MENA) to bring the prize-winning Turkish-German filmmaker İlker Çatak to campus for a screening of two films, followed by a discussion facilitated by Emrah Yildiz (MENA) and Anna Parkinson. In mid-April, a former Northwestern undergraduate who just completed his PhD at Princeton, Zakir Paul (NYU), gave a paper for the Department entitled “Kafka, Blanchot, and the Silence of the Sirens.” Brad Prager (University of Missouri), who once was a visiting professor at Northwestern, gave the second in the Holocaust Studies lecture series. Also in the middle of the quarter was a colloquium led by Astrid Deuber-Mankowsky (Bochum) and supported by the Kaplan Humanities Institute in the context of its yearlong series of “Debt Dialogues.” In May, Carol Jacobs (Yale) spoke with graduate students about her work and thereafter gave a public lecture on the eighteenth-century painter Angelika Kauffmann. As the last speaker in the 2017-2018 departmental lecture series, our own Jan Behrs presented a paper entitled “Is There a ‘Late Goethe,’ and Did He Write ‘Dichtung und Wahrheit’?” Finally, at the very end of the academic year, Gabriel Finder (University of Virginia) concluded the Holocaust Studies lecture series with a paper about “Jews and Justice in Communist Poland in the Immediate Aftermath of the Holocaust.”

There is much good news to report about the Department. Martina Kerlova was promoted to associate professor of instruction, while Ingrid Zeller was promoted to the position of full professor of instruction. Professor Zeller was also selected to give a presentation for Northwestern TeachX. Denise Meuser was awarded both the CLI Excellence in Foreign Language Teaching Award and an Alumnae of Northwestern University Grant. Just as Erica Weitzman received a Humboldt Foundation Research Fellowship for the next academic year, so was Samuel Weber awarded a research fellowship from the Humboldt Foundation for the summer of 2017. Peter Fenves received a “W Grant.” And in June, 2017 Christine Helmer will be awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the Faculty of Theology at the University of Helsinki. At the close of the academic year, during the 2017 Convocation, the Department celebrates the achievements of eleven majors and minors.

To close on a mournful note, we wish to note the passing of a long-time member of the Department, Kathy Harms (1925-2017). After completing her PhD under Erich Heller in the Department, she was hired as an assistant professor and soon thereafter promoted to associate professor. In the 1980s she also served as departmental chair. She was a much-respected and admired teacher, who enlivened German studies for several generations of Northwestern students.
The wide-ranging scholarship of professor Jan Behrs includes recent essays on the status of Goethe’s late work, the choices and strategies made by M. G. Conrad as editor of the influential journal, Die Gesellschaft, the development of German studies in the US in the second half of the twentieth century, the nineteenth-century Swiss novelist Gottfried Keller, and the literary scholarship of Oskar Walzels.

Among the recent publications of Peter Fenves are a volume of his essays translated into Spanish, Walter Benjamin entre los filósofos (Buenos Aires-Santiago: Palinodia), a volume of essays he co-edited and introduced, Points of Departure: Samuel Weber between Spectrality and Reading (Evanston: Northwestern University Press), an essay published simultaneously in English and Italian, an essay for the Italian journal Paradigmi, and a contribution to the Chinese volume, World Literature Between the Local and Universal. He also participated in online publications, including a review essay for The Los Angeles Review of Books and a contribution to a blog created by Stanford University Press in honor of the completion of Giorgio Agamben’s Homo Sacer series. In addition to lectures at the Institute for Critical Theory at Western-Ontario University (Canada), he gave a weeklong mini-seminar at the Humanities Institute of Diego Portales University-Santiago in conjunction with his participation in the Mellon Foundation Grant for Critical Theory and the Global South.

With the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in 2017, Christine Helmer had a particularly active year, which included a Keynote address in Wittenberg in October 2017 at a conference sponsored by the German Evangelical Church and the Society for Protestant Theologians in Germany. At Northwestern, she organized an international Luther conference in November 2016, and soon thereafter organized a panel on the Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception at the American Academy of Religion. She became a member of the Workgroup of Constructive Theology and was appointed as Visiting Corcoran Professor of Jewish-Christian Relations at Boston College.

