

*Liebe Leserinnen,*

Sitting down to write this letter, I'm struck by how different it is to do so this year. In some ways, I can talk about very similar things that we've been doing in the department. This year, Thomas Nolden and I were joined by Kirsten Mericka, who spent the year here as a Visiting Lecturer. Having Prof. Mericka on campus was especially interesting, as she had been an exchange student in the department about ten years ago. Prof. Mericka was a fantastic addition not only for her teaching, but also for her cultural activities: she participated in our regular *Kaffeeklatsch* meetings at which students and faculty have a chance to meet informally and planned a *Fasching* celebration with the French department, regular game nights, and language tables. We say a very grateful *Auf Wiedersehen* to her as she returns home to Vienna.

We've also had a chance to host or be a part of a number of exciting events. In the fall, Ervin Malakaj, Assistant Professor of German at University of British Columbia and co-founder of the international scholarly collective "Diversity, Decolonialization, and the German Curriculum" (DDGC), came to Wellesley to talk about inclusivity in the language classroom, as part of a series on Languages and Inclusive Excellence.

In February, Joel Westerdale, Associate Professor of German at Smith College, gave a talk on Robert Wiene's *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (1920), marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that film's premiere on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Titled "—You must become Caligari!": One-Hundred Years of Cinematic Madness," Prof. Westerdale spoke to students and faculty about the peculiar position that film has in German film history and culture, and about the impact of the archive on film historiography.

January seems so long ago! It was, as always, a busy month for German Studies, with Thomas Nolden again taking a group of students to Berlin for our regularly-held intensive fourth-semester German class. Our students spend that time experiencing the vibrant culture of Berlin while gaining first-hand experience communicating with German-speakers. Other students were preparing to go abroad to spend a semester in Tübingen or looking forward to the spring semester. Our graduating seniors were already planning the rough outlines of an excursion we

were to take to Vienna and Prague, in connection with an advanced course on those cities and their cultural output.

In March, like everyone else, we found ourselves with our plans, our work, and our lives upended by the pandemic and its effects. The college administration, in response to the so quickly changing situation in the US and abroad, made the difficult decision to start spring break a week early and support students' early returns home, while preparing to resume classes remotely at the end of March. While those on-line courses can certainly not replace the face-to-face interaction with students that we are so accustomed to, Wellesley students and faculty put in a valiant effort, and, from my own experience and the experiences related by colleagues, truly managed to make the best of these so very difficult conditions.

So, while this spring looks nothing like those to which we are so accustomed, we are so proud of our students and all that they have achieved. They've come together as a community even as they scattered across the globe, and maintained positivity, intellectual curiosity, and engagement even when so far removed from the classroom.

We celebrate our students' achievements, even though they look different than they ordinarily would. For the summer, we had been planning to send two students to participate in our Dresden internship program. While the pandemic has made this type of program abroad impossible for the moment, we're thrilled that those students will be able to engage in virtual internships with their sites. While our students who had been studying in Germany or planning to do so this spring had to return to the US, they were able to take on some courses at Wellesley. And, while we are terribly disappointed that we won't be taking our seniors abroad for a final capstone study trip or celebrating their achievements at graduation, we are so proud of their work and look forward to seeing what they do after leaving Wellesley.

As this year ends, we send our hopes and best wishes to you all: for health, for happiness, and for a return to a new normal in which we can once again come together as a community.

*Herzliche Grüße aus Wellesley!*

*Anjeana K. Hans*



## *Focus on Faculty*

**Thomas Nolden** ended last academic year by touring Frankfurt, Heidelberg, and Strasbourg with our wonderful graduating majors. A few months later, he taught the department's winter session course in Berlin and worked on a proposal to offer a winter session course in Namibia, where students could learn about the vestiges of German colonialism. His interest in European studies led him to write several pieces on writers' responses to the rapidly changing situation in Europe; he chaired the European Studies Book Award Committee by the Columbia University based Council of European Studies, and he is very much looking forward to offering, next fall, a new course on environmental literature which will be cross-listed with Comparative Literary Studies and – for the first time in the history of the German Studies Department – with Wellesley's Environmental Studies Program.

