



Newsletter 2022-23

Northwestern

Department of
German

WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES





Letter from 2022-2023 Chair

Peter Fenves

It has been especially rewarding to be the interim chair of the German department during this event-filled year. Above all, despite the continued threat to our health—I can scarcely count the number of times students let me know that they would be unable to attend a class because of health-related concerns—the liveliness around the departmental offices and the campus in general was far closer to its characteristic level circa 2019 than 2020.

Among the changes back to our pre-pandemic condition, one is particularly noteworthy in our department: the revival of our hugely popular study-abroad programs. More than 20 students attended our Berlin summer program in 2022, led by Professor Ryder, and a similarly large group of Northwestern students will soon be travelling to Berlin for this year's program, led by Professor Meuser. I am very happy to say that the department has been able to support our study-abroad programs this year with funds that significantly exceed \$50,000. More the half of this comes from the extraordinary generosity of the Friedman-Kline Foundation (Houston), whose gifts to the department since the mid-2010s have been transformational. Another important source of study-abroad support—larger indeed than we requested—derives from the Max Kade Foundation (NYC). The department is delighted to be in debt to these wonderful foundations—and also to all of its alumni and other well-wishers who have made smaller yet much-appreciated gifts to the department. Without these gifts, much of what we do for our students beyond our instruction, advising, and mentoring would not be possible.

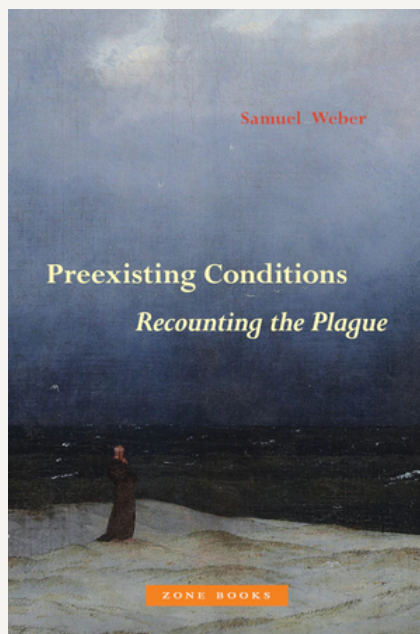
The gifts to the department, in conjunction with the regular funds provided by Weinberg College, have allowed the department to host a rich variety of events during the 2022-23 academic year. I will not be able to describe them here; but many of them will be mentioned in this newsletter, and all of them were made possible through our cooperation with other units of the university as well as the generous gifts that the departed is always honored to receive.

FACULTY UPDATES

Peter Fenves - Over the course of the last several years, two of Professor Fenves' books (*Late Kant* and *The Messianic Reduction*) were translated into Spanish and will appear this coming fall; one of the translators, Mauricio Oportus, is an advanced graduate student in our CLS program, while another, Rudy Pradenas, was a visiting scholar at Northwestern and is currently finishing his doctoral degree at the University of Michigan. One of Professor Fenves' essays, "Democracias, según Benjamin y Derrida," recently appeared in a volume titled *Jacques Derrida* (Buenos Aires and Madrid). Another of his essays, "Benjamin, Studying, China," translated by Li Sha, who was also a visiting scholar at Northwestern, recently appeared in an issue of the *Guangzhou University Journal*. Professor Fenves' follow-up reflections on Benjamin's relation to Chinese thought, "Detour and Dao: Benjamin, with Jullien, contra the Ontology of the Event," was published this spring in *Theory, Culture & Society*.

Erica Weitzman - This year, Professor Weitzman published two articles in German: one on Kafka, Adorno, U.S. car culture, and suburbia entitled "A(uto)nomie in Amerika," in the collected (Wallstein, 2022), and another on the connections between German *Naturphilosophie* (the philosophy of nature) and literary realism entitled "Realismus und Materie (Schelling, Ludwig und die Folgen)," in the collected volume *Umstülpen. Zur Praxis materialistischer Literaturinterpretation* (Fink, 2023). Professor Weitzman also presented work this year at the German Studies Association Conference, the Newberry Library, the American Comparative Literature Association Conference, and the Harriman Institute at Columbia University, and has begun conducting research for a book project dealing with the concept and practice of "bluster" in nineteenth-century German literature and philosophy.

Samuel Weber - Professor Weber, who is currently into the second year of a four-year "phased retirement" program with a reduced teaching schedule, followed up his spring 2022 undergraduate seminar on "Kafka's Uncanny Animals" with a spring 2023 course, attended by both undergraduates and graduate students, on "The Uncanny in Theory and Literature" — the theory being that of Sigmund Freud and Martin Heidegger, and the literature being that of the German Romantic author, E. T. A. Hoffmann, whose story, "The Sandmann" exemplifies the Uncanny for Freud; whereas Heidegger chooses the Greek tragedy, Sophocles' *Antigone*, as his exemplary uncanny text. Otherwise, Professor Weber published a book-length, *Preexisting Conditions— Recounting the Plague* (Zone Books) which examines how plagues have been narrated in literary, dramatic, and other forms. He also gave a series of lectures for Shanghai University on "Literature as Compassion."