Faculty News

The notes below only indicate the most recent accomplishments and activities of the faculty of the German department. A full account of each professor’s scholarship and teaching can be found on our website: http://www.german.northwestern.edu/
She will be awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Theology by the Faculty of Theology at the University of Helsinki in June 2017.

In addition to receiving grants from Weinberg and the Council on Language Instruction, Martina Kerlova was chosen by the Kaplan Institute for the Humanities to participate in the Summer Faculty Workshop in Digital Humanities in September 2016. As a result of her participation, she delivered a paper at the annual American Association for the Teachers of Slavic and Eastern European Languages entitled “Visualizing the City: Digital Prague in the Classroom.” She was chosen for the Faculty Honor Roll. In the spring of this year she was promoted to Associate Professor of Instruction.

After spending the 2016-17 academic year at the Institute of Media Studies housed at the Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany, Jörg Kreienbrock secured two further fellowships for the coming academic year: the first, at the Institute of Advanced Studies at Durham University-UK; the second, as a Senior Fellow at the International Research Center of Cultural Studies-Vienna during the spring of 2018.

While in Germany as a Humboldt fellow, he gave papers at numerous universities, including Münster, Humboldt-Berlin, Greifswald, Hamburg, Cologne, and Bochum. He also gave a paper at the International Conference on Walter Benjamin in Tel Aviv. Several of his essays were accepted for publication, including “A New Levante: Franz Rosenzweig’s Geopolitical Imagination in his War Writings 1917” and “Immersion, Interpolation, Philology: Losing Oneself in Robert Walser.”

As the recipient of a generous grant from the Max Kade Foundation, Franziska Lys brought a group of eight students to Hamburg as part of an innovative set of courses geared toward undergraduate research. In the same vein, and with similar support from the Max Kade Foundation, she brought a group of twelve undergraduates to Berlin during the spring break, so that they could conduct research projects in global emigration. A major volume she coedited and introduced, Virtual Walls? Political Unity and Cultural Difference in Contemporary Germany, was accepted for publication by Camden House Press. At the annual American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) conference she presented a paper, “Self-Assessment of Language Proficiency with the custom App LAV A,” and she was a member of an interactive panel on learning assessment and evaluation for the Searle Center. She was selected to the Faculty Honor Roll 2016-2017.

After successfully directing the Northwestern-Humboldt Berlin Summer Program from 2015 to 2016, Denise Meuser returned to campus in the fall as an Educational Technology Teaching Fellow. She received a course enhancement grant from the College for her winter-quarter course and was also selected for a Northwestern University Grant for a project involving museum holdings in German art in the greater Chicago area. In recognition of her service to language instruction at Northwestern, she was awarded the CLI Excellence in Foreign Language Teaching Award for 2017.

As a continuation to his well-received first book, Being for Myself Alone: Origins of Jewish Autobiography (Stanford: Stanford University Press), Marcus Moseley continues apace on his new book, Dead Can Walk: Fear and Loathing in Modern Hebrew and Yiddish Literature. He designed a new course this year
entitled “Yiddish Literature and the Holocaust,” and he recently delivered a paper entitled “Yeats/Nietzsche/Dylan: Autobiographical Negativities” at a conference organized by the Stanford Humanities Center around the theme of “Inscribed Identities: Writing as Self-Realization.”

While co-chairing the Council on Language Instruction, John Paluch organized a wide variety of activities and events, including the Chicago Language Symposium, and he also extensively revised its by-laws and created an appropriate university-wide award. At the same time, he also co-chaired the Forum for Languages and Culture at the Buffett Institute, which, like the CLI, brings together language-related units in and beyond Northwestern. He was elected to the Faculty Senate, where he served on the important Salary and Benefits Committee.