He hopes that his collaboration with faculty and a group of highly committed and talented students on Wellesley's Divestment campaign will result in Wellesley joining a growing number of schools that have divested from fossil fuel companies.

**Kirsten Mericka** was a Visiting Lecturer in German Studies during the academic year 2019/2020. She taught GER 201 "Intermediate German I" in the fall, and both GER 202 –Intermediate German II" and GER 102 –Beginning German II" in the spring. Throughout the year, she also organized extracurricular activities like the German lunch and playing German tabletop games.

In her language classes, she likes to teach with an emphasis on regional and cultural studies—especially adding a personal touch with Austrian themes involving the country's history, culture, and the identity. This included discussions about current cultural and political events as well as the historic background that shapes current affairs in German-speaking countries, e.g. *Vergangenheitsbewältigung*. Which does not mean that her classroom discussions left out the simple pleasures like a walk around the Viennese *Naschmarkt* or how to make *Toast Hawaii*.

Professor Mericka's research interests lie within the field of foreign and second language acquisition and teaching. Due to the ongoing pandemic and the move to remote instruction, she has had the opportunity to put into practice one of her research topics—educational technology—more than expected.

**Anjeana Hans** is preparing to move to Vienna for her upcoming sabbatical year and hoping that this will still be possible given current events. She aims to complete work on her current book project, *Trauma, Disruption, Reinvention: Exile Film in Austria, 1933-1937*. This past year, she presented on part of the project at the yearly German Studies Association conference and took part in a symposium at the University of Illinois at Chicago on the relationships between some of the most canonical German literature and cinematic representations thereof. She's also currently working on a short volume on Artur Robison's *Warning Shadows*, to be published in Camden House's new series on German Classic Film.

At Wellesley, she taught literature and culture in German and in translation. This year marks the final year of her term as department chair as well as chair of the language chairs' group. In the context of the latter, she worked with colleagues to plan a series of talks on Inclusive Excellence in the language classroom. Though she'll miss the Wellesley community and especially her students, she's looking forward to the chance to focus on research and writing for the year.

### **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, by way of Zoom, teaching a course on "Pandemics in Literature." He is writing occasional book reviews for the digital daily *Orca Issues*. 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 [jkruise@wellesley.edu](mailto:jkruise@wellesley.edu) or Twitter at @jenskruse2.



### **Professor Emerita Margaret Ward**



It seems hard to fathom, but I have now been retired for a full ten years! Not much has changed since I last wrote, a few years ago. My husband and I continue to toggle between our summer home in Harrisville and our winter condo in Bonita Springs, also traveling internationally in the fall. In 2019, a four-week stay in Europe brought the chance for a nostalgic sojourn in Vienna. Friends from Berlin joined us there for five days of perfect September weather. We enjoyed museum visits, the *Volksoper*, a concert at the *Peterskirche*, a day trip into the Wachau valley as far as Krems, as well as a hike in the vineyards around Nussdorf with the obligatory repast at a Heurigen. We even managed to have a reunion with Ana Znidar, one of our first exchange students from University of Vienna. From there we went on to Bratislava and Budapest on our own, after which we joined a small group tour of Romania, Bulgaria, North Macedonia and Albania. On the way home we also stayed for a few days in Lisbon. During our time in Florida each year I enjoy participating in several choral groups and book clubs. I also continue to teach English as a second language. This past season I had students from many Latin American countries, but also from the Ukraine, Russia, Italy, France and even Germany. The pandemic shortened the season, as the Literacy Council closed with the local schools in March and my spring concerts were canceled, so we hurried back to rural New Hampshire in early April. We remain well and hope that you are too.



## *Impressions from Abroad*

### **Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München — Interview with Hannah Quiroz '21**



#### **What's your favorite thing about Munich?**

I love the efficiency of the public transportation system. I think, for being a really big system, the transportation is affordable and it's really efficient.

#### **What's the best experience you've had?**

Arriving a month early and doing an intensive course with other international students.

#### **What was the hardest part about adjusting to Germany?**

Making doctors' appointments and finding doctors that speak English.

#### **Where is your favorite place to eat?**

It's not even German! It's called *Bon Sai China Restaurant*.

