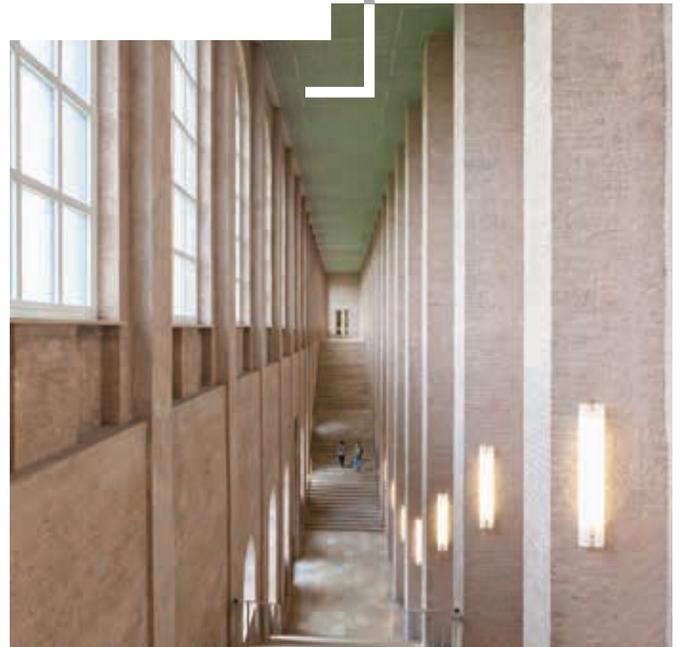


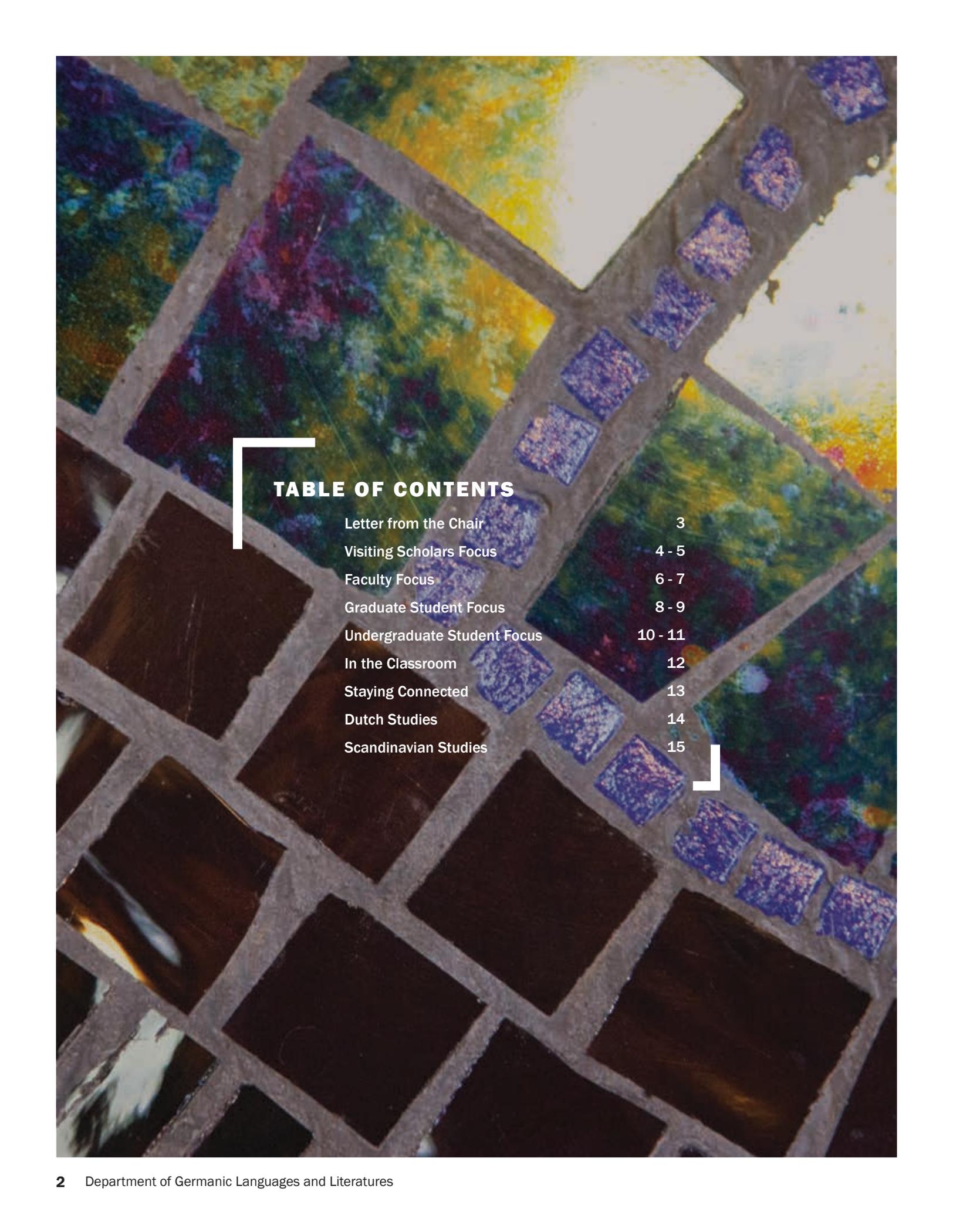


**DEPARTMENT OF  
GERMANIC LANGUAGES  
AND LITERATURES**

**NEWSLETTER  
SUMMER 2018**



**[lsa.umich.edu/german](http://lsa.umich.edu/german)**



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# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



**Dear friends, liebe  
vrienden, kära vänner—  
Liebe Freunde  
nah und fern**

*Sommerloch* is the journalistic term of art in German for the summer doldrums, when the news cycle subsides as politics and politicians take a *Sommerpause* – a recess filled, in the best of cases (as it is this year), by a European or World Cup soccer event. These days, of course, the notion that politics might slow down seems rather quaint, on both sides of the Atlantic: as I write, the half-century alliance of the governing CDU/CSU parties appears to be fraying in Germany, and German-American relations are strained by disagreements over trade and immigration. But to judge by the hallways of the Modern Languages Building here in Ann Arbor, the notion of a summer slowdown still has its justification. Although teaching and learning and placement testing still go on, classes are noticeably fewer and smaller; undergraduate

students have filled the *Sommerloch* in droves by heading off on summer language study programs abroad (with help from our generous donors!); and office doors remain closed as faculty and grad students return to their research and writing, whether in the quiet of the Ann Arbor summer or at archives overseas.

