

Wellesley wegweiser

Issue Twenty-Two

Spring 2015

*Frühling ist wiedergekommen. Die Erde
ist wie ein Kind, das Gedichte weiß;
viele, o viele.... Für die Beschwerde
langen Lernens bekommt sie den Preis.*

Im Rückblick

In Rainer Maria Rilke's lines about the return of spring after a harsh winter (from *Die Sonette an Orpheus*, 1922), earth appears as a child who has learned to memorize many a poem - quite an arduous task (*Beschwerde*). Rilke adds: "Streng war der Lehrer."

Spring has finally arrived on campus as we look back to a year of learning and changes. Like the vast majority of language programs and humanities departments on campus, our department, too, has experienced the College's shift in enrollment patterns: in many courses offered in Founders Hall, enrollments have dropped quite dramatically over the course of the last few years. Many see this decline as a response to the economic crisis which drove up numbers in the sciences where class sizes have been growing rapidly. Clearly, as a premier liberal arts institution, we need to keep emphasizing the value of the humanities in general and the languages in particular for the education for the future generation of women in leadership positions.

I would like to emphasize some of the highlights of last academic year during which the German Club under the direction of Divya Alukal and Charlotte Fitzek mounted a series of interesting cultural programs. We would like to thank them for all their great work and we are looking forward to the incoming officers: Gretchen Parmley, Caroline Harper, and Katharine Starke.

In December, the Office of the Provost and of the Deans sponsored a big retirement celebration for our dear colleague professor Jens Kruse. But no worries, Prof. Kruse is not really leaving the College quite yet as he will be enjoying a well-earned sabbatical and his Early Retirement leave.

Congratulations also to Professor Anjeana Hans who received tenure in December and returned from her parental leave in the spring!

2014/15 also was the first year of Professor Thomas Hansen's Early Retirement Leave program which means for us that - starting this year - Prof. Hansen will be teaching only one semester per academic year.

We have started to approach alumna to share with us how their German studies have helped shape their careers, and we are looking forward to hearing from you all about the paths that took you from our classrooms here in Founders Hall to wherever you are right now. Look for the first series of alumnae portraits on our departmental web site. In this context, we want to express our gratitude to Dr. Irene von Estdorff ('62) for her generous and continuous support of our department!

With great pride we salute our graduating major Claire Liang for her astonishing achievements in our department. Claire will go on to study at the Teachers College of Columbia and we are sure to see her make a mark in the field of international education in the years to come.

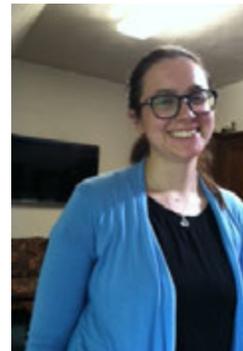
I also would like to thank our student assistants (and German minor) Madeline Thayer, who is leaving to pursue graduate studies in Classics at the University of Southern California, and Milena Radoman who will be working at MGH in Boston. And Lori Rash deserves thanks for her wonderful work as course tutor in our wintersession language course!

Last but not least, a heartfelt word of thanks to Katie Sango-Jackson, our administrative assistant, for all her support throughout this busy year.

Rilke's sonnet ends with a tribute to what the child had been taught. I am sure that Rilke had not in mind the roots of German nouns or the difficult stems of some German verbs when he talked about the plentitude that has been printed, *gedruckt*, in *Wurzeln* and *Stämmen*. But I am certain that the many things printed on paper, on celluloid, on canvass, indeed are all worth studying:

*O, was der Lehrer sie lehrte, das Viele,
und was gedruckt steht in Wurzeln und langen
schwierigen Stämmen: sie sings, sie sings.*

--Thomas Nolden



Graduating
German
Students, l-r,
Nicole Chui
(minor),
Claire Liang
(major),
Madeline
Thayer
(minor).

Focus on Faculty

Jens Kruse

In the fall semester of 2014-15, Jens Kruse taught **German 276/376: Franz Kafka** and team-taught (with Professor Lisa Rodensky of the English Department) **German/English 290: The Law in Literature**. Since Prof. Kruse is now on the college's Early Retirement Program, he did not teach in the spring semester. In fact, the fall semester of this academic year was his last semester of teaching.

