

Liebe Leserinnen,

Hard to believe that we have again come to the end of the school year! It's been a busy year, as always, for us in the department. In addition to the usual range of courses, we've held regular *Kaffeeklatsch* meetings at which students and faculty have a chance to meet informally, and we've had a chance to host or be a part of a number of exciting events.

In September, German artist Christiane Baumgartner held her first solo show in the US at Wellesley's Davis Museum. Our students had the unique chance to hear her speak about her works, which combine techniques of traditional woodcut with a sensibility to modern imagery. We were able not only to have a guided gallery walk in which she explained the process of creating her monumental works, but also to ask her questions about her inspiration and her development. The chance to meet such a renowned artist is one of those things that make Wellesley such an exciting place to be.

In October, we hosted a reading by Volker Kutscher, the German writer of the *Gereon Rath* mystery series, on which the popular television series *Babylon Berlin* is based. Our students enjoyed hearing him read from one of his German novels (which are currently being translated) and being able to ask him questions about his process of writing and his experience of seeing his work adapted to the screen.

November saw a visit from Nicole Menzenbach, the incoming German Consul General in Boston. Her talk about transatlantic relationships, science diplomacy, and the *Deutschlandjahr* being held in the US at the moment drew a large crowd of interested students from across the disciplines. They enjoyed, again, not only the chance to hear her thoughts, but also to mingle with and meet the Consul General after the event.

January was, as always, a busy month for us. Thomas Nolden again took a group of students to Berlin for our regularly-held intensive fourth-semester German class. Students love the chance to experience that city and directly immerse in German culture while polishing their language skills. On campus, Mark Roemisch reprised his intensive beginning German course, giving students who didn't start in the fall the chance to start German language study this year.

In March, Mark Roemisch opened an exhibit of some of his photography at the Jewett Art Center. Titled [*Flash/Flood*](#), the exhibit showcased his talent for capturing visual imagery – here fireworks and water – in a unique and striking way. Both opening and closing receptions for the show were well-attended, and Mark’s students, just like his colleagues, were so pleased to be able to celebrate him.



Mark Roemisch with some of our students at the opening reception of Flash/Flood

Our students are, as usual, excelling and making plans for their continued study or their post-graduation lives. We’ve missed our students currently studying abroad in Munich, but look forward to welcoming them back in the fall. Our internship program in

Dresden continues to garner much interest, and we will send two students there again this summer. And while we know we will miss our graduating seniors, we are so pleased to celebrate their plans and coming achievements. This year, again, we will be able to celebrate concretely by capping off our year with a trip for majors, who will travel with Thomas Nolden to Frankfurt, Heidelberg, and Strasbourg in order to visit sites related to Goethe and the Romantics (and, of course, experience German culture one last time as Wellesley students!).

Finally, it’s with a heavy heart that we will be saying goodbye to Mark Roemisch, who has been such an energetic, enthusiastic, and vital part of our department over these last years. He will be sorely missed here at Wellesley.

We’re preparing now to celebrate our graduating majors and minors and then to head off, as they and all of our students will, to our various pursuits for the break. Wishing them and all of you a wonderful summer and sending

Herzliche Grüße aus Wellesley!

Anjeana K. Hans
Chair, Department of German

Focus on Faculty

Thomas Nolden

Professor Thomas Nolden enjoyed his travels with our students—in January with our Intermediate German students in Berlin, and most recently to New York City to introduce the students in his *New Media* seminar to the operas of Richard Wagner. He is looking forward to the senior excursion—visiting Munich and beautiful Innsbruck and hiking in the Austrian Alps (!!!)—with our accomplished graduating seniors later this May.

In addition to his travels, Professor Nolden taught a summer seminar on European Jewish Writing at the University of Graz, contributed to various journals, and chaired an interdisciplinary Mellon committee on dissertations dealing with European matters. He continued to direct Wellesley's Comparative Literature program and, in the fall, served as a visiting professor in the English department at Brandeis University. He is now looking forward to a summer of research and writing.