Jörg Kreienbrock - Professor Kreienbrock was on leave during the 2022/23 academic year. He spent his time abroad as a Visiting Scholar at the Erich Auerbach Institute of Advanced Studies at the University of Cologne, the Institute of Media Studies at the University of Bochum, and at La Sapienza University, Rome doing research on a new book project investigating representations of poverty in literature, art, and philosophy. While abroad he gave talks and held workshops at several German universities and published articles on the idea of repair work in Alexander Kluge, the relation of poetry to philosophical conceptualizations of property, and the precarious status of opening sentences in novelistic writing.

Anna Parkinson - Professor Parkinson is working on a book project on humanism and the Holocaust in postwar German exile literature, for which she conducted research in summer 2022 in the German Literary Archives (DLA) in Marbach, Germany. As part of this project, she is currently completing an article on the "talking cure" of psychoanalysis in the context of child Holocaust survivors solicited for the journal *European Holocaust Studies*. This paper was first presented at the international conference "Childhood at War and Genocide," at the Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History in Munich, in October 2022. Other invited presentations include: a paper given in the Ziegler Lecture Series through the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, and a paper on critical theory in German Studies for a two-day conference on the legacy of the work of critical theorist Lauren Berlant, held in Banff, Canada in May 2023. As part of her Mellon New Directions Fellowship she completed field work on a second project on forensics and literature, titled "Hearts and Bones," with a field visit to the archive of the Museo de la Memoria y los Derechos Humanos (Museum of Memory and Human Rights) in Santiago, Chile, in December, 2022; and in February 2023 she visited Cape Town to consult with colleagues from the University of Stellenbosch, the University of

Sam Weber's *Preexisting Conditions: Recounting the Plague*



Witwatersrand, and the University of Cape Town. At home in Northwestern's Department of German, she was involved in the "Thomas Mann in Exile, for Social Democracy" symposium in February 2023; she held the position of Honors Supervisor, and in spring quarter acted as the interim Director of Graduate Studies; in spring quarter, she enjoyed teaching a new interdisciplinary class for the Kaplan Humanities Institute titled "Shame! Histories and Cultures of Emotion," which attracted students from Gender and Sexuality Studies, Comparative Literature, and the Kaplan Humanities Institute.

Martina Kerlova - has spent the past academic year active in both of her home departments, German and Slavic, and greatly enjoyed seeing students in the classrooms. In German she coordinated the intermediate program with its entirely new curriculum, including a new textbook and the award-winning graphic novel, *Heimat*. We also deepened our affiliation with TalkAbroad through which students can test their speaking skills with native speakers of German. In 2023 Martina won a Provost Grant for Research in Humanities, Social Sciences and the Arts to carry out research about Paul Roubiczek, a philosopher and Germanist from Prague, complementing her previous study of Erich Heller, professor of German at Northwestern University in the 1960s and 1970s. Martina has been also working with the Slavic team on new curricula for teaching Russian and will head to Riga this summer to set up a new Study Abroad location in Latvia to learn Russian.

Ingrid Zeller - Ingrid is grateful for another rewarding and inspiring year at Northwestern University.

Most recently, Ingrid enjoyed co-organizing the tenth annual cross-institutional German College Immersion Weekend in Northern Illinois with the title of German Chicago, held at Roosevelt University on April 15, 2023, in which 20 Northwestern students participated and in which she gave an architectural walking tour in German. She was also delighted to serve on the Outreach



EZE WENDTOIN AT NORTHWESTERN

Committee of the Council on Language Instruction that planned the Festival of Languages and Culture, which took place between May 8-12, 2023 at Northwestern and consisted of language and culture tables at the Rock, cultural and social events, and a Variety Show!

Ingrid's conference presentations this year included sessions on "In der Kürze liegt die Würze: Interkulturelles Lernen durch Kurzfilme" at the IDT in Vienna in August 2023 and at the ICTFL Conference at the NIU Convention Center in Naperville in October, where she also presented on "Songs, Stories, and Social Justice: Inclusive Teaching and Multicultural Explorations through Contemporary Popular Music." In November 2023, she co-presented with Mohamed Esa on "Reel Food: Culinary Dimensions in German Language Films" at ACTFL in Boston.

An extraordinary highlight of her academic year

was further the guest visit of musician Eze Wendtoin from Burkina Faso in October who gave workshops at Northwestern University in German and French and a multilingual concert in German, French, English, and Mooré.

As adviser for the GUAB (German Undergraduate Advisory Board), Ingrid congratulates the wonderful group for their immense dedication and for the fantastic events and projects they initiated and planned, including the Stammtische, a Karneval Kaffeeklatsch with Global Initiatives and an architectural tour on the Chicago River that she gave as a docent for the Chicago Architecture Center, and that concluded with pretzel sandwiches in the Northman beergarden.

Currently, Ingrid looks forward to taking students to Bonn on the AATG college study abroad program, and preparing for her term as chair of the Council on Language Instruction, which starts on September 1, 2023.