#### **What was your most awkward interaction?**

I had this woman in the grocery store ask me if I spoke English or Spanish, and I told her both, and she proceeds to tell me in really bad Spanish that I have a beautiful shirt, and she asked me if with Trump being president, how did I get from Mexico to America, and did I have to climb the wall. That was the weirdest thing that's ever happened to me.

#### **Do you have any recommendations for things to do in Munich?**

Not in Munich specifically, but going to the *Nymphenburg*, there's a really cool palace there. In Munich there's cool art museums, the *Alte Pinakothek*, and the *Lenbachhaus*. And this one's dark, but Dachau, which is the oldest and longest running concentration camp in Germany.

#### **Do you have any advice for other students going abroad?**

Try to make as many international friends as possible, so you can learn about other cultures and learn new perspectives on issues that you normally wouldn't hear about.

*Unfortunately, although Hannah planned to study abroad for a full year, before her spring courses began she had to return to the U.S. because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We got in touch with her again to get her thoughts on that experience. See her responses on the following page.*

**When did you find out that you had to leave Germany?  
How did that process go for you?**

I found out definitively on March 12th that I had to leave Germany. I knew there was a possibility that I would need to return but I was not anticipating it would be so soon. After I found out I had to contact my parents to figure out a schedule that would work for both of us. I left Germany on March 15th. In the short time I had left I spent my days packing up and getting rid of all my things and in the evening I made a point to spend time with my friends and visit the places in Germany I enjoyed. I went to the *Englischer Garten*, *Odeonsplatz*, and my favorite student pub in the Olympic Village.

**What was the experience of coming home/quarantining/settling in like?**

It was very odd to come home because I had previously been home to visit my family over my semester break. It had only been 11 days since I had left my home, so it was weird returning such a short time later. It was really hard for me because it was a difficult adjustment and I had to completely isolate myself from my family. I wasn't able to spend time with them and I spent 14 days confined to my room.



**Are you doing online classes now?**

Online classes are going as well as I could have hoped. My semester in Germany had not started and my host school was not offering alternative courses. My professors are being very accommodating and it's nice to have a routine. I will definitely say that it has been really hard to join courses mid-semester and conduct everything online but I'm just thankful that the school was able to accommodate me so quickly because of my situation.

**What's something that you WERE able to do before you left?**

One of my favorite things I got to do while living in Germany was revisit Berlin. While there, I reminisced of my first time in Germany and visited a lot of my favorite spots. It reminded me of why I wanted to study abroad in the first place and it was great going to new museums. I met up with some old friends in Berlin and overall had such a wonderful time there.

**Now that you're home, do you have any summarizing thoughts about your experience abroad?**

Going abroad was such a wonderful experience for me and it aided so much in my personal growth. Despite my amazing time in Munich, it really made me appreciate Wellesley so much more. Wellesley is a special place like no other and I'm am so thankful to have Wellesley's support system, especially during these difficult and uncertain times.

## Wintersession in Berlin 2020 — Interview with Kelly Syz '22

### What was your favorite place to visit in Berlin?

Potsdam was my favorite place we visited. *Sanssouci* and *Schloss Cecilienhof* were gorgeous and very interesting, and I especially enjoyed walking down the Dutch quarters. Apart from that, my favorite place to go was just up and down *Kastanienallee* because there was so much to see and very walkable.

### What was the best part of the trip?

Our hotel/school location was a highlight of the trip because it was so easy to explore the city from such a central location. Since we were so close to public transportation, it was easy to go out for meals and shopping without feeling unsafe or lost. This gave us the opportunity to really immerse ourselves in Berlin's amazing culture and practice our German!

### What did you find most surprising or difficult to deal with in Germany?

I found the multicultural aspect of Berlin and their treatment of foreigners pleasantly surprising. I was expecting a very homogenous city before landing there, but was surprised to be surrounded by Turkish, Korean, German and other cultures. This was great because the different varieties of food available and the different cultural markets were great to try and see. I also did not feel out of place as a woman of color, as I sometimes do in American cities, as we were able to blend in and be accepted quickly. I expected poorer service because often foreigners receive poor service, especially in places where there is no tipping culture, but we were treated very well and faced no discrimination. Overall the welcoming environment and wonderful multiethnic culture of Berlin was pleasantly surprising to experience.