For the chair and for staff, summer is consequently an opportune time to regroup, to catch up on projects left pending during the rush to the academic year's finish line—as well as to reflect and look ahead. Now, as I look back on the year that we brought to a close with the graduation ceremony, our most festive annual event, I continue to be impressed by the levels of activity and excellence that define this department. You'll find out more in the pages that follow, but my favorite measure of our successes currently are two departmental awards whose announcement bracketed the academic year: as I reported in a previous newsletter, last summer we received the Department Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education from the College of LSA; and just before the Winter term ended, we learned that LSA Student Government had chosen us, based on student votes, for their Departmental Award of Excellence—for the *fourth* time!

Between these two wonderful announcements, another academic year unfurled, chock-full of learning, research, publications, events, presentations, and...more awards. You can read about much of it in this newsletter; for another perspective, I find myself reflecting back on the beginning of the Winter semester, when we were privileged to host the Big Ten Academic Alliance's annual meeting of German chairs and language coordinators. This wonderful, collegial event is always an opportunity to trade notes with our peers in the Big Ten, to explore pressing issues, and develop new initiatives. We had intensive sessions on different institutions' undergraduate programs in German, Dutch, and Scandinavian studies; on trends in graduate education; and on the important role that German Departments have to play in the overall landscape of higher education and the humanities today. We explored initiatives to foster alternative career outcomes for German PhD's and began a fascinating discussion of how to respond, in the language classroom, to the increasing sophistication of translation software such as Google translate. Over lunch, we even got to listen to a great talk by our historian colleague Melanie Tanielian on a landmark case testing the limits of academic freedom when members of the German Department

at U-M became subject to widespread anti-German sentiment a century ago, during WWI. All in all, the two-day meeting was a reminder—if any was needed—of the importance and vitality of German Studies, language learning and teaching, trans-Atlantic and cross-cultural histories, and the importance of cultural exchange.

As we approach summer's mid-point, the *Sommerloch* is decidedly an opportunity not only for retrospection, but also to look ahead to next year, which will bring new leadership to the Department. By the time you receive this newsletter, I will have concluded my four years as chair; on July 1, Andreas Gailus takes the helm. A great scholar and wonderful colleague with substantial experience as associate chair in recent years, he'll be an excellent steward of the German Department in all its various facets. Whether you're a current student or an alum, a member of the faculty or a friend of the Department, I hope and trust you'll give Andreas the same support and confidence that you've shown me over these past years and for which I remain most gratefully yours.

Sincerely,

Johannes von Moltke  
moltke@umich.edu

# VISITING SCHOLARS FOCUS

The Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures attracts world-class international scholars to teach, research, and study with our outstanding colleagues and students at the University of Michigan.

## Kristy Beers Fägersten, PhD

(Södertörn University) is the project leader of a multidisciplinary study of feminist comic art funded by the Foundation for Baltic Sea and Eastern European Research (Östersjöstiftelsen). As a visiting scholar here at U-M, she worked on a manuscript about language play in contemporary Swedish comic strips, supported by the Wenner-Gren Foundations. Many paths brought her to the Department, including Biz Nijdam, a recent PhD graduate, Scandinavian program director Johanna Eriksson, and U-M's STAMPS faculty member Phoebe



Gloeckner, an inspiration to many female comic artists. Beers Fägersten particularly appreciated that issues of gender, equality, and political power in all sorts of media (but especially in comics) seem to permeate the Department.

*"It's always nice to experience other departments and academic atmospheres, but the German Department has proved to be particularly stimulating! [Classroom visits] turned out to be more helpful than I could even hope, as Johanna Eriksson, her students, and visiting researcher David Östlund pointed out aspects of language use that I otherwise may have missed. Phoebe Gloeckner provided just the right amount of challenge to force me to rethink my approach... I then had an epiphany and settled on a new, much better angle to my own linguistic investigations of comics."*

*"There is a term in Swedish for a place you have found where you feel at ease and can be sure to find things you like when you return: a 'smultronställe' meaning 'a spot of wild strawberries.' In my life, Ann Arbor has become a 'smultronställe.'"*

## David Östlund, PhD

(Södertörn University) made his third visit to the department this year, after coming as a Fulbright scholar in 2004 and as a Visiting Professor in 2011. During Fall 2017, he activated a research project concerning the interplay between social reform and industrial efficiency during the first decades of the 20th century, exploring the ways in which American ideas—like Taylor's Scientific Management—shifted meaning and potential when they were transplanted into a Swedish



context. Sweden has long been held up by admirers and detractors alike as the epitome of modernity, a living example of a possible future for other countries. Östlund's Winter 2018 course "Crystal Ball of Modernity: Sweden's

Path as a Global Comparison Case" explored the use of Sweden as such a case study, including Donald Trump's recent negative references in speaking to Americans about immigration. Östlund called it "a special privilege" to be a faculty fellow at Telluride House at the University of Michigan, where he lived with students and faculty of very diverse backgrounds and experiences. There he found a microcosm of Ann Arbor's very ambitious and open-minded intellectual environment.