After holding the Leon Milman Memorial Senior Fellowship at the Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Anna Parkinson returned to campus in fall of 2017. She participated in the Mellon Grant project on Critical Theory and the Global South, for which she is the convener of a project in critical memory studies titled “Trauma, Politics, and the Uses of Memory” in partnership with the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa. She was selected by the Kaplan Humanities Institute to design and teach an innovative course, titled “Charting the Modern City: Chicago/Vienna,” which took 13 students to Vienna during the spring break. She participated in a wide variety of venues, including a workshop on German representations of the Nazi Past at the Military Museum in Ingolstadt (organized by University of Augsburg and Southampton University), a conference on postwar literature at the Institute for Cultural Studies-Essen, and a two-day workshop on “Elective Exile/Wahlheimat” at the Daat-Hamakom Center for the Study of Jewish Modernity at Hebrew University-Jerusalem. She has several essays forthcoming, including “A Sentimental Re-education: Postwar West Germany’s Intimate Geographies” in the journal Emotions and Space, and “Zu Hause in der Fremde: Contingent Cosmopolitanism and Elective Exile in the Writing of Hans Keilson” in a volume of essays.
As the recipient of a Humboldt-Foundation Research Prize, Samuel Weber will be in Munich this summer, where he will be completing his forthcoming book, Toward a Politics and Poetics of Singularity. He will also delivering two Keynote addresses: the first at a conference organized by the Center for Advanced Studies of the University of Munich and the second at the Lisbon Summer School for the Study of Culture. Over the course of the year, he gave mini-seminars at Beijing-Normal University and the Ruhr University-Bochum. He co-edited two special issues of The Germany Quarterly on the work of Walter Benjamin, and one of the many other essays he published during the course of the year, “‘For O, for O, the Hobby-Horse is Forgot’: Hamlet between Schmitt and Benjamin,” appeared along with the translation of an interview about his association with the Institute for General and Comparative Literature (Free University-Berlin) in a volume dedicated to the international repercussions of his work, Points of Departure: Samuel Weber between Spectrality and Reading (Evanston: Northwestern University Press).

Completing a year as a faculty fellow at the Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, Erica Weitzman received a grant from the Humboldt Foundation for a year’s research fellowship at the Center for Literary and Cultural Research-Berlin. She gave a wide range of papers at numerous universities and conferences, including Princeton University, the University of California-Riverside, the University of Colorado-Boulder, the Cardozo Law School, the International Comparative Literature Association Conference (Vienna), the German Studies Association Conference (San Diego), and the Austrian Studies Association Conference (Chicago). Her essay “Ismail Kadare’s The File on H. and the Comedy of Epic” was published in Modern Language Review, and another essay, “Base Matter: Pathetic Fallacy in Gustav Freytag’s Soll und Haben,” was accepted for publication in Colloquia Germanica.

Over the last year, Ingrid Zeller delivered several conference papers, led workshops, and chaired panels, including at the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in New York, the Goethe-Institut Chicago, the Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Conference, two at the annual ACTFL conference in Boston, and four at the Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in Chicago. Co-founder of the annual Northern Illinois American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) College German Student-Immersion Day, she organized its fifth iteration on the topic Deutschland 2017 in collaboration with other area institutions.

In May, she started her term as president of the Northern Illinois chapter of the AATG and began her first full season as a certified volunteer Chicago Architecture Foundation river docent. She was selected as an Educational Technology Teaching Fellow and was elected to the Faculty Honor Roll in the spring of 2016. She will be the director of the Berlin summer program in 2017. In the spring of this year, she was promoted to full professor of instruction.
After having completed fellowships with the Paris Program in Critical Theory, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and the Minerva Foundation, Nadav Avruch is returning to campus in the fall of 2017 to continue working on his dissertation project on the idea of the underground as it develops out of early German romanticism. As Sandra Berjan completes dissertation on the science and imagery of pain in the eighteenth century, she participated in both the 2016 and 2017 versions of the innovative Tri-University Consortium, which brings together an interdisciplinary group of graduate students from Northwestern, the École Normale Supérieure-Paris, and the Goethe University-Frankfurt. Last year’s Consortium took place in Evanston, this year’s in Frankfurt. During the summer of 2017 Wiebke Bullermann will be teaching with the Northwestern-Humboldt Berlin Program, after which she will be spending the fall quarter conducting research in Berlin. Also teaching in the Berlin Summer Program is Jan Cao, who will then move to Paris for the next academic year as a fellow in the Paris Program in Critical Theory. Hector Feliciano was granted a three-year DAAD fellowship for the continuation of his studies at the University of Münster, where he will pursue a dual-degree program. Sabrina Jaromin, who worked with the Berlin Summer program in 2016, won a Graduate School/SEARLE grant for the development of a First-Year Seminar “Animals in Modernity.” Beyond organizing an interdisciplinary reading group around Animal Studies, she gave a paper for the Critical Theory Cluster’s Dissertation Symposium entitled “Translations in Hunting” and is also participating in the Tri-University Consortium in Frankfurt. During his first year of study at Northwestern Ted Laport gave a paper entitled “A Symptom of Shame: Agamben’s reading of Antelme’s Flesh” at a conference organized by the graduate students in German studies at Yale University. An active member of the Animal Studies Reading Group, Sonia Li’s essay, “Violence and Ventriloquism in J. M. Coetzee’s Disgrace,” was accepted for publication in the prestigious journal Mosaic. Jonas Rosenbrück gave a paper at the graduate-student conference at Yale entitled “Instead of Anointing: For a Poetics of a Different Smelling.” He is also participating in the Tri-University Consortium in Frankfurt and will be spending next year as a fellow in the Paris Program in Critical Theory. Also attending the Yale conference was Benjamin Trivers, who gave a paper on Elfriede Jelinek’s enigmatic Die Klavierspielerin. For the CLS colloquium in April, Joshua Winchester presented a sketch of his dissertation project under the title “Apathies; or, The Misprisions of Kant.”