He hopes to complete work on a book to be entitled *Kafka's 1914* this year. He also continues working on annotated editions of Kafka's stories specially designed for electronic book readers. Editions of *The Metamorphosis*, *In the Penal Colony*, "A Country Doctor" and "A Hunger Artist" have been published by eNotated Classics and are available on Amazon, B&N, and iBooks.

(Link: <http://www.enotatedclassics.com/enotatedclassics/Home.html>)

Anjeana Hans

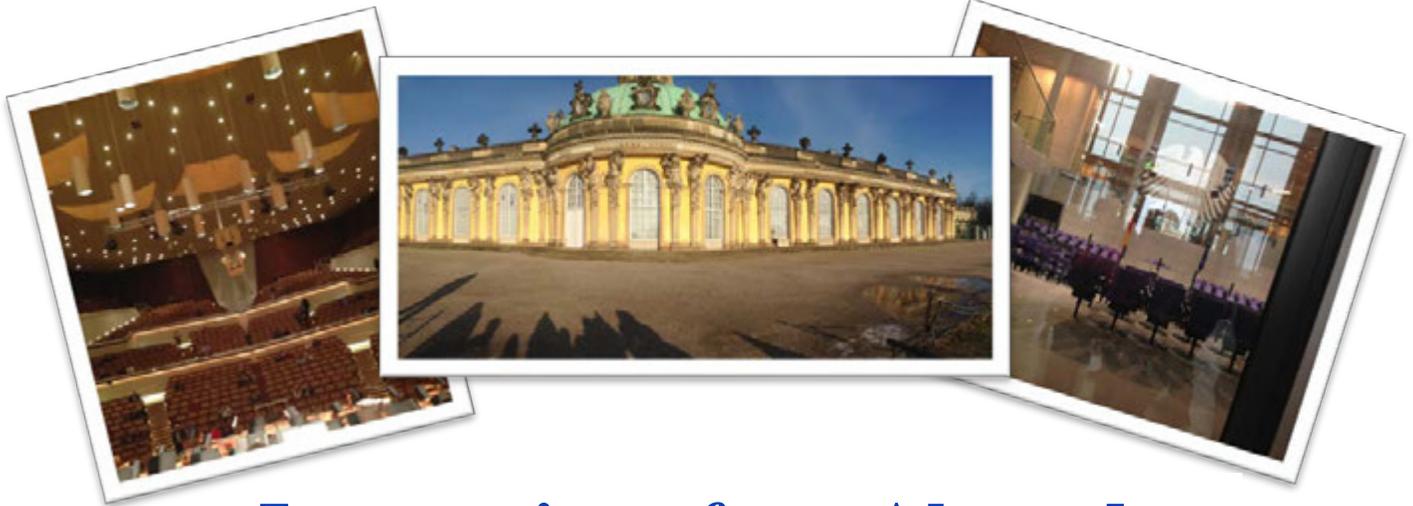
Anjeana Hans spent the fall semester on parental leave, but also was able to celebrate the publication of her book, **Gender and the Uncanny in Films of the Weimar Republic**, by Wayne State UP in September 2014. She also continued work on her current research, one project that focuses on images of 'the gypsy' in early German film, as well as a second that examines the transition from silent to sound film in Germany. She presented a talk on the former, examining Leni Riefenstahl's self-staging in her feature films, at Smith College in October 2014. This summer, she will participate in a German Film Institute at University of Michigan, and will then spend time in Berlin continuing research on her larger project on the transitional period. After returning from parental leave for the spring semester, she taught intermediate language, a language and culture course, and a seminar focused on women in the literature and culture of the early twentieth century. She has enjoyed working in these courses with students at all levels of the program, and looks forward to continuing to work with many of them in the next years.

Thomas Hansen

Prof. Hansen was on campus for the fall semester (2014) when he taught our two sections of German 101. This spring, however, he has been on leave and engaged in a challenging translation project. In the final days of World War II the US military rushed to track down both the private and official papers of high-ranking functionaries of the Third Reich. An obvious target was Heinrich Himmler (1900-1945), one of the most heinous perpetrators. Half of Himmler's private letters were recovered in 1945; the other half did not surface until recently in Israel. As a result, a complete edition of the private correspondence between Heinrich Himmler and his wife, as well as their daughter's diary, were at last published in German in 2014. Prof. Hansen is preparing the definitive English edition, which will give readers a glimpse into the minds of people whose lives were at times both ordinary and extraordinary.