Visiting graduate student and Marietta-Blau-Scholar **Roman Hutter** (MA, University of Vienna) notes that the interdisciplinarity and high quality of research in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures were crucial to his decision to spend the year in Ann Arbor. Hutter's research is on Central and Eastern European history of the twentieth century, with particular attention to cultural policy during the Cold War. His dissertation will explore transatlantic relations between West Germany, Austria, and the USA during the Cold War. Especially

*"I was able to make more contacts and friends than I thought would be possible. The intensive discussions with professors from the Department about my dissertation topic and the support of my work in Ann Arbor were overwhelming. It's the mix of intellectual atmosphere and extreme friendliness that makes this department a unique place for scientific exchange."*

pertinent for Hutter is the case of the Romanian secret service co-opting Romanian-German writers by forcing them to spy during visits to German-speaking countries. Happily, Hutter received a

dissertation fellowship from the Botstiber Foundation which will allow him to spend an additional year with the Department!

*"Visiting all the great talks, lectures, museum openings, and workshops in our department and beyond helped me become part of this exciting intellectual community. After the first year I'm full of ideas for collaborations with colleagues from different departments and I got a lot of inspiration from them for my own work."*



**Teresa Kovacs, PhD** (University of Vienna) wanted to work in a strong and vibrant German studies department conducting interdisciplinary research. She chose the University of Michigan for its creative colleagues who share her interest in ruins and the aesthetics connected to contaminated landscapes, including Professors Julia Hell, Kerstin Barndt, and Helmut Puff.

For her newest project on landscapes she has been learning about different approaches to the study of urban decay, widening

her focus to include performances and installation art. Kovacs has been busy, presenting her research on contemporary theatre at Yale University, the University of Mannheim, Lafayette College, the German Studies Association in Atlanta and the Austrian Studies Association in Burlington. Her papers on Christoph Schlingensiefel, Einar Schleef, Wunderbaum and Elfriede Jelinek will be published in 2018 and 2019. She has upcoming volumes on Elfriede Jelinek's play *Burgtheater* (Praesens 2018) and *Postdramatic Theatre as Transcultural Theatre* (Narr 2018).

# FACULTY FOCUS

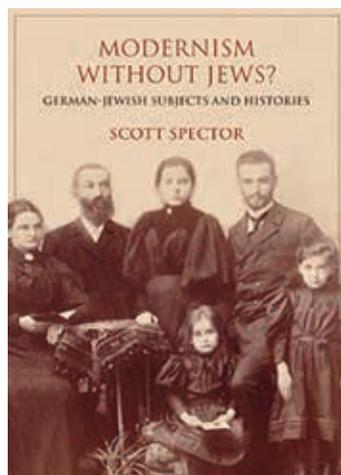
## New, noteworthy, and forthcoming publications by German Faculty

### Scott Spector's most recent

book is out from Indiana University Press, which describes the *Modernism Without Jews?* as follows: "Nowhere else have Jews contributed so massively and consequentially to the general culture than in Germany. From Mendelssohn to Marx, from Freud to Einstein, Jewish contributions to secular German thought have been both wide-ranging in scope and profound in their impact. But how are these intellectual innovations contributions to European Jewish culture? How are they to be defined as Jewish? Scott Spector argues for a return to the actual subjects of German-Jewish history as a way to understand them and their worlds. By engaging deeply with the individual as well as with the literary or philosophical character of the text, Spector offers a fresh view of the presumed contradictions, uncertainties, and paradoxes that underlie the project of Jewish participation in culture. Spector forges a new definition of what modernist creativity means in our understanding of German-Jewish culture."

### Johannes von Moltke's book

on Siegfried Kracauer was selected as a 2017 Choice Outstanding Academic Title.



*The Curious Humanist: Siegfried Kracauer in America* is one of five UC Press titles to be selected for this prestigious list, which reflects the best in scholarly titles reviewed by Choice and brings with it the extraordinary recognition of the academic library community. The list is quite selective: it contains approximately ten percent of some 6,000 works reviewed in Choice each year.

**Julia Hell's *The Conquest of Ruins*** is now forthcoming from Chicago University Press. From the Press website: "The Roman Empire has been a source of inspiration and a model for imitation for Western empires practically since the moment Rome fell. Yet, as Julia Hell shows in *The Conquest of Ruins*, what has had the



Julia Hell

strongest grip on aspiring imperial imaginations isn't that empire's glory but its fall—and the haunting monuments left in its wake. Hell examines centuries of European empire-building—from Charles V in the sixteenth century and Napoleon's campaigns of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries to the atrocities of Mussolini and the Third Reich in the 1930s and '40s—and sees a similar fascination with



Kira Thurman

recreating the Roman past in the contemporary image. In every case—particularly that of the Nazi regime—the ruins of Rome seem to represent a mystery to be solved: how could an empire so powerful be brought so low? Hell argues that this fascination with the ruins of greatness expresses a need on the part of would-be conquerors to find something to ward off a similar demise for their particular empire."



**PAGE 6**

**Top left image:** Cover of Scott Spector's *Modernism Without Jews?*  
**Top right image:** The Ancient Roman theater of Palmyra. Photo credit: High Contrast via Wikimedia.

**Just in time for this year's** World Cup, Silke Weineck co-authored a book together with Stefan Szymanski on the debates about what to call the world's favorite game: football? Or soccer? Does it matter? Find out in their op-ed piece for the *Washington Post*, entitled "How the World Uses 'Soccer' to Bash the United States" (published June 8, 2018).

**Kira Thurman's essay** "Singing Against the Grain: Playing Beethoven in the #BlackLivesMatter Era," written for the *The Point* went viral after it was published online in late June. Find her moving and persuasive piece at [www.thepointmag.com](http://www.thepointmag.com).

