

# Wellesley Magweiser



Issue Twenty-One

Spring 2014

## Im Rückblick

Among the events that our department organized this year were two readings: Last October, we invited Eugen Ruge, the winner of the 2011 prestigious *Deutscher Buchpreis*, to read from his novel *In Zeiten des abnehmenden Lichts*, a book which spans several generations of Germans living in Eastern Germany. The novel has been translated into English by Anthea Bell (as *In Times of Fading Light*) and received superb reviews by American critics as well.

In April, we hosted Kristof Magnuson, currently the Max Kade Writer in Residence at M.I.T. and the author of two novels (*Das war ich nicht* and *Zuhause*), who shared with us excerpts from his most recent publication *Gebrauchsanweisung für Island*, giving us bits of a “manual” for Iceland as one of the places he calls home.

All of my colleagues were on leave last fall term, either on sabbatical, early retirement or parental leave (Congratulations again to Prof. Anjeana Hans!). Prof. Monika Totten (a former colleague from MIT) graciously accepted our offer to teach in our language curriculum, together with Prof. Gesa Frömming who also offered a new course on German music and culture.

Exciting news: This year, two new colleagues joined programs here on campus to support German Studies. Claire Whitner arrived at the Davis Museum as an Associate Curator. A specialist in modern German visual culture, her dissertation (from UCLA) dealt with “Berlin Modernism and the Pictorial Public,” and she thus adds an important facet to Wellesley’s connection with the German capital. Yet, she also has expertise in Vienna Secession ephemera and just a few years back she taught introductory Dutch language in Harvard’s German department.

Simon Grote joined the History Department as an Assistant Professor, interested primarily in the intellectual history of the German- and English-speaking parts of Europe in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Professor Grote wrote his dissertation at the University of California (Berkeley) and is now working on a book on *The Origins of Modern Aesthetic Theory* in which he is trying to explain “why early eighteenth-century Scotland and Germany witnessed an explosion of interest in theorizing about beauty and the arts, now known as the moment when modern aesthetic theory was born.”



German Dept. Seniors, Class of 2014  
From left: Elisa Prebble, Elizabeth Silvers, Samantha Burke

It also needs to be mentioned that our colleague Professor Thomas Hansen this year notified the Dean's and Provost's office that he will start his Early Retirement Program this coming year and that Gesa Frömming, our Mellon postdoctoral scholar, will leave us with the end of this academic year as her two-year contract has come to its end. We would like to wish her a heartfelt farewell!

Last but not least, “Auf Wiedersehen” to our graduating majors and minors whom we will miss very much: I hope our majors enjoyed their senior excursion to Munich!

-Thomas Nolden, Chair

# Focus on Faculty

In the fall semester of 2013-14, **Jens Kruse**, who is now on the college's Early Retirement Program, did not teach. In the spring semester he taught *German 102: Beginning German* and *German 239: Germany and Austria Today*. He is still at work on a book to be entitled *Kafka's 1914*. He also continued 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* (<http://www.enotatedclassics.com/enotatedclassics/Home.html>) and are available on Amazon, B&N, and iBooks.

**Thomas Hansen** was on leave in the fall but has been teaching full time this spring. His courses have included a section of German 102 and the departmental seminar on German Comedy. While on leave last semester he continued to translate from the German, but he also finished work on the eighth edition of *Neue Horizonte*. This text-book has now appeared in a completely new design and format, many of its components now being available on the internet. The book, with which many Wellesley students have learned German over the years, has added more conversational and communicative strategies. It also uses more original German literary texts.

## German Club

German Club had quite the ride this year! We kicked off the Fall Semester with a nice dinner gathering from Jacob Wirth, a Bavarian and Austrian style restaurant in Boston, and continued to meet weekly for Kaffeeeklatsch. This year we began a PenPal partnership with the University of Toulouse, and in addition to writing individual class members, we lead targeted discussions during Kaffeeeklatsch regarding American culture to share with our partner class.