Thomas Nolden

Thomas Nolden brought yet another group of Wellesley students to Berlin during winter session and taught a new course on "Deutschland Bilder" in the fall semester. He is looking forward to teaching two new courses next year: "Cultural Capitals: Berlin, Prague, Vienna" and "New Media." His article on the impact of Homer, Virgil, and Plautus on the creation of Antillean literature will be appearing in the *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*.



Impressions *from* Abroad

Deciding whether or not to spend a year abroad was a difficult decision for me, but I think that I made the right choice. Berlin is a wonderful city to study in; there's just so much to see and do. I've been here for over six months already and there are still museums and historical sites that I haven't seen. I think that spending a year has given me time to just relax and enjoy the city since I don't feel any rush to travel; I can spend the weekend relaxing in the park, trying out new cafes, or just walking around and exploring!

When I arrived in September I could barely speak any German at all; I was

shy and mumbling, afraid to speak just in case I made a mistake. I was so afraid of messing up and looking like an idiot that I would rather not speak at all. However, I got over that fear pretty quickly, and my German really improved as a result! No one expected me, a foreigner who had never been abroad for a long period of time before, to speak perfectly! I didn't even notice that my speaking skills were improving until recently, when I had a conversation with a classmate and didn't need to use any English words. A few months ago, that would have been impossible for me. I'm looking forward to the coming semester and enjoying Berlin in the summer!

Katharine Starke, Class of 2016
Art History and German Double Major



German Club

This has been an exciting year for German Club! We were glad to celebrate our love of Germanic language and cultures this year through many events that incorporated the Wellesley community.

In the fall, we celebrated Oktoberfest in Punch's Alley, inviting all of Wellesley and German-related student organizations from other schools in the Boston area. We enjoyed s'mores and sausages cooked on the fire pit, pretzels and cider, and lively German tunes. It was a great success and many people turned out to share in this German tradition with us.

Later that month, we commemorated the historic 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall with a tea at Slater International House. We enjoyed an informative and entertaining conversation with Professor Jens Kruse, who shared his stories of the Berlin Wall, its effects on German society, and Wellesley's reaction to the news.

We collaborated with Advocates for North Korean Human Rights (ANKHR) to host a lecture by **Friedrich Löhr**, former German ambassador to the DPRK. He spoke about his experiences as an ambassador in the mid-2000s and contemporary East Asian politics and East-West relations.



In the spring, German Club took an exciting trip to Boston to hear the **Boston Symphony Orchestra** perform works by Schuller, Mozart, and Strauss, as conducted by Andris Nelsons. Following the concert, we had a delicious dinner at German restaurant Jacob Wirth. We enjoyed getting off campus to discover the German cultural offerings in the Boston area.



Throughout the year, German Club hosted screenings of **German movies**, which ranged from political dramas to historical fiction to entertaining comedies. The movies were accompanied by yummy snacks, including cheese fondue made in our new fondue pot! These movies were a way for us to relax together and a fun immersion experience in the German language. We were grateful to be able to use the cozy German Department common space to host our film screenings.

A hearty welcome to our incoming German Club officers for the 2015-2016 academic year, President Caroline Harper and Treasurer Katharine Starke. We know that they will lead the club in many successful endeavors next year. Auf Wiedersehen und bis nächstes Jahr!

Faculty Recommendations

Prof. Thomas Hansen's Recommendations:

I recommend highly two titles by the English traveler and historian, Simon Winder. His books *Germania* and *Danubia* are very entertaining and informative works filled with humor, historical fact, and enlightening analysis of cultural identity. *Germania*, as one might guess, treats German history from the beginnings to 1933; *Danubia* focuses on Austria and its sprawling empire. Being English, Winder has been able to hop over to the continent whenever he has had spare time and there thoroughly explored small churches and museums as well as the great cities of the German-speaking world. He has the ability to tease meaning out of grotesque details that most people would overlook. He achieves a light-hearted, irreverent style when he treats serious matters-- in other words, these books are never tedious. Anyone who has spent time in either area (or plans to do so) will benefit from Winder's books.



Prof. Anjeana Hans's Recommendations:

Irmgard Keun's novels. For example: *Gilgi, eine von uns / Gilgi, one of us* (book from 1931 – made the young author an overnight success) Good summer reading!

More modern: Marica Bodrožić. One of her newer books is *Kirschholz und alte Gefühle* (2012) I like the facebook site "[Mit Vergnügen](#)" – it's a little bit specific to Berlin, but gives a ton of things to do in the city. I like to live vicariously through their suggestions.