## Von Moltke Named Freiburg Institute Fellow



**Having chaired the** Department for four years, Johannes von Moltke passed the baton to Andreas Gailus on July 1, 2018. Von Moltke now looks forward to a year in Freiburg, where he will join the Institute for Advanced Study (FRIAS) as a Fellow for the coming academic year. He will be working on a project dedicated to the actuality of Critical Theory in postcritical times.

## Spector Named Collegiate Professor



**College of Literature, Science and the Arts** Dean Andrew Martin has recommended to the Provost and the Board of Regents that Professor Scott Spector be awarded a Collegiate Professorship effective September 1, 2018. Regents approval is expected this summer.

Professor Spector chose to honor emeritus Professor Rudolf Mrázek for his named professorship. "He's been important to me personally and professionally, and I love his work," Spector stated.

## Puff Named Visiting International Professor



**The prestigious Ruhr-**Universität Bochum named Helmut Puff a Visiting International Professor (the acronym appropriately reads "VIP") for three consecutive summers, during which Puff will offer interdisciplinary workshops for graduate students in German, History, and Art History.

# GRADUATE STUDENT FOCUS

## Mary Hennessy Receives Mary Fair Croushore Fellowship



**Congratulations to PhD** student Mary Hennessy who received the Mary Fair Croushore Fellowship from U-M's Institute for the Humanities for 2018-19. Mary is undertaking an ambitious interdisciplinary dissertation called *Handmaidens of Modernity: Gender, Labor, and Media*

*in Wilhelmine and Weimar Germany*, which examines the ways new media and technology affect female subjectivities in the first decades of the twentieth century. According to her letters of support, Mary is a student primed to make an important contribution to German studies.

Mary will join fifteen other faculty and graduate student fellows in a ten-month residency at the institute. Fellows pursue their research and participate in a weekly, cross-disciplinary seminar.

## Calder Fong Awarded Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship



**Congratulations to PhD** candidate Calder Fong who was awarded the Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship for 2018-19. The fellowship provides three terms of support for completion of his dissertation *Bergbau, Tagebau, Umbau: A Cultural*

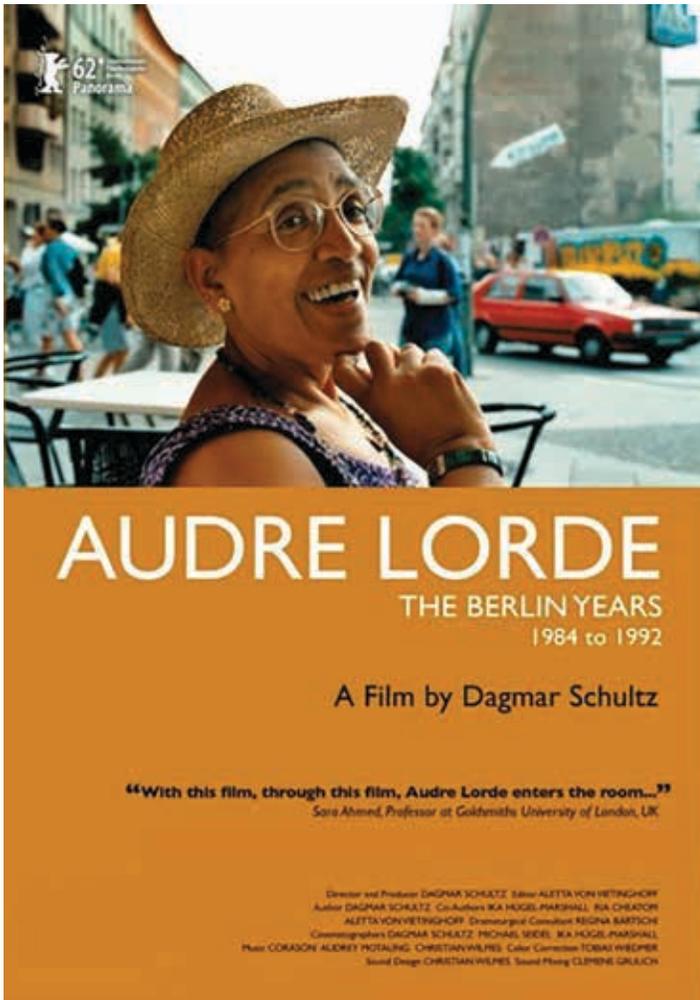
*History of Design, Landscape Architecture, and Memory in the Remediation of Former Mining Sites in Germany*. His work examines the redesign of decommissioned German coal mines in the 1990s, through which abandoned mine shafts, mountains of mining refuse, and desert-like strip mines became verdant post-industrial landscapes. The Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship award is based on quality of the scholar's research plan, progress on the project, and scholarly significance as well as faculty letters of recommendation.

## Elizabeth McNeill wins Alan P. Cottrell Prize



**Elizabeth McNeill won** the German Department's Alan P. Cottrell Prize for the best paper written in a German studies seminar over the course of 2017. Her paper, titled "The Self-Other in the Mirror: Polar Bears as Liminal Subjects in Yoko Tawada's *Etüden im Schnee*," was selected for its breadth, its capacious references to both primary and secondary literature, its sense of purpose, and its clarity of presentation.

## Screening of Audre Lorde: The Berlin Years, 1984-1992



**For this year's Martin Luther King Day**, graduate students Domenic DeSocio, Hannah Lichtenthäler and Andrea Rottmann organized a screening of *Audre Lorde: The Berlin Years, 1984-1992* at Hatcher Gallery. The film documents an untold chapter of the African American poet, scholar, and activist's life: her influence

on the German political and cultural scene during a decade of profound social change. The film explores the importance of Lorde's legacy, as she encouraged Afro-Germans—who, at that time, had no name or space for themselves—to make themselves visible within a culture that until then had kept them isolated and silent.