Domenic DeSocio - Professor DeSocio's first year at Northwestern has been a productive and rewarding one. He has taught the first- and second-year German language sequence, working with his colleagues to develop a new curriculum for second-year German using the textbook *Impuls Deutsch* and the graphic novel *Heimat* by Nora Krug. As a final project, students wrote in German and illustrated their own short graphic novels in which they explored their hometowns and identities; their novels were read aloud to a live audience at a departmental event in May. In Spring 2023, he developed a new first-year seminar course on the topic of dance music and club culture in contemporary Berlin, in which students investigated the history of electronic dance music and nightclubs in Chicago and Berlin. With the help of funding from the university, students had the opportunity to meet and collaborate with practicing DJs—all while acquiring the skills to be competent writers. Recently, Professor DeSocio published an article on queer temporality and friendship in the novels of German authors Klaus Mann and Siegfried Kracauer in the journal *Monatshefte*. Additionally, a chapter about queer readers in 1920s Germany

FACULTY UPDATES

was accepted for publication in an anthology on queer reading cultures, scheduled to be published by University of Toronto Press in early 2024. Since his arrival at Northwestern, he has also presented his research at conferences such as the American Comparative Literature Association and the Chicago Language Symposium. And as a volunteer at the Chicago-based, LGBTQ+-focused Gerber/Hart Library and Archive, in March Domenic organized and facilitated a book reading and conversation with fellow Northwestern professor Sarah Schulman.

Robert Ryder - has once again had a wonderful year teaching the business German and first-year German sequence, and he is very much looking forward to his new class, Beer and Brewing in Germany and Chicago, scheduled for Fall 2023. As the Study Abroad advisor, he also met with many students about their summer and longer-term plans for working and studying abroad. Last year he piloted a summer internship program at ARENA 2036, a car manufacturing research campus in Stuttgart, and this year he's expanded his internship focus and is sending five NU interns to Germany this summer: three students to Berlin and two to ARENA 2036 in Stuttgart. He has also been an active researcher and scholar: this spring quarter he was an active participant of the local colloquium on Walter Benjamin, and he has just submitted a short article to the Alexander Kluge-Jahrbuch. This summer he will be working on Ernst Schoen and Walter Benjamin's correspondence concerning politics in radio, which he will present at the German Studies Association in Montreal this October.

Xan Holt - our post-doctoral fellow, co-edited a special issue of *The Germanic Review* on "German Netflix Culture," in which he also published an article on the German Netflix series *Dark*. For the annual conference of the German Studies Association, he co-organized a seminar on the German-language documentary literature of the 1970s and presented a paper on the use of documentary materials in *A Trip to Klagenfurt*, Uwe Johnson's literary eulogy for Ingeborg Bachmann. Professor Holt also contributed a chapter on the art historical essays of the Polish writer Zbigniew Herbert to a collected volume on Eastern European travel literature during the Thaw



STUDENTS ON A TRIP TO THE MILWAUKEE MUSEUM OF ART WITH PROFESSOR MEUSER

He is currently guest editing a special issue of the German studies journal *Transit* on literature and culture in the German-Polish borderlands.

Denise Meuser - served as the Coordinator of the Beginning German language program and had an amazing year of teaching. She taught German 213 "Politics, History, and Culture in 21st Century Germany" for the first time in the fall. Students' final projects presented topics drawn from contemporary German society and ranged from urban art movements and the history of the Tempelhof airport, to sustainability initiatives. Each student took and passed the German naturalization or "Living in Germany" test with flying colors! This past winter quarter, Denise traveled with her students from German 201 "Focus Reading: Art in the Modern Age" to the

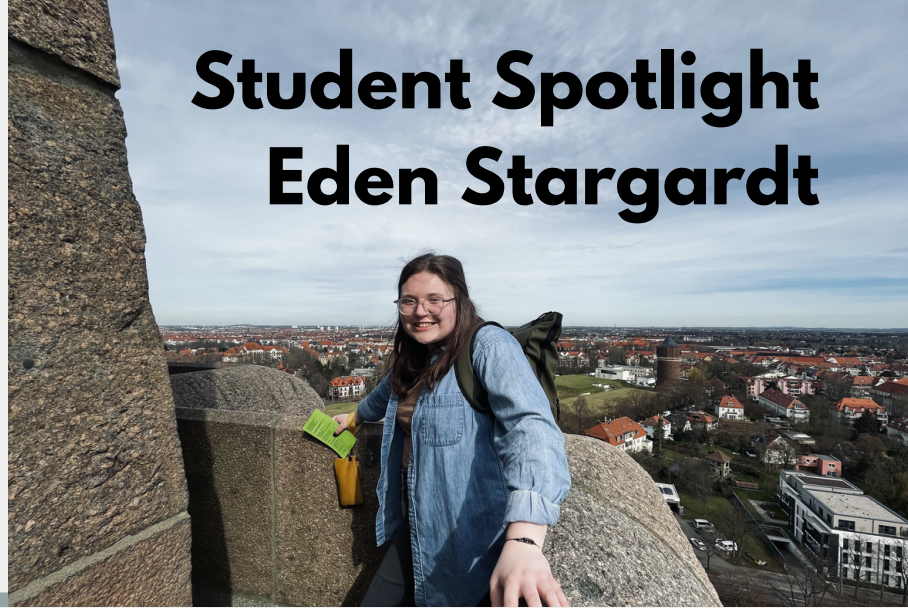
Milwaukee Art Museum to view the German expressionist art of the Mrs. Harry L. Bradley Collection and visit the Grohmann Museum which focuses on art depicting the evolution of human work. The excursion ended with a delicious German meal at Mader's restaurant courtesy of the German department. Denise presented a workshop "Schatzsuche im Art Institute" for the 10th annual College German Immersion Day in which she guided students through the museum to discover German art and artists. Spring quarter Beginning German students participated in an NU German Department tradition, the 37th Annual Evening O'Skits! This year's event included something new, the illustrated "Heimat" stories from students in Intermediate German. Denise will travel to Germany this summer to direct the Berlin: Global City in the Center of Europe program.