Anjeana Hans

Professor Anjeana Hans has continued to work on her current book project, *Trauma, Disruption, Reinvention: Exile Film in Austria, 1933-1937*. This summer will be the third that she spends in Vienna, where she will continue drafting the manuscript. As part of this, she will be preparing a talk on Richard Oswald, one of the exiled filmmakers, which she will present at the German Studies Association conference this fall. In addition, she will be a part of a symposium in Berlin in July focused on the works of Ellen Richter, a popular actor and producer in Weimar Germany whose works have largely been lost to posterity. She presented a conference talk on Ellen Richter's work as a female producer last fall, and looks forward to introducing one of her films to a broader audience at the symposium. She will also be preparing an invited talk to be given at the University of Illinois at Chicago this coming fall, discussing the intersections between the Romantic motif of the automaton and Lubitsch's 1919 movie *Die Puppe*.

At Wellesley, Professor Hans taught literature as well as film this year. She has continued her work as department chair and headed the language chairs' group. She also continues to direct the First-Year Seminar Program, working on initiatives aimed towards strengthening the role of those seminars in easing students' transition to Wellesley. She's looking forward to spending time this summer on research and then returning in the fall, refreshed, to get back to work in the Wellesley community.

Mark Römisch

After four years of teaching a variety of courses on German language and culture, this is Professor **Mark Römisch's** farewell to Wellesley College. He feels honored to have had an opportunity to join this extraordinary community and contribute to this vibrant culture.



Two of his many highlights

include organizing the talk of Consul General of Germany, Nicole Menzenbach in Fall 2018, and the production of a German Theater play with one of his classes in Fall 2017. In addition, he is very grateful for the opportunity to exhibit his recent photographic works in the [Jewett Art Gallery](#) this Spring.



His favorite part about Wellesley is the students and this will be the hardest to say goodbye. An extra special thank you goes to all of the students in his classes this past spring semester and during winter session. He emphasizes that their wonderful spirit in the classroom contributed to one of the most enjoyable semesters during his time at Wellesley.

Lastly, he would like to thank the German department for their support and for this rewarding experience.

To everyone, Professor Römisch would be very happy to stay in touch and hear about your future endeavors! He sends best wishes to all of you.

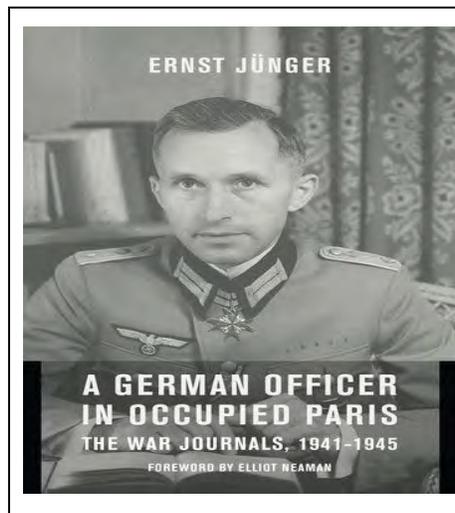
Viel Erfolg, alles Gute und Danke für die tolle Zeit!



Professor Emeritus Thomas Hansen

This past year, **Thomas Hansen** (together with his wife and co-translator, Abby Hansen) published the first English edition of the war journals of the German writer Ernst Jünger (1895-1998), a German officer on the general staff in Paris during World War II.

Former translators had apparently tried to produce an English version of Jünger's prose style in these journals but abandoned the challenge. Once we agreed to take on the project, we could understand why. The frequent hypotactic sentences of the original German produce long subordinate constructions that cannot be transferred mechanically into intelligible English relative clauses. As a result, in places we chose to paraphrase Jünger closely in a way that remained true to his message. The prose of this soldier-writer was surprising at every turn with its emotional range, clarity of description, and honesty of analysis. On the other hand, his mystical dreams accounts and preference for euphemism or periphrasis can produce passages of such density that an English translation often clarifies the original.



Jünger, Ernst. *A German Officer in Occupied Paris: The War Journals, 1941-1945* (European Perspectives: A Series in Social Thought and Cultural Criticism). Columbia University Press: 2019.

ISBN: 9780231127400.