We look forward to the next academic year when Sorrel Dunn (BA, Bard College) and Ariel Weiner (BA, University of Kings College, Canada) will be joining the Department.

Fuller descriptions of students in both the Graduate Program in German Literature and Critical Thought and the Program in Comparative Literary Studies with a "home department" in German can be found on our website at http://www.german.northwestern.edu/.

Recent PhD Placements

After spending the first year of a multi-year fellowship at the ICI-Berlin, Benjamin Robinson accepted a four-year assistantship at the University of Vienna. In the fall of 2017, after completing two years as a visiting assistant professor at Northwestern, Saein Park will be joining the faculty of the German department at the University of California, Santa Cruz. In 2016 Henrik Wilberg became an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota, Morris. Clemens Ackermann will soon become the program coordinator of the California State/Baden-Württemberg Student Exchange.
The Department has been the beneficiary of numerous gifts from students, parents, and alumnae as well as from other individuals and institutions. As we relaunch our Newsletters, we would like to acknowledge the many donors whose contribution to the Department have been indispensable for its students, activities, and events. Many thanks—oder vielen Dank—to Dr. Anthony Adler; Dr. Heribert Breidenbach; Louise H. Breitfeller; Stephen A. Clark; Juliet Douglas; Stephen Douglas; Dr. Monica R. Dressler; Alexandra Ellison; Keith W. Fox; William H. Girvan; Ann Holt Grove; Melinda K. Harmeyer; Patrick Michael Hartnett; Jorn A. Holl; Kathleen E. Hughes; Dr. Nich A. Hughes; John M. Jetter; Donald A. Koss; Mary McDonald Koss; Yi Li; Gerlinde Louis; Dr. Franziska Lys; Dr. Thomas Lys; Annie Lynne Melchor; Dr. Jonathan H. Melman; Lara D. Abrams-Melman; Carol Miller; Jerry H. Miller; Ruth A. Mudrow; Jonathan H. Nelleman; Sean A. Nieberding; Karl F. Otto, Jr.; Elizabeth Miller Roesel; Dr. Thomas R. Roesel; Susann Szotak Rose; Annie Lynne Ruby; John J. Ruby; Patricia H. Sartorius; Flavius Schiopu; Maria Schiopu; Christopher William Schmidt; Eva Stonebraker; Dr. Peter Stonebraker; Rosalie Streng; John H. Wadsworth; Dr. Marla Boughton Wadsworth; Timothy Joseph Welch; the North American Roller Products; and Duke Energy Foundation.

A major gift from the Friedman-Kline Foundation

The Department is deeply grateful to the Friedman-Kline Foundation for its recent gift of $250,000. The primary aim of the gift lies in supporting and expanding study-abroad opportunities for our students. Describing the motivation for their donation, Arthur and Suzanne Friedman emphasized the degree to which it will contribute to the educational mission of the University: "We are pleased to make this gift to Northwestern University, which will create opportunities for more students to experience the benefit of studying in German-speaking countries. There is no better way to learn about other cultures than be immersed in the culture itself. Finances are stretched for many students and this gift may help defray the additional costs associated with Northwestern's amazing study-abroad programs." In addition to helping students defray costs of participating in our study-abroad programs, the Friedman-Kline Foundation gift will allow us to enhance the innovative classes we have developed that include research components in German-speaking cities.

