First of all, heartfelt congratulations on the many achievements of our graduating majors and minors, among them two honors students: Emily Bell wrote her thesis on the representation of the Stasi in books by authors from the German Democratic Republic, and Yan An Tan wrote her thesis on the construction of identity in the works of writers who are part of ethnic minorities in Germany.

This year, we hosted a large group of writers from Germany who were presenting their works under the title “Mein Deutsch” as part of a series organized by the Literarisches Colloquium Berlin and the Goethe Institute. They introduced us to new notions of writing in Germany, among them voices of authors whose first language was not German. Another cultural event familiarized our students with the work of Richard Wagner, whose Fliegende Holländer students enjoyed at the Boston Lyric Opera. Our Mellon Postdoc Gesa Frömming made sure that our students would not arrive at this event unprepared. Next semester, Prof. Frömming will be offering a course on the role music has played in German culture, thus adding a most important dimension to our curriculum.

We also welcomed a colleague from the University of Vienna on campus: Magister Elisabeth Grabenweger spent a week with us in the fall to research the tenure of Marianne Thalmann, a scholar who taught in our department from 1933 through 1953. After completing her research in the College’s archives, Magister Grabenweger delivered a talk on Thalmann’s career that traced her academic path from the University of Vienna to Wellesley. Among the many findings of Magister Grabenweger was a letter written by Thomas Mann to former Wellesley College president Hildred McAfee in 1938, expressing his strong “sympathy with higher education for women.”

Between the end of exam period and graduation, the department invited our majors on a trip to New York City to enjoy, among other cultural highlights, a production of Bert Brecht's famous play "Der kaukasische Kreidekreis" and to scout the city for some decent Würstchen Will they ever introduce Currywurst to the States now that the New York Times has even written about them in its food section?

Please let me note that our colleague Jens Kruse this year celebrated his 30th anniversary of teaching at Wellesley! Prof. Kruse filed for the early retirement program at the beginning of this year which means that he will be teaching a reduced load over the course of the next few years and which begins another transition for our department. Another change, this time on the positive side, is the arrival of our first exchange student from the Freie Universität Berlin, scheduled for next academic year. We are looking forward to welcoming Anna Winters who has undergone a rigorous selection process at her university before being chosen to be the first student from the FU as part of our Middlebury/Wellesley exchange program. The participants of my German 202 Wintersession course met with Anna last January in Berlin, where they enjoyed an intense program not only of language instruction but also of visits to Berlin’s many exciting museums, monuments, and theaters.

Again, “Auf Wiedersehen” und “Alles Gute” to all our accomplished majors and minors – best of luck for your future endeavors! We hope you will join the many dedicated alumnae who have been following our newsletter and providing us with news about their lives, post-Wellesley.

Thomas Nolden
Chair of the Department
Gesa Frömming has completed a draft of her manuscript on music and melancholy in the works of Christoph Martin Wieland and is currently waiting to hear back from publishers. She has started to work on a new project, which examines how new prose forms developed by writers such as Botho Strauß, Alexander Kluge, and Peter Weiss in the 1970s and 1980s reflect their engagement with Critical Theory. In October, she presented a paper at the annual conference of the German Studies Association on the political implications of the German Enlightenment’s ideal of a polite conversational “tone.” She will explore this topic further in a paper on Rahel Levin Varnhagen, and will present at the Brechthaus in Berlin this June. She has also published an English translation of her earlier essay on images of African Americans in artworks produced by leftist political activists of the Weimar Republic and has completed an article on “Ennui” for the Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism. In the fall, she enjoyed working with students who applied for Fulbright and DAAD programs in German and was delighted to take a group of students on a field trip to see Wagner’s “The Flying Dutchman” at the Boston Lyric Opera at the end of the spring semester.

Since her early leave in 2013, Anjeana Hans has been in Berlin with her family since December and will remain there until August. With revisions on her book project complete and the manuscript under consideration, she’s been doing research on her new projects. The first of these focuses on images of Roma in German films of the 1910s and 1920s, examining the ways they construct the ‘other’ and thereby contribute to the staging of German national and cultural identity. The second project examines more broadly works produced in Germany during the conversion from silent to sound film, attempting to trace the ways in which this transition shaped genres and narratives, as well as affected the sociocultural status of film. Working in the film archives, she will spend the next months examining industry journals from the era and screening films that are not available more widely. She is happy to be back in Germany, and they are also enjoying the cultural offerings of Berlin.

Thomas Hansen, who has been on leave this semester, has spent his time finishing a project on Thomas Mann's novella, Death in Venice. In 2012, he and his wife Abby published the Centennial Translation of this classic of German literature, which first appeared in 1912. That book, which is a limited bibliophile edition of 140 copies, is available from this source: http://deathinvenice100.com/. However, the next step of the project has involved producing a downloadable eBook. The translation has been expanded with several new features: a chronology of Mann's life and works; bibliography; a new interpretive essay; plus countless annotations and images that gloss particular passages. To see the text, please visit: http://www.amazon.com/The-eNotated-Death-Venice-ebook/dp/B00BO0E7PO.