Professor Emeritus Jens Kruse

Jens Kruse is enjoying his retirement. He continues working on various writing and other projects. Some are continuations of earlier scholarly projects, some are new. He is currently, under the auspices of the Orcas Island Public Library, teaching a seminar on the works of Franz Kafka. He has also taken courses on poetry and memoir writing and is beginning to work in those forms.

He remains engaged with members of the Wellesley College community and encourages students and alums to stay in touch via e-mail at jkruse@wellesley.edu or Twitter at [@jenskruse2](https://twitter.com/jenskruse2).

Professor Kruse was recently featured in *The Daily Shot!* The article may be found below.

Wellesley Professor Emeritus Explains How Political Novels of the Past Can Inform Our Present

“As he sought to understand the complexity of the current political moment, Jens Kruse, professor emeritus of German at Wellesley, began a self-directed study of the literature of dictatorship.

Seeking to expand his knowledge of authoritarian and totalitarian novels beyond *1984* and *Brave New World*, he developed a 12-novel reading list that spanned over a century of fiction and included such authors as Jack London, Franz Kafka, Sinclair Lewis, Margaret Atwood, and Philip Roth. At the conclusion of his 15-week immersion with a small group of fellow readers, he wrote an essay detailing his discoveries for [Politico](#).

Sanja Jagesic '08, a Durant Scholar and former student of his, came across his article and was riveted. For Jagesic, novels of political upheaval are of particular interest. She was born in Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and emigrated to Germany with her family when war subsumed her homeland; they eventually settled in the United States. Jagesic recently spoke with Kruse about the questions he explored in his essay, his reading course, and what novels of the past can offer contemporary readers.”

Listen to their conversation [here](#).



Courtesy of The Daily Shot

Impressions from Abroad

Carla Adams – Entwicklungspolitisches Netzwerk Sachsen, Summer 2018

In the summer of 2018, I was the third Wellesley student to complete an internship at the Entwicklungspolitisches Netzwerk Sachsen (ENS) in Dresden, Germany. My first day in the office of the ENS was both a shock and a blur. I was an intern for a team of seven people. Everyone seemed to be working on equally important and diverse projects, all of which concerned developmental policy work in Saxony. There were so many people to meet, so many new things to remember and all of it was in German! It wasn't the German I was used to hearing at Wellesley, but *sächsische Deutsch*, which meant that the accent and some words were only used in this particular region of the country. For this reason, it took me a really long time to understand fully what my colleagues were saying.

During the first two weeks of my internship, it seemed as if the team had a meeting in another city every other day. Three hours roundtrip to Leipzig. Three hours roundtrip to Berlin. Taking the 12 AM train back to Dresden from Freiberg after a seminar. I got to meet so many people doing great and interesting work in their communities, but all of the travel and stimulation was exhausting at first.

Things turned around for me around the beginning of July. I began the project I am most proud of from this summer: a promotional film intended for the donors and supporters of the ENS and its partners. It was a five-minute video that showcased the work of three non-profit organizations in Leipzig connected by the theme of “*weltoffen-solidarisch-dialogisch*” (open-mindedness, solidarity and dialogue). It took almost the entire month of July to edit and included the input of leaders from all three organizations. The video was well-received and when I was finished with that, I translated the ENS webpages from German to English and wrote an article for their magazine, *Fairquer*.

Some highlights of the summer include, having lunch and attending the opera with visiting Wellesley alums, participating in a demonstration in support of Mission Lifeline – a search and rescue organization famous for saving sinking refugee boats in the Mediterranean – and taking a hiking trip with my bosses and their families at the end of my internship.

Looking back, I learned a lot about German and German culture, developmental policy work and a lot about myself through this summer experience. My reading and writing are better than they were at the end of last semester. I left Dresden with a greater appreciation for the outdoors, the *Straßenbahn* and *quark*. I became more aware of the US-centric ways in which I view the world sometimes. Most of all I think, I'm leaving encouraged by how many people there are out there fighting to make the world a better place.

I can't wait to get back to Wellesley and share what I've learned. Thank you to the donors, Career Education, the German Department and everyone else who made this summer possible!