GUAB UPDATES

This 2022-23 academic year was an amazing year for the GUAB (German Undergraduate Advisory Board). We'd like to thank all the students and faculty involved in making our events possible. Each quarter was packed with different events for our students to engage in the language, culture, and community of Germany. In fall quarter, we hosted the exchange students at the Glenbrook South School for a visit. This was an opportunity for cultural exchange and to provide tours of the Northwestern Campus. During reading week, students got a break from studying with a visit to the Chicago Christkindlmarket and Goethe Institute, to engage in the cultural foods and souvenir stalls. We started off winter quarter with a trip to the Chicago Lyric Opera for a performance of the Hansel and Gretel Opera. We later had a cooking event learning how to make Kaiserschmarrn Austrian Pancakes. We carried on our tradition of co-hosting a Fasching/Karneval Kaffeeklatsch event with McCormick Global Initiatives, complete with Berliner donuts and Pretzels. For spring quarter we helped the department in planning for the Immersion Day event and the GUAB co-hosted Kaffeestunde every other week. Finally, we finished off the year with a Chicago River boat tour, led by our advisor and certified volunteer docent for the Chicago Architecture Center, Ingrid Zeller. Not to forget, we kept up our tradition of Stammtisch, meeting monthly at the Celtic Knot and Prairie Moon for appetizers and conversation. We would like to give a special thanks to our faculty advisor, Ingrid Zeller. Professor Zeller's passion, hard work, and support have made the GUAB's work possible. Another thanks to the German department as a whole for supporting the GUAB and to the professors who came to our events. We look forward to what next year's board will have in store!

**Your GUAB 2022-23 Co-chairs,
Kevin Brunner and Renan Dennig**

Student Spotlight Eden Stargardt



I had the opportunity to travel to Berlin last summer and this spring to research for my honors thesis project. Most of my time during both of my trips was spent working with archival materials from several major institutions in Germany, including the Staatsbibliothek and the Staatliches Institut für Musikforschung in Berlin and the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek in Leipzig. I also had the opportunity to see many of the sites that I was writing about and researching (like the Philharmonie, Bernauer Straße, the Gendarmenmarkt, the Konzerthaus Berlin, and Kurfürstendamm). Not only was it incredibly interesting to see these historic sites, but it also helped me see the connections between the different archival materials I was studying.

My thesis is centered around the idea that the orchestras in Berlin were a microcosm of the greater German society during the *Wendezeit*, which meant that the impacts of the German reunification on the Berlin orchestras were mirrored in the larger social and political changes not only within the city, but also throughout Germany. I analyzed three reunification concerts that took place in Berlin between November 1989 and January 1990 and considered how these celebrations projected a curated image of unity that presented an idealized version of society. I also considered how a reunified Germany held onto previously established cultural traditions associated with the Weimarer Klassik and how there was a resurgence of ideals of the French Revolution in the *Wendezeit*. I also explored how there was an unequal preservation of cultural institutions of the former East and West, despite a legally stated desire to equally protect elements of both states, and I questioned who was included and who was excluded from the "imagined communities" that were created after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

I am very grateful for the generous financial assistance of the Friedman-Kline Foundation and Northwestern's Office of Undergraduate Research. Without this support, my research project would not have been possible. I am also incredibly thankful for the encouragement and guidance from my thesis advisors Professors Isabel von Holt and Jesse Rosenberg throughout this entire process. This project has truly been one of the highlights of my time at Northwestern, and I hope to return to Berlin soon!

**Congratulations to Eden on receiving
2022-2023 departmental honors!**



CONGRATS TO THE CLASS OF 2023

Congratulations to all of our German majors and minors who graduate in June 2023. Below, our students tell prospective students why they studied German and what mattered to them most in choosing this path.