Kelly (far left) with classmates.

### What was your favorite place to eat?

*Zeit für Brot* and *PaoPao* were my favorite places to go. *Zeit für Brot* was a lovely bakery down the street from *Hotel die Schule* and they had the most delicious chocolate rolls and sandwiches. I went there a couple of times to try out their menu and was never disappointed. *PaoPao* was a bubble tea cafe a short tram ride away, and it had the best bubble tea in all of Berlin. They offered unique flavors and had absolutely delicious tea. I never ate the same cuisine twice in a row because there was so much to choose from - whether it was dinner at a Vietnamese restaurant or lunch at a Turkish deli, the choices were endless and all delicious (and cheap!)





**What would you recommend for future students? Do you have any advice?**

I could not recommend this trip enough for future students! Learning German in a classroom setting is nothing like being immersed in the culture and getting to practice your German with natives that you meet on the street. Culture is also hard to learn on paper — it is something that must be experienced. Listening to the Philharmonic, watching the Opera, visiting a prison and all our other activities were once-in-a-lifetime opportunities (at least for me) that I am so grateful to have had. The only advice I have is to try and eat at new places every day. It is easy to go back to the same cafe or restaurant because it is delicious/cheap, but that's every restaurant in Berlin! Trying new places also lets you explore more of the city, which I highly recommend because every street has its own character.





## Internship in Dresden Summer 2019 — Corinne Muller '21 and Katie Christoph '21

*Viele Grüße aus Dresden!* It's Katie and Corinne, writing from the Florence on the Elbe. This summer, we're completing two of the German Department's internships in one of Europe's most culturally-rich cities. Corinne has spent the past seven weeks at the Dresden State Art Collections, translating a collections catalogue from German to English and assisting curators in preparing a new permanent exhibition of ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern sculpture. Katie has been working at the *Stiftung Frauenkirche Dresden*, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the unique Baroque architecture and rich spiritual life of Dresden's most iconic landmark, where she is completing numerous translation projects and creating an oral history of the church's diverse visitorship while assisting the team when it is open to the public.

Dresden's extensive network of museums dates back to the 16th century, when the Saxon kings began collecting art during the Baroque. Dresden's *Skulpturensammlung* allows Corinne to interact with sculptures, ceramics, and funerary objects ranging from 5,000 to 200 years old. The most thrilling experience of her work thus far has been being able to hold in her own hands an approximately 4,600-year-old Cycladic idol figurine (especially exciting after having taken Bryan Burns' Bronze Age Archaeology class this past spring!).

Dresden's *Frauenkirche* was originally constructed in the 18th century and its unique bell-shaped dome now commands the skyline — but that wouldn't have been the case if you were looking over the river twenty years ago. The church was destroyed during the Allied bombing of Dresden in 1945; after the war's end, the ruins of the church remained in the center of the city as an anti-war memorial until reconstruction began after the reunification of Germany. One of the most rewarding aspects of Katie's work so far has been the opportunity to speak with visitors from across Germany during open church hours to create a quasi-oral history. It's quite emotional.



Beyond Dresden, we have been able to travel to other destinations in eastern Germany and Europe including Prague, Leipzig, the Sächsische Schweiz, and most recently, Berlin! We're enjoying the opportunity to learn about German culture by visiting museums like Dresden's Military History Museum and the Pergamon Museum in Berlin, watching *Dirty Dancing* at Dresden's open-air cinema on the Elbe (dubbed in German, which makes the delivery of the iconic line "Nobody puts Baby in a corner" markedly less moving, we must say), and eating more than our fair share of the *Brot und Kuchen* (bread and cake!) for which Germany is so famous—all while practicing our German and trying to make sense of *Sächsisch*, one of Germany's most peculiar dialects.