Research Abroad Experiences: Winter-Spring, 2017, Berlin and Vienna

With support from the University, Weinberg College, Media and Design Studio, the Humanities Institute, Medill School of Journalism, the Max Kade Foundation, and generous donations from our alumnae, the Department has been able to provide numerous and varied opportunities for undergraduate study and research in German-speaking countries. Under the title "Learning Cultural Diversity: Refugees in Berlin," Franziska Lys created a two-quarter (winter and spring) seminar with 12 undergraduate students, who, with Jan Behrs, travelled to Berlin during the March break. In addition to conducting their own research, they visited a refugee shelters and interviewed both refugees and volunteers; each of the students developed an individual research project based on their results of the experience. For more information, see http://notunterkunft.madstudio.northwestern.edu.

As part of the Global Humanities Lab program housed in the Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, Anna Parkinson developed a program for a group of 13 students from 11 different fields of study, with whom she traveled to Vienna during the March break in conjunction with her spring-quarter seminar, "Charting Modern Cities: Chicago and Vienna." In addition to the program in Vienna, the class included a substantial number of excursions within the Chicago area during spring quarter. In the context of experiential learning, students engaged in interdisciplinary research that spanned the fields of urban studies, literary and film studies, sociology, art history, philosophy, psychoanalysis, political science, intellectual history, and architecture as they sought to answer questions about the reciprocal relation between the city and its inhabitants.

With gratitude to our generous donors

A. Koss; Mary McDonald Koss; Yi Li; Gerlinde Louis; Dr. Franziska Lys; Dr. Thomas Lys; Annie Lynne Melchor; Dr. Jonathan H. Melman; Lara D. Abrams-Melman; Carol Miller; Jerry H. Miller; Ruth A. Mudrow; Jonathan H. Nelleman; Sean A. Nieberding; Karl F. Otto, Jr.; Elizabeth Miller Roesel; Dr. Thomas R. Roesel; Susann Szotak Rose; Annie Lynne Ruby; John J. Ruby; Patricia H. Sartorius; Flavius Schiopu; Maria Schiopu; Christopher William Schmidt; Eva Stonebraker; Dr. Peter Stonebraker; Rosalie Streng; John H. Wadsworth; Dr. Marla Boughton Wadsworth; Timothy Joseph Welch; the North American Roller Products; and Duke Energy Foundation.
The German Undergraduate Advisory Board (GUAB) connects students interested in German to the Department through a variety of events and activities. Recent events include a Maifest-themed Kaffeeklatsch with Global McCormick and a German-style dinner at the Brauhaus in Lincoln Square, Chicago. Professor Behrs joined as the guest of honor to share his experiences as a teacher and scholar. On Thursday, May 25th, GUAB holds its final Stammtisch of the academic year at the Celtic Knot, 8:00-10:00 PM. Finally, GUAB would also like to welcome its new leaders: Nina Holl and Megan Anderson (co-chairs) and Alice Wei (Global McCormick leader).

A note from GUAB

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HANNAH GISELA CARROLL
Growing up with a mother from Köln, I have been surrounded by the German language my entire life and wanted to continue develop and hone my language skills during my time at Northwestern. As a dual degree student, I have completed majors in Economics and Classical Voice Performance, in addition to my German major with a concentration in German Business. German was my bridge between my two other majors. I am attending the University of Rochester’s Eastman School of Music this fall to complete graduate studies in Voice, where singing in German will be something that I will do on a daily basis. The German department has been absolutely wonderful in my five years here at Northwestern. They are kind and helpful and I couldn’t have asked for anything more.