## Rottmann Awarded IRWG/Rackham Community of Scholars Fellowship

### German PhD student

Andrea Rottmann was accepted as a summer fellow in this year's Community of Scholars at the Institute for Research on Women and Gender, where she looks forward to working on a chapter from her dissertation, *Queer Home Berlin? Everyday Life, Subjectivities, and Memory of Queer People in the Divided City, 1945-1970*.



IRWG/Rackham Community of Scholars summer fellowships were granted to 10 graduate students from 10 disciplines, broadly ranging from the social sciences to the humanities and health-related fields.

The Community of Scholars program supports Rackham graduate students

who are engaged in scholarly research or other creative projects focusing on women, gender or sexuality.

All awardees participate in a weekly seminar during May and June, and continue their research during July and August. Awardees present their work at a public symposium in the Fall semester.

# UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT FOCUS

## Department of Excellence Award!

### LSA Student Government

awarded the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures the Departmental Award of Excellence for 2018. Based on student nominations, this is the fourth time in eighteen years the Department received the award.

## What's in an Honors Thesis?

by Kerstin Barndt

**When war refugees from Syria and Iraq arrived in Munich in 2015, they were met by hundreds of volunteers, many of whom had never given their time before to humanitarian aid efforts. During the fall of that year, Munich came to symbolize Germany's *Willkommenskultur*, its efforts to welcome large numbers of war refugees and migrants in need of asylum. Based on her experience as a volunteer in Munich in the summer of 2016, German major **Mary Boyd** studied the intricate relationship between city administration and volunteerism to better understand how volunteerism can be encouraged and sustained.**

Mary was one of five students to graduate with honors this past year. Like Mary, her peers spent countless hours of research and writing to investigate contemporary and historical issues in German culture and society: **Andrew Westphal** gained an understanding of sport culture as a tool towards social and cultural integration; **Kristen Datta** studied the history and phonology of loanwords coming into the German language from English; **Cosima Neumann** traced the invention of social medicine in the nineteenth century and its relevance for today; and **Michelle Helner** the power of images as documents of catastrophic history.

As in previous years, the honors students were celebrated in this year's graduation ceremony. The Martin Haller Prize, the distinction of best honors thesis in German Studies, was awarded to Andrew Westphal's thesis *Integration durch Sport (?): The Influence of History and Policy on Inclusive Sports Development in Berlin*, a longitudinal study of sport development programs that includes a new assessment tool for city planners to ensure that sports facility developments make a positive difference for social integration in their local neighborhoods.

In their theses our honors students have combined their studies of the German language and cultural history with training in adjacent disciplines such as international studies, political science, linguistics, business and public health. Drawing from their interdisciplinary expertise, they have enriched their thesis work and crafted highly original studies which exemplify the breadth of the field of German Studies for which this department is known. This coming year, they will go on to begin their careers in diverse fields such as communication and real estate, teaching and medicine. We wish them all the best for these next steps and hope that they will stay in touch.

## German Day 2018

**On March 23rd the** Department hosted the 34th annual German Day. Over 700 Michigan middle and high school students representing 25 schools participated in this annual

day of competitions. Based on their enthusiasm for the great women and men of German literature and philosophy, participants clearly relished this year's theme: *DichterInnen und*

*DenkerInnen*. They wowed the judges in poetry, musical performance, art, comics, skits, spelling, website design, videos, and more. Thanks to generous donations from our sponsors,

winners received lovely German keepsakes. With help from 115 student volunteers and 50+ staff, faculty and community members, it all ran *wunderbar*.



**German Majors**

Ivyanne Marie Augustine  
 Hannah Marie Baker  
 Hannah Marie Beam  
 Andrew Timothy Beddow  
 David Reuben Beer  
 Brody Christopher Blair  
 Mary Margaret Boyd\*\*  
 Aaron Edward Chappel  
 Kathryn Rose Choike\*  
 Kristen Lanna Datta\*\*  
 Yadonay Abraham Engeda

Shannon Victoria Ferrie  
 Nathan Fischer\*  
 Kurt James Frick  
 Remington Gregory Gerras\*  
 Natalie Elizabeth Gale Greifer  
 Savannah Grace Gross  
 Calvin Luke Hart  
 Alexa Kathryn Haupt  
 Michelle Antoinette Helner\*\*  
 Bridget Elizabeth Higgins\*  
 Jacob Edward Hilton  
 Kyle Johnson  
 Hannah Jade Kelley-Watkins

Han Joon Kim  
 Zachary Knapp  
 Alma Marie Knutson  
 Connor Sabo Laporte  
 Annabel Sophie Lemke  
 Molly Elizabeth Leonard  
 Xiang Li  
 Michael Martinez-Silva  
 Edwin Joseph Mayes  
 Madison Alexis McMurtry  
 Cosima Neumann\*\*  
 Kayla Marie Oberleiter  
 Meredith Greta Ostermann

Daniel Scott Reed  
 Hannah Lee Shuman  
 Nicholas Austin Simon  
 Thomas Christian Steffens  
 Justin Wayne Trowbridge  
 Nils Fabian Urbaniak  
 Amanda Marie Victory  
 Rajko Slobodan Vucicevic  
 Andrew Thomas Westphal\*\*  
 Julia Margrit Winkler

**German Minors**

Clare Anderson  
 Amanda Michelle Beckham  
 Sebastian Theodor Betzer  
 Tayler Vaughn Bruni  
 Linnan Cao  
 Mariah Christine Cardenas  
 Claire Cepuran  
 Zui Chen  
 Joseph Daniel Cianciola  
 Hailey Elisabeth Craft  
 Maire Elizabeth Daly  
 Samuel David Dart  
 Joseph Kazim Ermete\*  
 Jessica Lynn Feathers  
 Briana Feng  
 Louisa Marjorie Freeman\*  
 Max Theodore Gaegauf  
 Alex Robert Gamso  
 Grant T. Geiger  
 Kevin Patrick Gorman