Ceren Temizyurek – Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Academic Year ‘18-19

The semester in the US is drawing to an end as I’m writing these lines, and our semester here in Munich has just begun a few days ago. It’s a real struggle, I must note, trying to put together some sentences now, with neighbours chatting and drinking beer outside my door and music blaring from the downstairs pub. Studentenstadt -- the student housing complex in which I live -- is maybe the perfect microcosm of everything stereotypically un-German: dirty, dysfunctional, loud, inefficient (and we love it, nonetheless).

I think the only stereotype about Germany I’ve so far found to be somewhat true is the food: that it is namely, shall we say, less than sophisticated and insufficiently seasoned, at times. Other than that, whoever comes to Germany with the caricatural notions of German efficiency, discipline and nonchalance must be in for a big shock: people here are some of the most congenial, humorous and amicable I’ve ever met and a brief stroll in Munich metro stations alone (Sendlinger Tor and Hauptbahnhof particularly recommended) would suffice to dispel any myths of German efficiency. It takes between a week and forever for professors to get back to emails -- that is, if they do at all -- and in situations involving administrative or bureaucratic issues I’ve often found myself bouncing from one office to another, only to be told either that they had no clue or that I should wait and things would sort themselves out, somehow. “Wir schaffen das” is a frequently quoted line of Frau Merkel but maybe “wir schaffen das, irgendwie” is a better summary of the general attitude.

Only until a few days ago we were under the impression that summer was finally here and that it’d come stay but we were quickly proven wrong: nowadays the weather seems to be alternating between a lot of rain and a bit of rain. This is particularly grim news for Munich because it really is a city that shines under the sunshine -- I think many people would agree that most of what makes Munich special is outdoors: cafe’s, *biertärten*, parks, squares, *märkte*, streets... the list goes on. We’re especially very eagerly looking forward to picnics in *Englischer Garten*.

From what I wrote so far it may look as if I’m here chiefly making peculiar observations about the people and the place but I’m also, as a matter of fact, studying here in Munich. Academically, last semester was, without a doubt, the most fruitful and interesting semester I’ve spent at college so far; I’m particularly happy to have had the chance to study the Bavarian Soviet Republic in depth, as well the works of Thomas Mann and Goethe. This semester I’m taking, among others, a course on political theory and I’m very excited at the prospect of reading Marx and Adorno in their original language.

Viele liebe Grüße aus München
Ceren

Year in Review

German Club

German Club has had a very successful and busy year! We started off our year getting to know one another in our meetings, which often times included members and playing German focused games, such as Scrabble, Das Spiel des Lebens, and Kahoot! The following are some highlights of the year!

We started our year with a baking and movie night where we made German tarts! The tarts were made from an authentic German recipe thanks to one of our lovely members. After the baking we then watched *Goodbye Lenin* (a German classic). Later in the fall, we had a student representative from DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst German Academic Exchange Service) come talk to the club about all the opportunities available to study in Germany and the different programs available to our students. As a club, we attended the lecture given by Consul General Nicole Menzenbach, which proved to be very insightful. We closed our first semester with an End of Year party where we reflected on our semester and were able to come together and decorate holiday cookies.

Second semester has also been quite busy! We had a German club fundraiser, where we baked pretzels and sold them to students on campus. The profits were donated to a local charity--Many Helping Hands--and the final product was quite delicious! After the baking of the pretzels, we were able to attend Professor Römisch's art exhibit and take in his photographs. In May, German Club will also be celebrating die Erster Mai! We will be collaborating with dorms in the Quad to create a festival to welcome the new season and celebrate the remainder of the year.

Even though the year is coming to an end, German Club encourages all to join next year. It's a wonderful space filled with great people and good times! As for the seniors who are graduating, we wish you all the best on your journey post-Wellesley! Finally, a special thank you to all the members of German Club this year! Can't wait to see you all in the Fall!