## Faculty Recommendations

### Thomas Nolden

Among the many German language titles, he enjoyed was Raphaela Edelbauer's debut novel *Das flüssige Land* (2019), Susanne Röckel's *Der Vogelgott* (2018), and Lutz Seiler's *Stern 101* (2020) – many of you may recognize the setting of this fabulous novel. High on the list of films was Heinrich Breloer's intriguing film *Brecht* (2019), though its length certainly requires quite some stamina. If you have only a few minutes at hand to dive back into German: *The Whatsapp Kolumne* by jetzt.de offers you quick updates on current German conversations (in a colloquial style that you would never find in any of the language textbooks that we have been asking you to read...)

### Kirsten Mericka

Television: *Altes Geld*, *Vorstadtweiber*, *Landkrimi*, *Stadtkomödie*, *Wischen ist Macht*

Music and Culture: [KulturQuaranäne](#), [Staatsoper Wien](#), [Berliner Philharmoniker](#), [Österreich in Bild and Ton](#), [Österreichische Gesellschaft für Literatur – virtuelles Literaturhaus](#), [Museen](#)

Podcast: Barbara Kaufmann's [Nachdenken über Österreich, das ewige Opferland](#)

## Student Recommendations

### Carla Adams

Podcasts: I like listening to an episode of a German language podcast in the mornings to keep my skills fresh and stay up-to-date on happenings across the Atlantic. After testing out a few, I've found the following to be both interesting and easy to understand as a non-native listener: *Deutschlandfunk's Kulturfragen*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung's Das Thema* and *Auf den Punkt* and *ZEIT ONLINE's Was jetzt?* (my favorite!).

Television: *Dogs of Berlin* and *Unorthodox* (both Netflix) for those feeling nostalgic for the city.

### Eleanor Willard

Films: Two of my favorite movies are in German: *Der Himmel über Berlin* (*Wings of Desire* in English), which is available on Amazon and Kanopy, and *Hamlet* (1921), a silent film adaptation of the Shakespeare play available on Youtube.

Literature: *Emil und die Detektive* by Erich Kästner is a children's story, but the story is fun and easy to follow. I also recommend reading German translations of books you've read in English, so you can concentrate on learning words instead of understanding the plot.

## German Studies Events on Campus

### Oktoberfest with the German Corridor

German Corridor collaborated with Shafer Res Life for Oktoberfest on October 3. German students and Shafer residents made pretzels and drank root beer and ginger beer.



### Mardi Gras (Fasching)

Prof. Mericka and the French Department Language Assistants, Morgane Julia and Marion Bruguieres, hosted an event in February to celebrate Mardi Gras, or Fasching in German. Students gathered in the French house to make crepes and play carnival games.



From left to right: Christina Kurre, Hope Ferris, Prof. Mericka, Aneka Hallstrom, Anastasia Brooks



Professor Mericka and Ceren Temizyurek

THE GERMAN STUDIES DEPARTMENT PRESENTS  
**ONE-HUNDRED YEARS OF  
CINEMATIC MADNESS**



**FEBRUARY 26  
4:30 PM  
HUMANITIES  
COMMON**

Lecture by Joel Westerdale,  
Associate Professor of German  
Studies at Smith College.  
Co-sponsored by the CAMS  
department.  
Light snacks will be served.

**"YOU MUST BECOME CALIGARI!"**  
?: ksangoa@wellesley.edu acc: accessibility@wellesley.edu exp: 2/27/20

### One-Hundred Years of Cinematic Madness

To celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the premiere of *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*, the German and CAMS departments hosted a lecture from Joel Westerdale, Associate Professor of German Studies at Smith College. He discussed the influence of this German expressionist horror film over the last century.



## *Alumnae Aktuell*

### **Kirsten Mericka, A Reflection on her Return to Wellesley**

In my first lesson in the fall semester, I wrote three sentences about myself on the board. Two were lies and one was the truth: “Ich habe selbst am Wellesley College studiert.” During the academic year of 2009/10, I studied abroad at Wellesley and worked as a German Teaching Assistant. And this academic year, 2019/2020, I came back as a Visiting Lecturer in German Studies. A lot has changed in those ten years.