Aria Autumn Grabowski  
 Emma Hathaway Hallowell  
 Amanda Leigh Hampton  
 Marli Rae Henderson  
 Connor Douglas Herrington  
 Gabrielle Julienne Hodges  
 Eldar Hoessel  
 Mark Leon Huffsmith II  
 William Alan Jermyn  
 Ian James Johnson  
 Kevin Stuart Jubera  
 Hyunjae Kim  
 Harriet Emilee Knapp\*  
 Andrew Quinn Krieger  
 William Casimir Kryska III\*  
 Derek Michael Loewen  
 Tyler Jonathan Loveall  
 Connor Reed Mackey  
 Joseph Maher  
 Lucas David Mallery  
 James Isaac Margard\*  
 Rebecca Paige Martin

Nicholas Alexander  
 Mastruserio  
 Jessica Brooks Mathis  
 Abigail Schmidt McCulloch  
 Franny Louise Melampy  
 Patrick McCarten Miller  
 Cameron Jo Monroe\*  
 Jamie Lynn Morrissey  
 Jacob Allan Myers  
 Grace Nasr  
 Amanda M. Nilsen\*  
 Luke Nittmann  
 Margaret Esther O'Connor  
 Elizabeth Mary Oliphant  
 Matthew Adrian Overberg  
 Bailey Elizabeth Pearce\*  
 Mitchell Thomas Pfennig  
 Nicholas M. Pozsar  
 Maeghan Reilly Ridenour  
 Alfredo Vidal Lopez Rizo  
 Dean Joseph Robinson  
 Gina Caroline Saab

Alexi Angeline Schnur  
 Andrew Paul Sharon  
 Swarna Shil  
 August V. Sivec  
 Henry Slone  
 Rebecca Sorgenfrei  
 Katherine Carrigan Stankey  
 Annika Kim Stoldt  
 Grant Donald Strobl  
 Ariana Sulejman  
 Thanasarn Tantivirun  
 Hanna Elisabeth Von Bernthal  
 Cooper Wagner  
 Benjamin William Walsh  
 Mary Elizabeth Weber\*  
 Nicholas John Wei  
 Melanie Tate Wellstein  
 Alison Maureen Wylie  
 Emily Young  
 Elise Rebekah Zagore  
 Mathias Zink Koelle

\*December 2017 Graduate  
 \*\*Honors Students

# IN THE CLASSROOM

## German Comics? Ja! Oui! Sì!

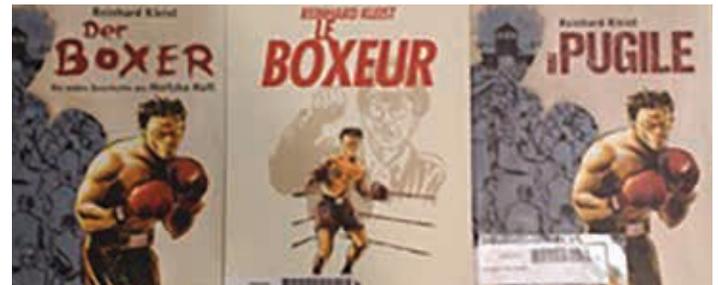
by Mary Gell

If you think comics are nothing but *Schundliteratur*, look at the increasing number of courses that feature serious graphic novels at the U-M. In fact, last semester there were five sections of the course 232 on comics: two in both French and Italian and one in German. In order to take advantage of this extraordinary happenstance, my fellow Lecturers Sabine Gabaron (French) and Janaya Lasker-Ferretti (Italian), doctoral candidate Vincenzo Salvatore (Italian and German), and I came up with a series of events to bring our students together and to see what we could learn from each other. Our first gathering coincided with France's Angoulême International Comics Festival, whose awards are arguably the most renowned in Europe. Thanks to the Language Resource Center (LRC), students were able to leaf through all the nominated books and debate with each other over pizza about this year's winners.

We also created a book club, featuring one important comic from each country. Interested students could read the comic of the month in their target language, thanks to speedy acquisitions made by the U-M Library and LRC. We then met to discuss the texts and images in English. What differences or



similarities can be detected between the comics of the various countries? What is lost in translation? How does your experience with comics thus far inform your reading now? From our three sessions, here are a few observations. Most attendees found reading *Tim und Struppi (Tintin)* easy in the respective target language. The pictures and formulaic plots serve as welcome aids in guessing the meaning of unknown words. Students agreed that the medium of the graphic novel is a powerful means to recount the heartbreaking true story of a Holocaust survivor in *Der Boxer*. The striking use of color in *Fünfhundert Kilometer in der Sekunde* dominated our discussion of Manuele Fior's wistful tale about a love triangle that unfolds across Europe and Africa.



In addition, students who attended two sessions with local professional cartoonists Jerzy Drzod and Sophie Grillet got hands-on cartooning experience. They were even able to teach each other some favorite expressions in their languages through several drawing exercises. Thank you, Vincenzo Salvatore and the Transnational Comics Studies Workshop for sponsoring Grillet's workshop and for providing pizza.

I write this having just returned from the 2018 International Comic Salon in Erlangen, Germany's largest

**Left image:** Drawing and autograph by Manuele Fior  
**Right image:** Drawing by Jerzy Drzod, caption by students of German, French & Italian  
**Bottom image:** *Der Boxer*, in German, French, and Italian.



comic arts festival. Among the many artists, authors, and publishers I spoke with there, I was thrilled to meet with the aforementioned Manuele Fior, an Italian artist who recently moved to Paris after a long career in Berlin. Upon relating to him how students of French, German and Italian at the University of Michigan engaged in a lively discussion of his gorgeous book, he humbly thanked me with this beautiful sketch and autograph above. Like our polyglottal comics collaboration, Fior embodies the magic that can happen when cultures connect creatively.

