Im Rückblick

We started the academic year with a book party for the memoir written by our former colleague Prof. Margaret Ward. Her "Missing Mila, Finding Family: An International Adoption in the Shadow of the Salvadoran Civil War" was celebrated in a party that was co-hosted by the Women's Studies Department to reflect how interwoven Prof. Ward's career had been with this department and its concerns.

In September, we hired a new administrative assistant, Katie Sango-Jackson, who in very short time succeeded in getting our office up to speed to deal with the many tasks that come with the academic year. In January, we interviewed candidates at the conference of the Modern Language Association in Seattle for a Mellon postdoc position. We invited Dr. Gesa Frömming, who received her Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University and is currently a visiting assistant professor at Notre Dame University, to spend the next two years with us. We are very much looking forward to welcoming Dr. Frömming in the fall.

In the meanwhile, we will be missing Prof. Anjeana Hans who at the end of this semester will be embarking on a much-deserved junior leave, followed by a semester of parental leave: Congratulations to Prof. Hans!

We staged several cultural events to keep our students abreast of trends in German culture and letters, among them a reading by Tzveta Sofronieva, a prominent Bulgarian-born German-language writer who currently is a Max Kade writer in residence at MIT, and a showing by our colleague Prof. Rachel Freudenburg from Boston College of her documentary film on Freya von Moltke, a member of the Kreisau circle of resistance to Nazi Germany.

Our international venues, too, merit a word of recognition: I took a group of thirteen students to Vienna during winter session, where we studied not only the intricacies of German syntax and Hapsburg diplomacy, but also those of the Viennese Waltz which we had ample opportunity to practice while attending a ball at Vienna's imposing Hofburg. Sadly, this was the last of the many wintersession trips to Vienna our students have been enjoying, but I am equally excited about the prospect of offering a comparable winter session experience for our students in Berlin in the years to come. And while we are speaking of Berlin: The students enrolled in my current seminar on Berlin were invited to spend a few days prior to commencement in the German capital, on an excursion that will allow us to visit the many exciting sites that we have been studying during the course of the semester. I would like to acknowledge the generosity of the Wenckebach fund that will be underwriting the costs of the trip. And our Falk fund allowed us to offer generous stipends to two of our sophomores for summer studies in Germany. Currently, eight of our majors are studying with our new joint program with Middlebury-in-Berlin which has been off to a very good start.

Last but not least, we would like to say Auf Wiedersehen to our wonderful graduating majors and minors and congratulate them on their many accomplishments! Alles Gute,
Ihr
Thomas Nolden (Chair)
P.S.: We are grateful for a dedicated and loyal alumnae following this newsletter and look forward to receiving updates on your new endeavors. As the college transitions to a new website appearance, we hope to keep this sort of information current for all to enjoy in a timely manner.

Class of 2012, German Majors: From Left to Right: Back: Lucy Bergin, Jennifer "Faa" MacDonald, Melissa Evans, Julia Becker; Front: Clara Buchholtz, Alexandra Quintela, Shernaz Dossabhoy

Cara Groden '12
Alumnae Aktuell

Vanessa Simone Troiano '08 has been awarded a 5-year fellowship to pursue her PhD in Art History at CUNY’s Graduate Center in NYC. “I have proposed to study post-war German art, specifically examining the dichotomy between East and West German art of the 1960s.” ***Anjeana Hans has completed a draft of her manuscript, The Beast on the Screen: Gender, Trauma, and Uncanny Films in Weimar Germany, and is currently waiting to hear back from an interested press. In October, she presented a talk on Carl Theodor Dreyer’s Vampyr (1932) at the annual German Studies Association conference. She is currently moving forward on a new project, examining the construction of ethnic and cultural ‘others’ in early German film, particularly in the genre known at the time as the ‘Zigeuner drama,’ the ‘gypsy drama.’ These films offer a fascinating insight into the simultaneous fascination with and fear of the other, and the way in which German identity in many ways defined itself against such constructs. She looks forward to continuing work on this project during her upcoming leave, which she will spend in Berlin. This year, she also took on the role of Faculty Advisor for Study Abroad, which allowed her to work closely with the students currently abroad and those planning to go abroad in the coming year, as well as with the resident staff in Germany who oversee the program in Berlin.

Thomas Hansen published two translations in the past year. The first, an account by the Austrian writer Joseph Haslinger of the devastating natural catastrophe that struck Indonesia, Tsunami. A Report from Phi Phi Island. The second is a collection of short stories by Robert Menasse, Anyone Can Say “I”. Tales from the End of the Post-war Era. In these stories Menasse refracts the suffering of the past through the ironic distance of a feeling observer. His critically humorous voice uncovers surprising truths about himself and the past. Though they sound serious (which is true), these texts are all amusing and thought provoking. Both are published by, and available from, Ariadne Press (Riverside, Calif.).

In addition to these translation projects (which he does together with his wife), Prof. Hansen has also been working steadily on the revision of the first-year German-language text-book, Neue Horizonte, which will appear in 2013 in its 8th edition with a completely new design.