Alumnae Aktuell

Annie Schnitzer '18

A brief holiday recap: I spent about two and a half weeks in Berlin, working on my thesis research/general course-related assignments. I had never been to Germany before the Christmas time period and it was absolutely fabulous to see all the Weihnachtsmarkts (Christmas markets) scattered around the city. For Christmas, I was invited by some housemates to spend a few days in Poole, England, which was tons of fun. We did a couple of day trips to Weymouth and Tyneham. I learned that Tyneham was once an active town until the onset of World War II when Churchill wanted to use it as a military training camp. The residents were forced to leave their homes under the condition that they would be allowed to return in the future (a promise, which was never fulfilled).

My thesis required a few revisions, as my initial topic of German migrants to Namibia was far too broad. Now, I am addressing the ways in which tourism to developing countries perpetuates colonial and post-colonial discourses. Specifically, I examine how the historical legacy of German imperialism shapes and even promotes tourism today and discuss the kinds of settler colonial structures that are maintained by German tourists to Namibia. While I was in Berlin, I collected a bunch of travel brochures, flyers, and pamphlets advertising as some sources of data.

It's just a few more days until the end of term so I'm scrambling to work on last minute projects and preparing for our programme's study trip to Geneva next week. We are spending a couple of days meeting with various INGOs and migration-related organizations, which should be interesting.

Cheers,
Annie

Paloma Soriano '18

A few weeks after graduating last June, I moved to London for a six-month internship with an environmental research organization where I used my German regularly to communicate with some of our clients. As the only German speaker in the organization, I was sent to Berlin for my first time back since studying abroad there, to attend a conference. One of my highlights in London, was to catch up with Annie Schnitzer 18' for a lovely afternoon and evening together. In December, I moved back home to Switzerland where I have been working as a ski instructor in a small village called Klosters. I've been really enjoying my students, the mountains, the sun and some special visits too. Emily Moore 18' came all the way from Austria in February for some ski lessons and another German major, Anne Pingoud 94', who also happens to be my aunt, visited me too! Not sure where I'll be after the ski season is over but hope to keep catching up with more Wellesley alums! Best wishes from Switzerland!

Katie Van Adzin, Tess DeLean, and Shu-Yen Wei '11

Three German department alumnae from the class of 2011 recently met up in Harvard Square!



Herzliche Grüße aus Wellesley to all of our alumnae near and far!

‘Nach Deutschland reisende’ Seniors

Sally Morris '19 (she/her) – Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange

Sally became involved in German Studies her first year because it was a language that wasn't offered by her high school and she had always been interested in learning the language that her grandmother speaks fluently. After a couple years learning German, she realized it was something she wanted to continue pursuing post-graduation, so she sought out fellowships to combine both of her majors (Sally is a Neuroscience and German Studies double major) after Wellesley. Sally's fellowship is called the Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals and is a full-year exchange program between the United States and Germany with 75 students from each country participating. During the program, Sally will spend 2 months at a German language school, 4 months at a University, and then 4 months completing an internship. She is really excited about this program because she will likely be living in a small German town, which will give her the opportunity to become more fluent in German through almost complete immersion. Sally is also excited because this fellowship will allow her to combine German and Neuroscience during the internship phase, as the internship may be completed in the field of her choice.

Maddie Taylor '19 (she/her) – Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship

Maddie has accepted a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in Germany! She has not yet received her finalized teaching assignment, but she does know that she will be somewhere in Saxony starting this September. She says that anyone who's heard her repeatedly tell stories that start, "So when I lived in Dresden..." is familiar with her abundant enthusiasm for all things German, so she is amazingly excited for this opportunity.

Herzlichen Glückwunsch, Sally and Maddie!

German Department Prize Winners

The Natalie Wipplinger (Senior) Prize

- Thessaly McFall '19
- Maddie Taylor '19

The Ethel Folger Williams (Sophomore) Prize

- Katie Christoph '21
- Hajira Fuad '21

The Elizabeth Vogel Falk Prize

- Corinne Muller '21
- Eleanor Willard '20

Herzlichen Glückwunsch to all of our students!

The Department of German Studies

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**Congratulations to our Class of 2019
German Studies Majors and Minors!**



*From left to right: Maddie Taylor, Sally Morris, Thessaly McFall, and Lucy Tiblier
Not pictured: Kathleen Harrigan*

Herzlichen Glückwunsch und viel Erfolg!