I finished my studies in Vienna, where I am originally from, and wrote my Master’s thesis in German as a Foreign and Second Language, which explored the motives of German learners in Brazil and the USA. (This research had already led me back to Wellesley, when I asked former and current students online why they studied German.) After obtaining my degrees, I lived in Brazil and Scotland, where I taught language classes and explored new cultures.

While my surroundings changed, not much has changed here at Wellesley. Walking across campus upon my return, I felt the same as I did ten years ago. Well, maybe less stressed because I didn’t have to pull all-nighters to finish papers anymore or rely on dining hall food. Even though I didn’t live on campus this time, I still had a connection to student life, for example, when I took the bus to Cambridge and Boston, went to lectures and Tanner, got food at El Table, read in the library, and walked around the lake.

This year was as memorable as my experience ten years ago and rewarding on a personal and professional level. I went to conferences to connect with fellow language teachers and found out more about the state of German speakers in the US. Teaching Beginning and Intermediate German was great. In class, we discussed current politics, history, and culture on different language levels. I am proud of what my students have achieved this year. Also, I am glad to see that Wellesley students are as active as ever—organizing climate strikes but also celebrating cultural events like Fasching. We had fun baking Christmas cookies and playing German tabletop games, something we even kept up once we moved to remote instruction.

Due to the given circumstances, it feels like my year was cut short, though I cannot help but see the positives, too. I got to see former German students and friends, Maia Fitzstevens (‘13) and Katie Van Adzin (‘11) among others, as well as my big sister Kristine Bundschuh (‘12). I was happy to be an active and local part of the community again, not just from afar. Thank you for the wonderful memories again, German Studies department and Wellesley!

I will return to Vienna for now and look forward to new adventures. Who knows, maybe I’ll be back again in another ten years?



Circa 2010: Kirsten (middle) with Monica Gaitan, Elfin Wei, Claire-Marie Foulquier-Gazagnes, Anna Pinchuk, Emanuela Abbate, Stephanie Buhle, Orly Reine Sibony, Natalie Molina, Yui Takeshima, and Maria Lovera

## Sherry Shepherd Günther, Class of 1985

*Schöne Grüße aus München!* For many, life has slowed down somewhat since the state mandated quarantine began. For me on a personal level this is true...but on a professional level, I have more work than ever! As the Director of Government Affairs at a leading international school, the magnitude of daily correspondence and communication with state government authorities (*Kultusministerium, Regierung Oberbayern, Sozialministerium, Schulamt und Landratsamt* etc.) has easily doubled! As a DaF teacher, e-learning occupies many hours of the day! While it is exhausting, I definitely miss the personal daily interaction with my students. The messages, recordings and pictures I receive from them warm my heart. We are very lucky here in Bavaria...not only do we possess excellent health care facilities, but we live in breathtaking part of the world to which many tourists travel in search of adventure in the mountains, lakes and forests. For my family, we were sad that our annual Easter surf trip to southern Italy was cancelled. But Bavaria is the new Italy... Unfortunately, the *Oberammergauer Passionsspiele 2020* which only takes place every ten years has also been postponed! Luckily, our tickets retain their validity in 2022!



The positive lessons learned are those of patience, reflection about the truly important people and things in life and to be content with what you have for the time being. I am very grateful to celebrate our 29th wedding anniversary on April 19th and to have a close relation to my two daughters! Wishing all Wellesley women worldwide--the best of health!

## Emily Betz, Class of 2011

I am currently in the third year of my PhD at the University of St Andrews and living in Edinburgh- I always like to stay in touch with other alumnae from the German department!

## Ashley (Ley) Muller, Class of 2010

I'm on a COVID-19 research team and we are mapping all primary and secondary research on COVID-19. Unfortunately we can't handle Chinese-language studies right now, but on the map is everything published in German :), English, Norwegian (which I learned because of German), Swedish, Danish, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, French, Flemish, Russian, and a few others that I can't remember. Here is the Norwegian Institute of Public Health homepage [Live Map of COVID-19 Evidence](#) and here is the [NIPH Systematic and Living Map on COVID-19 Evidence](#) "main map:" There are also seven topic-specific maps.