# STAYING CONNECTED

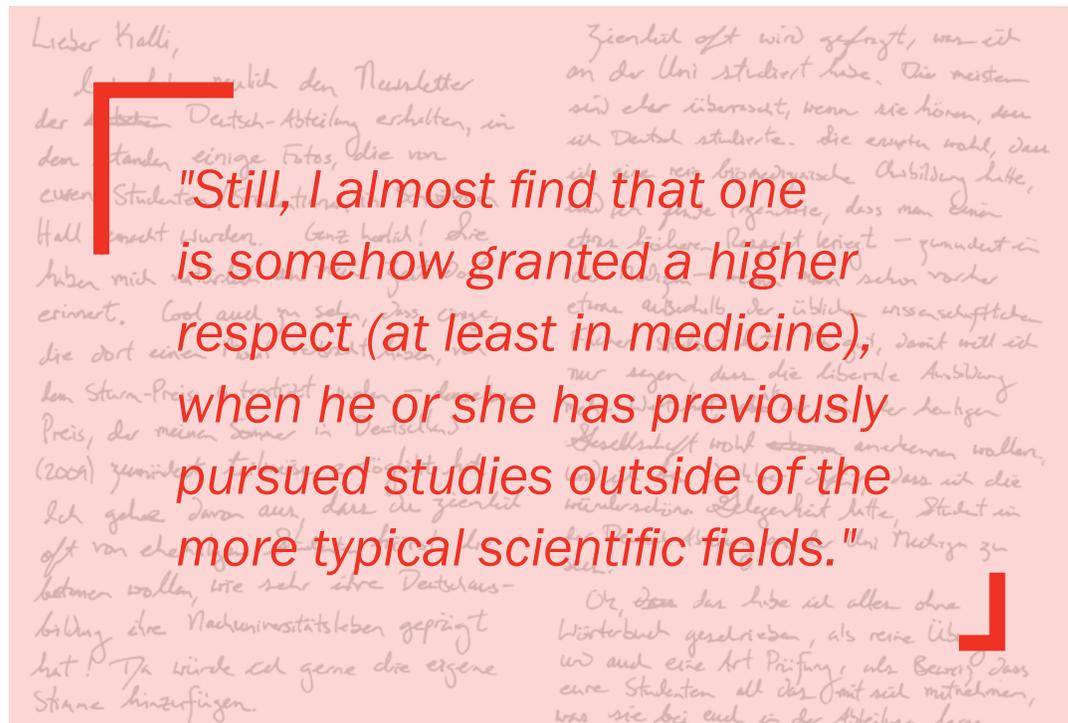
## A Reflection on German Studies

by David Chapel

### To my friends and mentors,

I have just received the most recent departmental newsletter, which included a number of photos taken in Schwäbisch Hall by some of your current students. Truly wonderful! Of course, it reminded me of the time I spent there. I was particularly pleased to see that some of those students had traveled to Schwäbisch Hall with the support of the Sturm Fellowship – the same fellowship that enabled me to spend a summer in Germany back in 2009. I can imagine that you hear fairly often from former students, who want to share how much their German studies have influenced their lives after leaving the university. I would very much like to add my own voice to that chorus.

As a physician in training, I am often asked what I studied in college. Most people are rather surprised to hear that I majored in German, seeming instead to expect that I will have had a purely biomedical education. Still, I almost find that one is somehow granted a higher respect (at least in medicine), when one has previously pursued studies outside of the more typical scientific fields. At any rate, in my personal experience, a liberal arts education continues



to have more value than the conventional wisdom seems to acknowledge, and I remain grateful for the wonderful opportunity to have studied German at the University of Michigan.

Whenever I correspond in German, I make a point of writing without a dictionary, partly for practice, partly to test myself, and partly (at least in the instance of writing to my former professors) as proof that your students take all of their lessons with them when they leave the department, and are enriched by them throughout their lives. All of which I'm sure you already know,

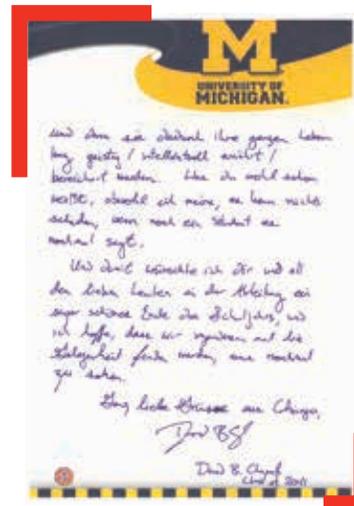
though I don't suppose it can hurt to hear it another time, from another former student.

And with that, I wish you and all of the dear people in the department (both past and present) a wonderful summer, and I hope that we will soon have the opportunity to meet again.

Ganz liebe Grüße aus Chicago,

David B. Chapel,  
Class of 2011

Translated from a personal note to Kalli Federhofer, April 2018



Above image: Scan of Chapel's letter, April 2018

# DUTCH STUDIES

## Roots and Wings

by Annemarie Toebosch, Director of Dutch and Flemish Studies



**At my son's elementary school "promotion" ceremony,** children were sent off with the idea of having grown the roots and the wings for further educational depth and breadth. The sentiment seems appropriate for describing the 2017-2018 academic year in Dutch and Flemish Studies (DFS).

Enrollment soared for another year, from 140 student registrations in the preceding year to 161 this year with the Anne Frank course growing from 54 to 74 students and another 30 students waitlisted. Due to program demand, we added Graduate Student Instructor Jessica McCauley. A second graduate student, Katherine Campbell, was hired to develop a series of culture modules on art history and Belgium for use in the language courses. Two

students started a Dutch Club for language practice and cultural sharing. The club continues to meet weekly over the summer. Also this summer, Jessica McCauley is working as an intern to develop resources for language learning, including tools to help students maintain and develop their language skills in our long summer breaks.