For example, the novelist Michael Kleeberg (born 1959), wrote a piece specifically for *Neue Horizonte*, "Berlin nach der Wende: Wo sind wir eigentlich?"

**Gesa Frömming** has signed a book contract with the Wallstein Verlag in Göttingen for her manuscript on music and melancholy in the works of Christoph Martin Wieland. While revising the manuscript for publication, she has also been working on her next research project on correlations between literature and Critical Theory in German prose texts of the 1970s and 1980s. She completed an essay on the idea of friendship in the correspondence between Rahel Levin Varnhagen and David Veit for a forthcoming collection of essays on Rahel Levin Varnhagen, as well as an article on Wilhelm Heinrich Wackenroder for the second edition of the Oxford Encyclopedia of Aesthetics. In the fall, she very much enjoyed teaching German 101: Beginning German and German 232: Longing and Belonging: Music in German Culture. For this class, she organized a field trip for students to attend a performance of *The Magic Flute* at the Boston Lyric Opera. She gladly accepted the German Club's invitation to give an informal lecture on German hip-hop, held a fellowship workshop for German students,

We also hosted various campus events including Oktoberfest with the pub staff at Punch's Alley, a Weihnachtsmarkt party with French House and European Club, and a conversation about women in German hip hop with Professor Frömming. We also took a trip to New York, where we saw an exhibit focusing on Kandinsky's work at the Neue Galerie, and visited the German Consulate. We celebrated Karneval with a night of home-made pretzels, cookies, and dancing.

and served as a member of the Fulbright campus selection committee.

After spending ten months in Berlin on a research leave, **Anjeana Hans** returned to Wellesley in October. In the fall, she spent quite a bit of time on the various stages of proofing for her book, *Gender and the Uncanny in Films of the Weimar Republic*, which will be published this coming fall by Wayne State University Press. She has also had time to move forward on two new research projects. The first examines films from the 1910s and 1920s that focus on images of 'the gypsy;' she presented a talk on this genre and its 'reincarnation' in Leni Riefenstahl's *The Blue Light*, and is currently working on expanding that talk into an article. She is also beginning to work through materials she collected while overseas, focused on the transition in Germany from silent to sound film. After three semesters away, she has greatly enjoyed the return to teaching: She has a great group of students, both in her fourth-semester language class and in her first-year seminar on "Fairy Tales and the Cultural Legacy of the Brothers Grimm." She has found it great to be able to reconnect with students who are now getting ready to go abroad or to graduate, and to meet some of the students just beginning their work in the German department.

We will soon be taking an outing to the Goethe Institut to view a film regarding the Fall of the Wall, as this year marks the 25th anniversary (!), and will have a viewing of the 2012 film "Barbara" in addition to a discussion about this important time in Germany's history. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to work with German Club over the past four years, and will miss the lovely community that we have formed during my time at Wellesley. Vielen Dank und auf Wiedersehen!  
*Elizabeth Silvers '14, President*

# Impressions *from* Abroad

Before taking German 202 over wintersession, I had never been to Berlin (or Germany for that matter), but now I cannot wait to go back. There is so much history in Berlin, and I learned more about German language and culture than I ever imagined I could in just two weeks. I loved visiting all of the museums, and I especially enjoyed seeing the Berlin Philharmonic. I was so enthralled by Berlin during wintersession that now I am hoping to study abroad at Freie Universitaet next spring!

-Gillian Beltz-Mohrmann, '16

The Berlin Wall was not what I expected. It was not just a wall; it was a death zone. From the west, the wall simply looked like a strong 12-foot high sheet of white. Behind this wall, however, was a nightmare. The hundred-foot distance between the east and the west was filled with sand for tracking footsteps, spike mats, alarms, and barbed wire fences. After seeing it in person, I am amazed that some brave individuals made it across the Iron Curtain on foot alive.