MAJORS



**Kendall
Clark**

Although I only began learning German in college, I had been curious about the language since I was a young child. My uncle, aunt, and first cousin live in a small town in Rheinland-Pfalz and I remember them coming to visit every so often when I was growing up. We would all talk together in English, but sometimes they would slip into German, and I always wanted to know what they were saying. German courses were not offered in my school, but studying Spanish from 9th through 12th grade made me enthusiastic about learning new languages as a means of forming deeper connections with others. When I took my first German class in Winter 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic sent everyone into isolation. Nevertheless, the German department worked hard to cultivate a strong virtual learning community, which inspired me to practice my new skills every day. In the following year, once travel restrictions were lifted, I was able to spend eleven months studying in Freiburg, Baden-Württemberg. The German language skills I developed at Northwestern became so much stronger during my time abroad, and I am seriously considering moving back to Germany to continue my education (in Computer Science, which was my minor) and start a career!



**Eden
Stargardt**

I decided to study German at Northwestern after starting to learn the language in high school. Initially, I intended to pursue a minor in German, but after I began taking classes here, my interest and love for the language and appreciation for German culture grew, and I decided to pursue a major through the Dual-Degree Program. I have had such an amazing experience with the German Department and have had the opportunity to take so many amazing courses with wonderful professors. In the last year, I have worked closely with Professor Isabel von Holt on a research project and senior thesis, which has been an incredible experience and has helped me explore the intersection of my two degrees – Music and German. My project focuses on the impact of the fall of the Berlin Wall on the orchestras within the city and explores how the orchestra acts as a microcosm of German society during the period of transition in der Wendezeit. The German Department has been incredibly supportive of my research and through the support of the Friedman-Kline Foundation and the Office of Undergraduate Research, I had the opportunity to travel to Berlin twice to conduct research for my project. I am so grateful for the amazing opportunities and experiences that I have had throughout my time at Northwestern, and I hope to continue to use the language in the future. I have plans to move to Berlin after completing my graduate studies – largely in part because the time I spent there researching led me to fall in love with the city.



**Danny
Vesurai**

Perhaps like many others, I began studying German on a whim before falling in love with it. I entered Northwestern knowing zero German, yet my whim launched me into the orbit of the department's amazing faculty. They encouraged me to continue studying German and study abroad, and with their support, I eventually did for an entire year. My year in Freiburg gifted me a plethora of memories and experiences that I will ever cherish. Over the course of my studies, I came to appreciate the particularities of the German language and culture, whether that be genitive prepositions or the Black Forest's Bollenhut. I acquainted myself with the haunting words of Heinrich von Kleist and Franz Kafka. My studies culminated in a 36-page project (in German) in which I translated contemporary German poetry into English and reflected on translation theory and practice. It astounds me that within the span of a few years, my German skills developed from nonexistent to capable of this project. For this, I am extraordinarily grateful to everyone in the German Department and to everyone who supported and taught me while I was abroad. As I pursue a career in library sciences, the possibility of working as a translator or in Germany remains in the picture. I am certain that I will continue to use my language skills to engage with German media and literature and that I will one day return to Germany.

MINORS



Garrett Breiner

Aspiring screenwriter and director studying at Northwestern University. As a filmmaker, my goal is to create impactful stories that shine a light on cultural, social, and economic issues occurring around the globe. My technical proficiencies include an advanced knowledge of Adobe Premiere Pro and Final Cut Pro, a proficiency in Lighroom, and an extensive knowledge of DSLR cameras. My skills include storyboarding, establishing policies and procedures regarding production best practices, quantitative analysis of film, and film production.



Katie Hickman

I chose to study German here at Northwestern because I already had a background in German. The courses Northwestern offers provide exciting and new ways to continue to study and learn not only the German language, but also many different aspects of German culture and history. I found my time here to be challenging and quite fun! My courses always pushed me to work hard and stay dedicated. The professors were incredibly supportive and willing to help, which was a great comfort. I hope to use my German skills with not only my travels, but also in the professional world.

was spurred during the Department Fair during Wildcat Welcome, in which I was warmly greeted by Professorinnen Meuser and Zeller. Their warm greetings and earnest desire to share their love of German with me drew me in, and I haven't looked back since. Throughout my Northwestern career I've found no lack of outstanding faculty, but the German Department has always had some of my favorite professors. Professors Meuser, Zeller, and Kerlova all helped me establish a strong foundation from which I began to make sense of the world in German. Professors Paluch, Ryder, and Lys challenged me to accelerate my German to the next level and pushed me to exceed my own expectations of my capabilities. I'm eternally grateful to all the German Department staff and faculty who have helped me on this journey. As my deutsches Abenteuer moves beyond Northwestern, I find new doors of opportunity waiting for me. Thanks to connections via the German Department, I have an opportunity to live and intern in Berlin this summer. I'm very grateful to have this chance and look forward to what it holds.



Renan Dennig

I felt like I needed to study German for a long time and college was the perfect opportunity to do so. My father is from Germany, and I have visited often, so I wanted to learn the language. I really enjoyed studying German at Northwestern. The first two years gave me a solid foundation to build from, while the upper-level courses have covered a variety of interesting material and topics in German. Having visited Germany since beginning at Northwestern, I feel like the courses I have taken really improved my language skills and understanding of current affairs in Germany. The professors in the German Department have consistently been passionate, fantastic to work with, and extremely helpful. I think there is a strong sense of community within the German Department, and I have enjoyed getting to meet people through events and classes. I decided to pursue a Business German Minor, because it pairs well with my Economics Major and will be personally useful, since I hope to live in Germany at some point!