BRITT JORDON
When I first came to Northwestern, the closest thing to speaking a foreign language was four years of parochial school Latin. I didn’t understand the value of learning a modern language and I didn’t think it would play a significant role in my future. I could not have been more wrong. From my first German class at Northwestern, I was smitten. The German department opened so many doors for me: not only did it give me the opportunity to study abroad in Germany or to investigate the refugee wave in Berlin, it also instilled in me a love of language learning. I started learning Turkish and hope to start learning other languages soon. The instructors in the German department have supported every step of my undergraduate career and have championed a successful future for me after graduation; as a 2017-2018 Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship award recipient, I will be utilizing my passion of German all next year and even after, wherever life takes me.

SARAH PRISCILLA LEE (Graduated with Honors)
In the first quarter of my freshman year, I decided to take German because I have family in Germany and thought it would be useful for communicating with them. I also enrolled in Professor Anna Parkinson’s "Berlin: Culture of Democracy Course". The classes were so inspiring, and the German Department so supportive, that I continued to enroll in other German courses before finally declaring a major in German. This was the most unexpected and best decision I made during my four years at Northwestern. It led me to create independent research seminars, study abroad for half a year at Humboldt Universität in Berlin, and now set a path for further research and studies in Germany. Co-chairing the German Undergraduate Advisory Board (GUAB) also developed my leadership and communication skills and helped me form close and lasting relationships with other students and faculty in the department. I highly encourage other students to study German because it is relevant, inspiring, and opens many doors to exciting global opportunities!

ANTONIO PETKOV
I chose to study German to learn the language and to gain a deeper understanding of German culture. I had an appreciation for German culture, government, and business before I came to Northwestern, and I wanted to understand what made Germany different and unique by looking at its history. Many people see Germany as the benchmark of industry, government, and education, and I wanted to understand why, and what made that high standard possible in such a short time. To that end, the Business German courses I took here were very informative. If I choose to move to Germany for future work or studies, I am sure that the insights I have learned during my time here will serve me well.

ETHAN MARCUS ALBRECHT
I studied German at originally because I was scrambling to find a class my first quarter of freshman year at North-western! However, I liked it a lot, and realized that I wanted to study abroad. Studying abroad was definitely a life-changing experience. My perspectives on the world have changed and I wouldn’t trade it for anything! The company I am working for after graduation has a Berlin office, and I am hoping to use my language skills working with them.
LAUREN BARMORE
I studied German in order to continue learning the language and learning about the German culture. My knowledge of German was very helpful when I had a summer internship doing physics research in Germany with the DAAD RISE program. The skills I learned in the Northwestern German program were useful in helping me connect on a deeper level with the people I met there. I hope to continue my connection with Germany by working at a research lab in a German-speaking country in the future. Getting a German minor at Northwestern was a great experience that I know will benefit me for many years to come.

ANDREW CRAMER
I studied German in college for a variety of reasons. The first of the many reasons is that my grandma spoke some German since her parents immigrated from Germany in the early 1900’s. She had this old German photographic bible that I loved looking at as a child. My grandma was the reason I began taking German in high school. My high school German teacher, Herr Payne, was my favorite teachers growing up and I had the wonderful opportunity of having him for four years. German has helped me broaden my views on politics, foreign relations, and has provided me with a wonderful, and thorough liberal arts education when paired with my Neuroscience major.

SHARON FAN
I started learning German four years ago hoping to pick up a new language on top of my native languages English, Cantonese and Mandarin. My German studies complemented my history major, in which I focused on modern European history. My experience learning German at Northwestern has been fulfilling and rewarding, from studying abroad in Berlin, taking various German classes, to going back to Berlin for a research project during the past spring break. I’m very grateful for all the German professors I’ve had at Northwestern for supporting me throughout these four years.

ELIZABETH ANNE MCTIGHE
I started learning German and participated in exchange programs before coming to Northwestern. I found the language beautiful and challenging, and the culture refreshing. I was excited to find that the German department here offered a Business German minor, as it allowed me to expand the scope of my German language skills in a way I knew would be applicable to my career. The German department provided lots of opportunities to engage with the culture, both in the greater Chicago area and abroad. Professor Paluch was incredibly helpful when I was looking for a research stipend to live and work at a German university over the summer. In the future, I plan to work closely with German researchers and hope I can make a few business trips abroad! My manager noted that my German language skills were a contributing factor in receiving my full-time job offer.