During the fall semester, Jens Kruse gave a presentation at the Newhouse Humanities Center and to the German Club on the use of enotated editions in the classroom and the use of enotation software as a pedagogical tool.

During the spring semester of 2012, he was on sabbatical and did research on a book to be entitled Kafka’s 1914, which will also be the topic of the spring 2013 departmental seminar. He also continued working on annotated editions of Kafka’s stories specially designed for electronic book readers. Editions of The Metamorphosis and of In the Penal Colony have been published by eNotated Classics (http://www.enotatedclassics.com/enotatedclassics/Home.html) and are available on Amazon, B&N, and iBooks. Editions of “A Country Doctor” and “A Hunger Artist” will be published later this year.

Last June, Thomas Nolden gave a talk at the Centro de Estudos Comparatistas at the University of Lisbon on the “Cahier d’un retour au pays natal” by the francophone Antillean author A. Césaire. In October, he was invited to present a paper on the German-Jewish writer B. Honigmann at the Franz Rosenzweig Minerva Research Center in Jerusalem. This spring semester, he was also serving as visiting professor in the comparative literature department at Brandeis University, and continues to direct Wellesley’s comparative literature program while working on issues of European and Antillean writing. An article of his on Jewish Literature in France appeared in the Cambridge Dictionary of Judaism and Jewish Culture, while a piece he had co-authored with Vivina Liska on regionalization and continentalization appeared in Danish translation as “Transregional regionalitet Europa” in a volume published by Aarhus University Press.

Focus on Faculty

***Emily Betz ’11 is studying Global Studies at Roskilde University. She writes: “I love my graduate studies so far, and I’m even more excited for next year when I’ll be in Leipzig.” ***Sanja Jagesic ’08 "Since graduating from Wellesley I’ve been enrolled in a PhD program in Sociology at the University of Chicago. I am currently working on my dissertation on the effects of differential admissions policies on college and early career outcomes. Missing all the amazing German classes at Wellesley. *(For more please see the German Department Website)

***Stephanie Bolstad ’01 is now working in the university in Auckland (NZ) where she received her PhD. Last September she received tenure and became part of the university’s permanent staff. ***Vanessa Simone Troiano ‘08 has been awarded a 5-year fellowship to pursue her PhD in Art History at CUNY’s Graduate Center in NYC. “I have proposed to study post-war German art, specifically examining the dichotomy between East and West German art of the 1960s.” ***Agnes Scheeberger Exchange Student ‘03 is happy to announce that "I have just finished my PhD at the Institute of Communications Studies at the University of Leeds in December and taken up a teaching post with the department. ***Emily Betz ‘11 is studying Global Studies at Roskilde University. She writes: “I love my graduate studies so far, and I’m even more excited for next year when I’ll be in Leipzig.” ***Sanja Jagesic ’08 "Since graduating from Wellesley I’ve been enrolled in a PhD program in Sociology at the University of Chicago. I am currently working on my dissertation on the effects of differential admissions policies on college and early career outcomes. Missing all the amazing German classes at Wellesley. *(For more please see the German Department Website)
This year’s German club (2011-2012) has been the most successful and active year yet! We kicked off the year with our first annual Film Series with Goodbye Lenin followed by Das Leben der Andere and finished off the series in December with a viewing of Joyeux Noël at the French House. We held our Oktoberfest at Punch’s Alley and invited different institutions to our event. We had representation from Olin college, MIT, and Tufts University.

We followed this event with a NYC Overnight Trip. The following day we went to the Heidelberg restaurant and the Metropolitan Museum of Art where we saw an exhibit on European satire.

We invited both Professor Kruse and Professor Hans to speak about their research projects. Professor Kruse’s lecture was on E-reading Kafka: Using and Producing E-notated Editions in the Classroom, and Professor Hans spoke on Vampires, Victims and Disembodied Voices: Image and Sound in Dreyer’s Vampyr.

We’ve established close relations with the Boston College German club and they have since invited us to a German club Glühwein party as well as their “Berlin Fall of the Wall” celebration. This semester we continued collaborating with both BC and French house and had a Faschingsparty in February. In April, we held “Soccer, Sausages, and S’mores” and “Cook and Speak like an Austrian.”

Congratulations to our next year's eboard: co-Presidents Emily Bell ’13 and Denisse Ruiz’13, co-VPs Katja Bego ’14 and Elizabeth Silvers ’14, Treasurer Teresa Wisner ’13 and Lecture Chair Hannah Harris ’15.

by Jennifer "Faa" Macdonald ’12
German Club President 2011-12
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Class of 2011 German Majors, from left to right: Emily Betz and Katie Van Adzin

January-in-Vienna Wellesley Students at Hofburg Palace

Congratulations!

The 2012 Ethel Folger Williams Sophomore Prize was awarded to:
Sam Burke

Jennifer "Faa" McDonald has received a Fulbright Teaching Assistantship for 2012-2013 in Vienna.