Anya Kirsch

I originally wanted to study German in order to learn the language better, because my dad is from Germany and everyone on his side of the family lives there. Through studying German at Northwestern I've not only accomplished this goal, but also learned so much about the history of the country, pop culture, and present day issues in Germany. Studying abroad in Berlin Winter of my senior year really rounded out my experiences minoring in German, and I immediately fell in love with the city and the culture. Everyone in the German department has been incredibly supportive of my goals over the past four years, whether that be academic or career related. Some of my favorite classes I've taken at Northwestern include German classes. I know I'll use my language skills throughout my whole life, whether that be talking to family or hopefully visiting Germany (and Berlin) many times again.

BUSINESS MINORS



Gretchen Faliszek

My German learning journey started in high school when we had to take a foreign language. I took German due to my family's heritage and I fell in love with the language. I was ecstatic to continue with my German studies at Northwestern, entering college with a goal of reaching fluency by the time I graduated. The German department quickly became my favorite thing about Northwestern. The faculty and professors are fantastic and became some of my greatest support systems on campus. It feels like a family here. Throughout college I've been using my German skills at the DANK Haus in Chicago in their bilingual school working with children aged 3-14. It is also through the DANK Haus where I took the DSD II exam and obtained my Deutsches Sprachdiplom at the C1 level - completing my goal of obtaining German fluency during my time at Northwestern. This would not have been possible without the support from the German department. After graduation, I'll be completing a year of grad school at Northwestern and obtaining my Master's degree in secondary education. I will get endorsed in secondary social studies and PK-12 German, and there is a good chance you will find me teaching German in Chicago at some point in my life!

Read about student's career plans and personal dreams for the future



Nathan Sowder

Retrospectively as one who fell in love with the German language and culture, the path towards my German minor seems quite natural, almost destined to occur. However, arriving as a freshman with no German language experience and two years' of WCAS language credits demanding to be filled, I can assure you this what not the case. My initial interest in German



Denis Gribincea

Studying German at Northwestern University was one of the best decisions I made during my undergraduate years! Although German was not a direct part of my academic focus and plan, given my fascination with the language, culture, and history of the German-speaking world, I couldn't miss the opportunity to learn more and take courses in the German department. The inspiring community of faculty and peers who've supported me in many endeavors and the variety of courses offered made this experience truly special. From classical to contemporary literature, from history of environmentalism to minority voices, from architecture to media, from culture of democracy to film, and from expressionism to religion, the German department offered something for any curious mind that wants to get immersed in this beautiful language. I've always dreamt of moving to Germany, and the German department at Northwestern University only helped me get closer to my dream!



STUDENTS ELECTED TO PHI BETA KAPPA



Two of our graduating German majors, Kendall Clark and Danny Vesurai, were elected to Phi Beta Kappa this Spring

Each spring, the Northwestern chapter of Phi Beta Kappa elects juniors and seniors in Weinberg College to that society. Students do not apply to Phi Beta Kappa, but are elected on the basis of numerous criteria, including GPA, the selection of courses, and instructors' recommendations. No more than 10 percent of any graduating class may be elected.

Congratulations to Kendall and Danny on this wonderful honor.



From late January to March 2023, the German Department at Northwestern hosted the sole visit of a travelling exhibit to the Chicago area: "Thomas Mann: Democracy Will Win!"

The exhibit was created by the Thomas-Mann House in Los Angeles in commemoration of the series of lecture tours that Nobel Laureate conducted throughout the United States from the late 1930s to the mid-1940s.

The first of these tours began, in fact, at Northwestern, where more than 4000 people came to hear him articulate the fundamental for liberal democracy.

"It is a terrible spectacle when the irrational becomes popular," Mann said in a speech at the Library of Congress in 1943, and he drew on his considerable powers of thought and expression to counter the sources of this spectacle through the confident motto: "Democracy will win."

A symposium was conducted in conjunction with the arrival of the travelling exhibit featuring

Tobias Boas - Chair, Department of German and Russian Languages and Literatures
Notre Dame University

"The 'Greatest Living Man of Letters' Comes to Evanston: Thomas Mann and His 1938 Lecture Tour"

Meike Werner - Chair, Department of German, Russian, and East European Studies
Associate Professor of German and European Studies
Vanderbilt University

"How far away was L.A.? Thomas Mann in Pacific Palisades 1942/43"

Veronika Fuechtner - Chair of Jewish Studies
Associate Professor of German Studies and Comparative Literature
Dartmouth College

"The Migrations of the Mann Family"



THOMAS MANN EXHIBIT

The like-named exhibit—which was on the ground floor of the University Library from late January to the end of the winter quarter—was divided into two parts: the first charted the changes in Mann's political views, while the second connected Mann's mature political views to current situations in both Europe and the States.