The strong root system of the program, past and present, is recounted in collaboration with previous director Ton Broos, in a publication titled *Dutch Is Beautiful: The story of Dutch and Flemish Studies at the University of Michigan*.

DFS continues its flight forward by maintaining and developing strong ties beyond its own office walls



**Left image:** Dutch program directors at Flanders House

**Right image:** Creative projects in Dutch class: Mondrian tile work by Hannah Boettcher and a Rietveld chair by Ben Elbaum

to the larger world of Dutch studies and social justice. In the fall, we discussed our model of enrollment and retention success at Columbia University at the annual instructor weekend of the American Association for Netherlandic Studies. The weekend included a warm welcome of all present Dutch program directors by Flanders House, the representation of the government of Flanders in the U.S.

At the Interdisciplinary Conference on Netherlandic Studies at Indiana University this summer, DFS met with the Dutch Language Union to draw up initial plans for a translation project of Reggie Baay's 2015

*Daar Werd Wat Gruwelijks Verricht* ("Something gruesome was done there"), the first comprehensive text on Dutch slavery in Indonesia. The translation will reaffirm the program's long commitment to teaching Dutch colonialism, providing an English-language source for teaching the topic through a contemporary and inclusive lens.

DFS is honored to be a faculty forum member at this year's Camp Michigan, partnering with Associate General Counsel Jack Bernard. We also continue our shared mission of diversity, community, and social justice, in our affiliation with the Michigan Community Scholars Program, planning to develop further programming, film screenings, and lectures in the coming year.

# SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES

## Learning from Living in Scandinavia

by Johanna Eriksson, Director of Scandinavian Studies

### This year, the Scandinavian

Program hosted two guest professors from Södertörn University in the south of Stockholm: Professor David Östlund and Professor Kristy Beers Fägersten (see page 4). David, who was with us for the third time, taught the course “Crystal Ball of Modernity: Sweden’s Path as a Global Comparison Case” for the Scandinavian Program, which explored “Swedology” and how Sweden is used internationally as an example of a modern welfare state. The Signe Karlstöm lecture was held in connection with Östlund’s course. IUPUI Assistant Professor of Sociology Carly Schall presented her book, *The Rise & Fall of the Miraculous Welfare Machine: Immigration and Social Democracy in 20th Century Sweden*. Kristy Beers Fägersten is working on Swedish comics and she is currently completing a book on the use of slang, dialects, and English in Swedish comics.

Eight second-year Swedish students traveled to Sweden for the annual study-abroad trip to Helsingborg and ProCivitas high school. Two of our alumni, who are now living in Sweden, gave us tours of their work: Aaron Khan, who works as a copy writer at the B2B advertising company



Pyramid in Helsingborg, and Damon Tutunjian, a linguist at Lund University.

Second-year Swedish ProCivitas students hosted the Swedes in Ann Arbor toward the end of the winter semester. They had a fantastic time exploring college life, Detroit, and visiting a family of one of our current students for a night of BBQ and bonfire. Next year, Katharina Nobs (my colleague from Sweden) and I are celebrating 15 years of exchanges between Sweden and the US!

Three of our students are going to Sweden for internships and study this summer, and the Scandinavian Program is happy to provide scholarship support from the Highfield Foundation and SWEA Michigan: Sean Cantrell will spend his summer on



Gotland at an archaeology field school where he will get his first practical experience excavating a Viking Age site. He also received the generous SWEA MAME scholarship. Erin Kokoszka will study Swedish at Axevalla folkhögskola. Finally, STAMPS student Madeleine Helland will study urban bicycle culture at DIS in Copenhagen. In the fall, these students will present their experiences in the Scandinavian classes and for SWEA Michigan.

Congratulations to Jason Butcher on his graduation with a double major in Computer Science and Linguistics and a Minor in Scandinavian Studies! Jason is working at a start-up in the area, and I have seen him regularly playing at Bruce Sagan's Scandinavian fiddling jam sessions held in Ann Arbor.



**Top Left image:** Jason Butcher and Johanna Eriksson

**Top Right image:** ProCivitas Gymnasium at U-M

**Bottom Right image:** Third-year Swedish student Holden Kardos, Emilie Latham and Sabrina Brogren cooking Swedish food

### Cover Photos

**Top image:** Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Germany. Photo by Roman Kraft on Unsplash

**Bottom Left image:** Poppies in Markgröningen, Germany. Photo by Jens Moser on Unsplash

**Bottom Right image:** Alte Pinakothek, München, Germany. Photo by Detlev Klockow on Unsplash

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Detail from Rackham Graduate School, Sarah Nesbitt

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## Remembering Hansjörg Schelle

Dr. Hansjörg Schelle, professor emeritus of German, passed away on January 17, 2018 in Biberach an der Riss, Germany.

Schelle retired from active faculty status on May 31, 1996.

He received his PhD from the University of Zurich in 1967. He served as the co-director of the Wieland Museum and Wieland Archives in Biberach, Germany, from 1953-70 and held positions at the Lycee Condorcet in Paris (1956-57) and the University of Cincinnati (1966-67) before joining the University of Michigan faculty in 1967 as assistant professor of German. He was promoted to associate professor in 1973 and professor in 1980.

Schelle's research focused on eighteenth-century German literature and

culture, particularly on the work of the important writer Wieland. Having published a dissertation on twentieth-century writer Ernst Jünger, Professor Schelle turned his hand to editing important scholarly volumes on Wieland and eventually to the preparation of a comprehensive bibliography on Wieland. He also published many articles on Wieland in prestigious journals such as the *Jahrbuch der Deutschen Schillergesellschaft* and the *Jahrbuch des Freien Deutschen Hochstifts*.

Schelle was active in several scholarly organizations, including the Lessing Society and the American Society for Eighteenth-century Studies. He taught regular graduate courses on eighteenth-century German literature and culture.