## Annie Schnitzer, Class of 2018

I finished my MSc in Migration Studies from Oxford in June of 2019 before spending the remaining summer months traveling throughout Europe. By the end of August, I had moved to Berlin for a one-month internship with a geopolitical consulting organization. Although the risk analysis assignments were interesting, I realized it was not an ideal fit and I ended up returning to London where I worked part time in a local pub and applied for jobs. By November I had heard positive news about my application with the Norwegian energy company, Equinor, in IT and Digitalization, with a focus on data sciences. The specific position is part of Equinor's two-year corporate graduate program and offers paid, hands-on training in the professional world. Coming from a master's degree that was heavily based in theory and policy, I knew I wanted an experience that would further develop a practical skillset. Although I was scheduled to begin my job this April, the current coronavirus pandemic has somewhat delayed my travel plans to Norway. In the meantime, I am enjoying the extra quality time with my family and hoping everyone is safe and healthy.



Paloma Soriano, Emily Moore and Annie Schnitzer, Class of 2018, on New Year's Eve 2020 in Klosters, Switzerland.



## Vanessa Troiano, Class of 2008

As an Art Historian with a specialization in Modern German art, I am consistently reminded of the impact Wellesley's German department has had on my life and career. During the past year, the Bauhaus centennial (2019) afforded me many opportunities to present and publish my research about Josef Albers's impact on the Blueprint Series (1949 - 1951) of Robert Rauschenberg and Susan Weil. Both artists were students of his at Black Mountain College, where

Albers taught with his wife Anni after their immigration to the United States in 1933. I am attaching a photograph of me presenting a lecture at Penn State's Palmer Art Museum last Fall, where I was invited to give a gallery talk on the exhibition, "Bauhaus Transfers: Albers/Rauschenberg," which was inspired by my research. The knowledge of the German language and culture I acquired during my studies at Wellesley undeniably established a strong foundation from which I continue to develop my scholarship. I have also maintained many of the friendships I formed during my *Austauschjahr* (2006-2007) with the Wellesley-in-Vienna program. A silver lining of the Covid-19 crisis is that I have been able to video chat with them more often. I wish everyone health and peace during this difficult time.



*Congratulations to our German Studies Department  
Prize Winners, 2019 - 2020:*

**The Natalie Wipplinger (Senior) Prize**

Eleanor Willard '20  
Carla Adams '20

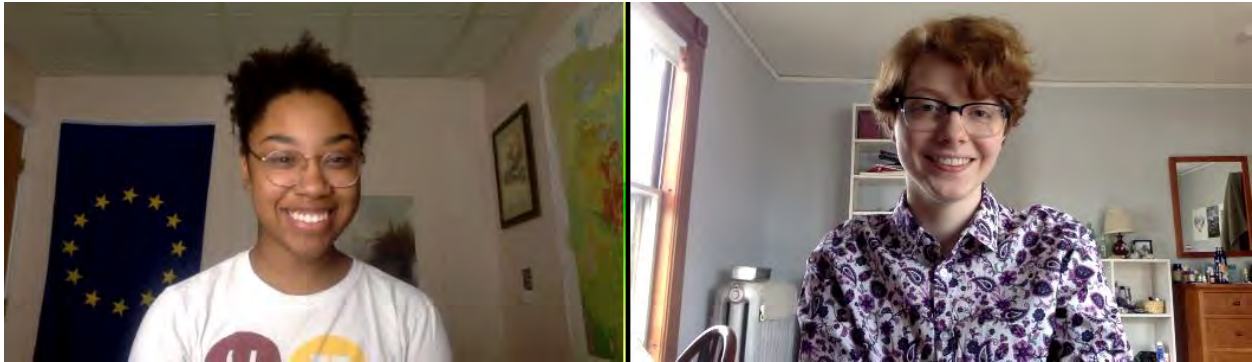
**The Ethel Folger Williams (Sophomore) Prize**

Olivia Davis '22  
Hope Ferris '22  
Amy Lin '22

**The Elizabeth Vogel Falk Prize**

Katie Christoph '21

**Class of 2020 German Studies Majors**



From left to right: Carla Adams (Psychology and German Studies major) and Eleanor Willard (History and German Studies major)

*The Department of German Studies*

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