FELIX GARKISCH'S TRAVELS TO BAYREUTH AND LEIPZIG

Thanks to the generosity of the Friedman-Kline Foundation and their support of students like me who wanted to spend summer quarter in Germany, I was lucky enough to be able to stay for eight weeks with significant financial assistance in two cities in Germany, Bayreuth and Leipzig. Both cities were situated in culturally rich surroundings, so my time was of course brimming with all sorts of cool experiences, including seeing landmarks like the church where Bach once worked, learning about former East Germany, and of course trying both the national and local culinary specialties (Leipziger Lerche and Frankish Bratwurst remain favorites of mine). In addition to being immersed in the culture, I of course drastically improved my German-speaking skills, even after taking just one year of the introductory sequence at Northwestern.

Herr Ryder and the German Department at Northwestern helped find language programs that aligned with my abilities going into the program and my goals for continuing German when returning. On top of everything, I also became a more global-minded person through the countless meaningful connections I made with people from all around the world who participated in the courses I took. I wouldn't trade this last summer in Germany for anything. I gained exactly what I wanted from it and so much more. So, if you're even considering doing a summer study abroad, I strongly recommend Germany as a worthwhile option.

GERMAN GRAD NEWS AND RECRUITMENT

The German department had a very successful recruitment year for the upcoming 2023 academic year.

We look forward to welcoming **Sophie Meiner**, **Sean Gordon** and **Emily Landkamer** in the fall.

Our current grad students, **Nina Melovska**, **Eleonora Antonakaki**, **Giannisi Roman Hutter**, **Carly Bortman**, and **Ariel Weiner** have completed their qualifying exams.

Ariel Weiner was awarded a DAAD Fellowship in Berlin, studying with our current Max Kade Visiting Professor, Astrid Deuber-Mankowski (ICI-Berlin).

Congratulations to **Sorrel Dunn**, who recently defended her outstanding dissertation, "Natures of Color: The Literary Environments of Adalbert Stifter and Paul Scheerbart." Dr. Dunn will receive her doctoral degree at the "hooding" ceremony on June 10th.





AWARD WINNERS

Outstanding Achievement in First-Year German

ISABELLA GRAU
SOFIA SOROCHINSKAIA

Outstanding Achievement in Second-Year German

ADELAIDE OMOLADE-ADUNBI
ARDEN SHAO

Géza von Molnár Award - German Achievement Award

KENDALL CLARK
SOFIA STUTZ

Géza von Molnár Award - English

BIANCA VARLESI
GIDEON LEOPOLDO PARDO

Honors from the German Department for 2022-2023

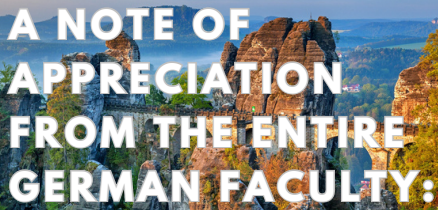
EDEN STARGARDT

Friedman-Kline Fellowship

**HENRY HERBERT, SOPHIA JACKSON, ISABELLA
KIRKWOOD, MATTEA MUENCH, EDUARDO RAMOS,
INNA SOKOLENKO, JESSICA SUN, SOPHIE ZHANG,
CHARLES ZHOU**

Max Kade Travel Award Winners

**GABRIELLE BUTLER, MARIA CAMINHA BELLO,
QUENTIN COLSON, ELEANOR DEMPSEY, HENRY
HERBERT, SOPHIA JACKSON, BELLA KIRKWOOD,
EDUARDO RAMOS, JESSICA SUN, JACK TULLY,
ORLYSE INEZA, HANNAH OROZCO, LAUREN
SHAPIRO, NATHAN SOWDER**



A NOTE OF APPRECIATION FROM THE ENTIRE GERMAN FACULTY:

We want to give our heartfelt thanks to our amazing departmental assistant, **Courtney Essenpreis**, who—among all the other ways in which she has sustained the department throughout the academic year—produced this account of the activities and accomplishments of our faculty and students. Thank you also to **Liz Murray**, who helped facilitate departmental operations in innumerable ways. And thank you, finally, to our gracious group of work study students: **Maddie Farr, Elizabeth Lakoma** and **Rodrigo Carmena-Black**



FACULTY AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR FACULTY:

Isabel von Holt, our departing DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) visiting professor, who was recently awarded the Hilde Domin Fellowship for German-Latin American Literary Relations. In conjunction with this fellowship she will conduct research into the translation history and the transatlantic entanglements of Gustav René Hocke's *Die Welt als Labyrinth* (The World as Labyrinth, 1957) at Deutsches Literaturarchiv in Marbach.