In the fall semester of 2012, Jens Kruse was on sabbatical leave; in the spring semester 2013, he taught three courses: two sections of GER 102: Beginning German II and the departmental seminar GER 389: Kafka’s 1914. During his sabbatical, he worked on a book project related to the seminar: Kafka’s 1914 and published two more editions of Kafka stories designed for electronic readers with eNotatedClassics (http://www.enotatedclassics.com/). After the previously published editions of The Metamorphosis and In the Penal Colony, the new stories are A Country Doctor and A Hunger Artist. These are available through Amazon, B&N, and iBooks.

Margaret Ward, Emerita Professor of German, spent eleven weeks in Europe last fall, five of them in Berlin, where she regularly saw Margie Nubbe-meyer, one of her first students at Wellesley. During the five days she was in Vienna, she reconected with Caroline Geiersbach, Sarah Teetor, and former exchange student, Ana Znidar. Ward’s last book continues to have an “afterlife” including a Kindle version that came out in June. She has been speaking about it in a variety of venues this past year, from the University of North Carolina and the University of Chicago, to a book club in Colorado via Skype. If you are in the vicinity, she’ll be at the RiverRun Book store in Portsmouth, NH on May 24. For more info go to www.missingmila.com and its accompanying Facebook fan page.

Alumnae Aktuell

*Colleen Corcoran ’09 has been accepted to the German and European Studies program at Georgetown University. *Lucy Bergin ’12 has spent the last year living in Boston and working for Wellesley’s Library and Technology Department as the Enterprise Solutions Intern. She will be spending the summer working at the Tanglewood Music Festival as a representative for the Boston Symphony Orchestra. *Melissa Evans ’12 has spent this past year interning with the League of Women Voters. This summer she’ll be working as a German-Teacher at the Concordia Language Villages before starting her masters at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna next fall. *Jennifer Lee ’12 is finishing her first year at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. After graduating, she participated in a program in Germany called Internex change, which is designed for students interested in journalism, and she also interned at Deutsche Welle. *Jennifer “Faa” MacDonald ’12 is currently a teaching assistant at two schools in Burgenland, Austria. She will complete her 2013-14 Fulbright assignment in Vienna, Austria while also working on her master’s degree.
**Impressions from Abroad**

Christine Chen ’14 Living in Lichterfelde on the southernmost edge of Berlin has its benefits: this is one of the only parts of Berlin that retains its pre-war character. The houses here have a historical charm that the Stadtzentrum is missing.

She reports, “Ignore the cars speeding by and it is very easy to lose yourself in imaginings of this place in another age. And yet that is the beauty and Besonderheit of Berlin: it is a city that is constantly building and rebuilding. If I’ve changed at one eighths of Berlin’s rate over the past seven months, I’ll consider myself pretty fast-moving.”

Elizabeth Silvers ’14 Hallo from Berlin! It’s hard to believe I recently arrived here because it feels like time just flies by. If there’s anything I’ve learned so far, it is that it takes an open mind and a sense of humor to make it through each day in a foreign city.

Despite this whirlwind, I am beginning to find my way around, and get a grasp on this exciting metropolis.

So I may have lost my luggage, slipped on ice, taken the U Bahn in the wrong direction, and forgotten to bring my own bag to the supermarket, but where else does public transportation arrive (read: on time!) every 5 minutes? Where else is it possible to visit over 70 museums in one night? Where else is it possible to see within an hour of travel castles from hundreds of years ago, and then in the other direction a wall of great historical importance? All of these and so many more can be done only in Berlin.

**German Club**

This year’s German Club has welcomed several new members. We started off the year with our annual Oktoberfest at Slater International House, where several people feasted on traditional German food. We later sponsored a trip to New York and visited the German Consulate. German Club also sponsored a few academic events during the year. Professor Hansen gave two lectures, one on the history of the swastika and another on his eBook on Thomas Mann’s *Death in Venice*. Professor Kruse spoke on Martin Walser’s *Goethe*. And Professor Frömming was kind enough to invite German Club members to a brunch followed by a trip to the Boston Lyric Opera to see *The Flying Dutchman*. Looking back, this was a great year for German Club, and we thank all our members and faculty for their support.

Denisse Ruiz ‘13 & Emily Bell ’13
German Club Co-Presidents
Congratulations!

The 2013 Natalie Wipplinger Prize:
Emily Bell ‘13 and Yan An Tan ‘13

The 2013 Vogel Falk Prize:
Carolyn Douglas ‘13 and Milena Radoman ‘15

The 2013 Ethel Folger Williams Sophomore Prize:
Nicole Chui ‘15 and Madeline Thayer ‘15

DAAD Young Ambassador Denisse Ruiz ‘13