-Sophia Sokolowski, '16



*Wintersession in Berlin students*

Studying in Germany with Wellesley Wintersession in Berlin was an amazing experience that expanded my understanding of both the language and the culture. Excursions were scheduled to complement the material in class so students could gain the most out of the experience. I spent the additional free time exploring the city and its cultural and historical values and I began to understand what it would feel like to be living in Berlin. My study abroad experience in Berlin taught me more about Germany than any other course I have taken.

-Yin Fu Chen, MIT '14

I truly believe, and I continue to tell everyone I run into, that going to Berlin for Wintersession was one of my highlights while being at Wellesley thus far. It was such an enriching experience in so many ways, and I am so grateful that I had the experience to go abroad and spend my Wintersession this way.

One thing I particularly appreciated about the program was the balance of time. We spent about three hours each day in an intensive learning environment. In the afternoons, we usually had day trips with a wonderful Wellesley Alum who was there, Jane. Jane graciously shared her stories and home with us. She took us to countless museums and monuments. At night, we usually had free time to spend with friends. I ate so much delicious German food and found a way to make Berlin my own.

The best thing, though, about being in Berlin was having the opportunity to meet so many wonderful students who I would not have met otherwise. There is something very special about the friendships one develops abroad, and I have brought those friendships back with me to Wellesley.

-Anne Dickinson Meltz, '16

## Alumnae Aktuell

I'm living in Berlin right now, working at CHE Consult, which is a higher education consulting firm. I graduated from the Erasmus Mundus Global Studies program in November, after studying in Copenhagen and Leipzig. I'm planning on going back to school in the fall for another master's degree in Early Modern History.

-Emily Betz, '12

I'm currently at CSU, Chico in California doing an MS in Biology studying insect ecology. I'm also working for the CA Dept. of Fish and Game in an aquatic bio-assessment lab. Occasionally, a faculty member hands me an old scientific paper to translate from German to English, and I'm always happy for my Wellesley German major!

-Clara Buchholtz, '12

After graduation, I lived in Munich, Germany for four months before returning to Boston and taking a job editing a German-language textbook. I recently started a new job as an assistant editor at a company called Wellesley Information Services, where I edit two IT-industry magazines covering topics related to SAP software. So, my German interests are alive and well!

-Katie Van Adzin, '11

A quick rundown of my time since Wellesley is as follows: I took a global health class at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm during the summer of 2013 and, after returning to New York City, I worked on my German university applications.

I will be starting my dentistry studies at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich this upcoming summer semester.

-Alphina Kain, '13

I spent last summer in Leipzig, Germany, working at Verbundnetz Gas AG, a gas distribution company. I was doing portfolio management there as an intern, and the entire experience was in German! Furthermore, I will be graduating in May with my Master's in International Economic and Finance from Brandeis University. I have recently accepted an offer to work at a small consulting company in the greater Boston area called Mercator Advisory Group. My most recent project involves researching cash practices in Germany.

-Lauren Marble, '13

**German Department  
Wellesley College  
106 Central Street  
Wellesley, MA 02481**



*Wellesley College German Club,  
2013-2014*

The *Wellesley Wegweiser* is a yearly publication produced each spring by:

The Department of German  
Wellesley College  
106 Central Street  
Wellesley, MA 02481  
Phone: 781-283-2584  
Fax: 781-283-3671  
[www.wellesley.edu/german](http://www.wellesley.edu/german)

Inquiries may be directed to:

Katie Sango-Jackson  
Administrative Assistant  
[ksangoja@wellesley.edu](mailto:ksangoja@wellesley.edu)

## *Congratulations!*

The 2014 Natalie Wipplinger Prize:  
*Samantha Burke & Elisa Prebble*



The 2014 Vogel Falk Prize:  
*Elizabeth Silvers*

The 2014 Ethel Folger Williams  
Sophomore Prize:  
*Simona Boyadzhyska, Lori Rash,  
& Katharine Starke*

*And Special Congratulations to  
**Emily Bell, '13**  
Winner of the UC Berkeley  
Undergraduate Essay in German Studies*