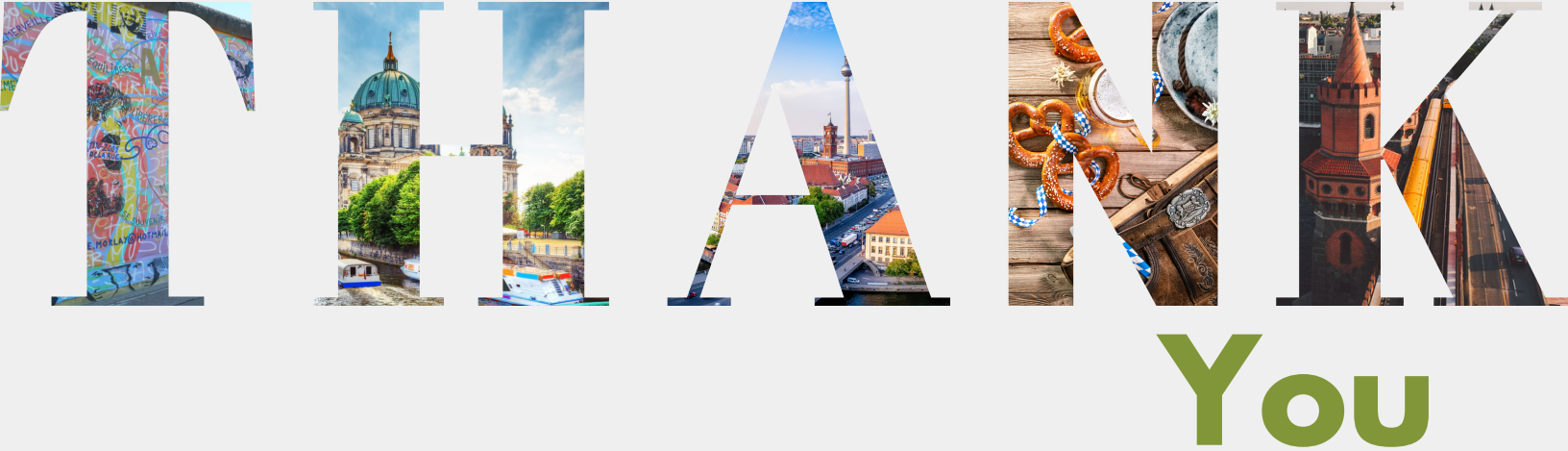
Ingrid Zeller, who was recently voted into the position of director the Council for Language Instruction (CLI), which supports the Weinberg faculty in their pursuit of excellence in language instruction and curriculum development, thereby preparing a vast variety of Northwestern students for their entrance into the sphere of global citizenship.

Anna Parkinson, who was recently inducted into the Mission: Accessible Wall of Fame, which provides a list of professors whose courses meet rigorous Canvas accessibility standards. This list informs students throughout Northwestern of digital learning opportunities that are sure to be at once accessible, functional, and fully inclusive.

KARNEVAL KAFFEEKLATSCH



GUAB (German Undergraduate Advisory Board) celebrated Fasching with seasonal pastries and snacks, trivia, games, and more. The holiday is celebrated across Germany, under many names including Fasching, Karneval and Fastnacht, and is the German equivalent of Mardi Gras or Carnival.



Because of the extraordinary generosity of the Friedman-Kline Foundation (Houston) and the Max Kade Foundation (NYC), the German department was able to provide a wide and deep array of support for summer study programs. This year, we awarded 23 of our students more than \$50,000—nearly \$20,000 more than last year. We are delighted to say that the Max Kade Foundation gave us more than we asked for, and the Friedman-Kline Foundation just donated another large sum to the department for study-abroad purposes. As we accept these gifts, we recognize that it is our intrepid students who have brought these honors to our department and university.

The Max Kade Foundation Travel Grants, which was increased this year to \$1,500 per student, was awarded to 10 students who will be participating in our eight-week summer program, “Berlin: Global City in the Center of Europe.” The recipients are Gabrielle Butler, Maria Caminha Bello, Quentin Colson, Eleanor Dempsey, Henry Herbert, Sophia Jackson, Bella Kirkwood, Eduardo Ramos, Jessica Sun, and Jack Tully. Four more students, all of whom will be doing internships in either Berlin or Stuttgart this summer, were also awarded the Max Kade Foundation Travel Grants: Orlyse Ineza, Hannah Orozco, Lauren Shapiro, and Nate Sowder.

We also had a singularly strong pool of applicants for the Friedman-Kline Foundation Fellowship, all of whom have taken one or more of our German courses. We were able to award over \$30,000 to 12 award recipients, as well as pay for all fees accrued for finding the Berlin internships and acquiring work visas for all four of our internship recipients noted above. Of the 12 individual applicants, 2 will be travelling to Germany on the prestigious DAAD-RISE grants, 2 will conduct research in Berlin, and the rest will be participating in either the Berlin Summer Program or studying at intensive German language programs in Bonn, Braunschweig, or Graz. The 12 recipients are Ace Chisholm, Eden Stargardt, Henry Herbert, Sophia Jackson, Bella Kirkwood, Jessica Sun, Ian Marks, Mattea Muench, Eduardo Ramos, Inna Sokolenko, Sophia Zhang, and Charles Zhou.

Congratulations to all of you who have won these awards, and we very hope and expect that you will have an enriching experience in German-speaking lands this summer!

— **Rob Ryder (as Study-Abroad Advisor) and Peter Fenves (as interim Chair) on behalf of the entire department**