PHILLIP TRAUTLEIN
I have a close relationship to the German language in my family: my maternal grandparents were immigrants from Germany to the United States. German was my mother’s first language, and I still have family in Germany today. Having an opportunity to further my language abilities as well as learn about German culture through Northwestern’s German department has allowed me to become closer to a significant part of my family history. While I do not have any direct plans to use my German skills in the workforce yet, I will visit Germany this summer to see much of my family and communicate with them in ways I never have been able to before.

BRYAN LEE QUANDT
Bryan is graduating with a Bachelor’s Degree in Manufacturing and Design Engineering and a Minor in German. In 2015, Bryan spent a year studying in Munich, Germany. He has been an independent design consultant since 2016.
2017 Award Winners in the Department

Sarah Priscilla Lee
William Frank Kobin
Gordon Alexander Schlicht
Payton Carroll Danner
Sofia Sojo Rivera
Alice Wei
Sabrina A Matsuda
Evan Christopher Augeri

*Departmental Honors*

Géza von Mólnar Essay Award (German)
Géza von Mólnar Essay Award (German)
Géza von Mólnar Essay Award (English)
Géza von Mólnar Essay Award (English)
Outstanding Achievement in Second-Year German
Outstanding Achievement in Second-Year German
Outstanding Achievement in First-Year German

The essay awards are named after Géza von Mólnar (1932-2001), who was a long-time member of the Department, often serving as its chair. An expert in many fields of modern German literature and thought, with a particular interest in the crucial relationship between Goethe and Kant, he helped shape the scholarly and pedagogical contours of the Department as well as the field of German studies in general.

*Thank you to Dominic Balestieri-Fox and Emily Lewis for their indispensable assistance in creating this newsletter.*
Courses taught in German: Beginning & Intermediate Levels

German 101-1, Beginning German
Denise Meuser, Coordinator (MTWF 9,11,1,2) Prerequisite: None
A systematic introduction to basic German.

German 102-1, Intermediate German
John Paluch, Coordinator (MTWF 9,10,11,1) Prerequisite: German 101-3
Students develop proficiency in all German language skills.

German 201, Focus Reading: The Grim World of the Brothers Grimm
John Paluch (MWF 1-1:50)
The tales of the brothers Grimm as the basis for examining German culture and history in the 19th century.

German 205, Focus Writing: Berlin - Faces of the Metropolis
Ingrid Zeller (MWF 12-12:50)
Designed for students who wish to improve their writing and grammar skills in German, with Berlin as the thematic focus.

German 221-3, Introduction to Literature: 1945-Today
Franziska Lys (TTh 11-12:20) Distribution Area VI
This course examines the recent German past and representations of history, including post-Wall culture.

Courses taught in German: Intermediate & Advanced Levels

German 303, Speaking as Discovery
Franziska Lys (TTh 2-3:20)
Designed to help students improve their listening comprehension and speaking skills.

German 309-1, Advanced Business German
TBD (MWF 10:00-10:50)
Provides an overview of the German economy, its underlying structures, trends, and problems.

German 335, Minority Voices in Germany
Anna Parkinson (TTh 12:30-1:50)
Examine the socio-historical changes from the influx of so-called guest workers in the 1950s up to the recent series of reforms in citizenship laws.

Courses taught in English

German 224, Contemporary Germany
Jan Behrs (MWF 11-11:50) Distribution Area IV
Tracing the history of political terrorism in post-war German society within a larger framework of militant protests throughout Europe and the world.

German 228, German Film
Jan Behrs (MWF 2-2:50) Distribution Area VI
An overview of German-language film from the Weimar Republic onward.

German 266/JS/Yiddish 266/Comp Lit Studies 279, Images of the Shtetl
Marcus Moseley (TTh 3:30-4:50) Distribution Area VI
Exploring the spectrum of representations of the shtetl in Yiddish literature from the nineteenth century to the post-Holocaust period.

Graduate Courses

German 403/Comp Lit Studies 410, Benjamin and Derrida
Peter Fenves (M 2-4:50)
Designed to function as an advanced-level introduction to critical theory through an investigation of the relationship between Walter Benjamin and Jacques Derrida.

German 441/Comp Lit Studies 481, Affective Passages
Anna Parkinson (T 3-5:50)
Beginning with post-Freudian psychoanalysis, the class considers how subjectivity and attachment are staged in theory, literature, and film.