Great history site: <https://www.dhm.de/lemo>. This has material including video, audio, images, and primary texts and first-hand accounts of historical events. It is a great site to poke around on if you're interested in German history and culture.

Prof. Thomas Nolden's Recommendations:

The maps created by the magazine "Die Zeit" are fabulous - you can learn the most crazy things about Germany: <http://www.zeit.de/serie/deutschlandkarte>

For those of us who love the mountains: <http://zugspitze.de/de/aktuell/panoramakameras>

Das finstere Tal by Andreas Prochaska is a most curious film to watch as it is one part Western and one part *Heimattfilm*. By no means a masterpiece, the film documents how conflicted film making is in present-day Austria: <http://www.dasfinstertal.at/>

Instead of a *Lieblingsroman*, I would like to share with you where I like to read it in Berlin: <http://www.cafe-butter.de/>

Alumnae Aktuell

Vanessa Troiano, Class of 2008, has just won a DAAD scholarship to enable her carry out research in Berlin this summer. Vanessa is currently a Ph.D. student in Art History at the City University of New York. Her work will focus on the artist Heinrich Vogeler (1872-1942) who designed remarkable books of Rilke's works. She looks forward to meeting Wellesley alumnae and students who might be in Berlin this summer.

Melinda Kaiden, Class of 2003, received her MA in German from Middlebury in August 2014 in conjunction with studies at the Freie Universität Berlin. She has just received a DAAD Fellowship to support further study at a German university in the field of Translation Studies.

Dear Frau Ward,

April 2015

I hope all is well! I have such wonderful memories of debating and analyzing literature around a cozy table. I am going to miss my 25th reunion this spring, but I was thinking of you when I sat in on a German conversation class today to brush up on my language skills. For the first time, I am actually going to blend my German and Chemistry majors. I accepted a [visiting professorship at the University of Würzburg](#) for this summer. I was hoping to take a sabbatical, but with kids and a husband who is also on the faculty, it's been hard to coordinate. But this summer looks like everything is coming together so that we can all go. Very exciting! I'm sure I will give my chemistry research seminars in English, but it will be nice to use German with the students and outside of work. We're planning on having the kids take a language class while we are there.

Best wishes for a wonderful 2015!

Linda (Szabo) Shimizu, class of 1990



Prof. Linda (Szabo) Shimizu, Associate Professor of Chemistry at University of South Carolina



Photo from June 2014: Emily Randall, Emma Sydenham and Andrea Beck, all Class of 2004.

See our [Spotlight Alumnae](#)/German Department Website for full updates: **Evangeline Frey Kraus, Class of 2000.** She writes that her study of German provided a very useful skill that remains a big part of her life: *“A short update since graduation: I started working for an educational travel and language learning company after graduating from Wellesley and my first project was working with our Berlin office to translate our English website into German, so right away I was able to use my German skills. After two years at this company I received a Fulbright teaching fellowship in Trier, Germany where I continued my German studies at the University of Trier while teaching high school students in a German Gymnasium. After this was completed I wanted to stay in Europe. The company I had worked for in Boston had just opened a larger headquarters in Luzern, Switzerland and I took a job there and I've been here ever since. I've had 4 different jobs in this company during the 12 years that I've been here...”*

Evangeline Frey Kraus, in Luzern with Mt. Rigi in background; and, right, with family in front of Mt. Pilatus.



Sarah Barron, Class of 2004. *“... After graduating and finishing the Fulbright teaching program, I worked for a German-US exchange program followed by teaching English as a Second Language in NYC public schools. I currently work for Goldman Sachs in their Learning & Development department – designing, facilitating and managing professional development programs for employees.”*

Shernaz Dossabhoj, Class of 2012. *“I graduated from Wellesley in 2012 with a major in German, minor in Chemistry, and two NCAA trophies from my time dedicated to the Varsity Crew Team. After graduation, I was determined to pursue a career in medicine, and received the opportunity to work at Boston Medical Center as a clinical research assistant with opioid-addicted patients.”*



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Congratulations!

The 2015 Natalie Wipplinger Prize: *Claire Liang*

The 2015 Vogel Falk Prize: *Lori Rash*

The 2015 Ethel Folger Williams
Sophomore Prize: *Caylene Parish, Francesca Guiso and Heike Jacob*