



DEPARTMENT OF
GERMANIC LANGUAGES
AND LITERATURES

NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2024



lsa.umich.edu/german

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Dear friends,

The hallways are quiet, the campus is bathed in glorious sunshine, and the academic year has ended. It has once again been a busy and tumultuous one. Universities are no islands, and whatever happens outside their physical confines—from wars to supreme court decisions, electoral campaigns to social protests—

reverberates within their halls and classrooms. In the midst of all of this, our department continues to thrive. A few weeks ago, we celebrated this year's graduating class, 86 majors and minors who combined a degree in German with a second major in political science or engineering, computing or psychology, music or biology [p.15-16]. Virtually all of these students spent time in Germany during their past four years with us. Many attended summer language courses at Goethe Institutes, some interned at German companies, while a lucky few participated in our study-abroad programs in Freiburg and Tübingen. Thanks to your generosity, all of them received financial support from our department. This is an enormous and often life-changing gift, for which our students are deeply grateful.

One of last year's most exciting events was the launch of our new writer-in-residence programs in German and Swedish. Over the last twelve months, we hosted Dorothee Elmiger, a Swiss author whose recent novel *Out of the Sugar Factory* was translated into English by our own Megan Ewing, and Hlín Agnarsdóttir, an Icelandic poet who also delivered this year's Karlstrom lecture [p.13]. Zafer Senocak, a prominent contemporary German writer of Turkish descent, will join us in October. We are very excited about these new programs, which add to the vibrancy of the department's intellectual life and keep us in touch with cutting-edge artistic developments in the German-speaking and Scandinavian countries.

Our faculty continues to garner accolades for their research. In April, we received word from the Dean's office that Johannes von Moltke was awarded a LSA Collegiate Professorship, one of the College's highest faculty honor. We can't wait for Johannes to return from Berlin, where he is currently a fellow at the American Academy, to celebrate this incredible achievement [p.5]. Meanwhile, the first glowing reviews of Helmut Puff's

recently published book on waiting—*The Antechamber: Toward a History of Waiting*—are coming in [p.5]. The intellectual vitality of our research faculty is also reflected in the success of our graduate students, several of whom recently landed tenure-track or other long-term teaching and research positions. At a time when job opportunities in the humanities have become harder to come by, this is a rare achievement that fills us with pride and joy.

There is much more happening in our department as well. Our Dutch program is now offering a minor [p.3]; we resumed our annual German Day, which brought hundreds of Michigan high-school students to campus [p.14]; a new undergraduate class offers students the opportunity to learn German while cooking German food [p.10]; and members of our Max Kade Haus, the only language-learning residential community on campus, went on a week-long trip to Munich [p.9]. Have a look at the following pages for these and other stories.

I have sad news as well. Ton Broos, who joined our department in 1982 and directed the Dutch program for 30 years until 2012, passed away this March. A beloved teacher and generous friend, Ton also had a life-long passion for libraries and archives. His last project concerned the digitization of our university's large collection of historical Dutch pamphlets, and just a few weeks before his death, the U-M Library's Special Collection Center honored Ton with a delightful celebration. We will miss him.

This is my last letter to you as chair. After six years, I will be stepping down from my position and handing over the reins to my dear friend and colleague, Kerstin Barndt. It's been an honor representing our department and getting to know some of you better. Thank you so much for your support over the last years. I wish you a warm and relaxing summer!

Andreas Jailer

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HIGHLIGHTS

Announcing Our New Dutch Minor!

Annemarie Toebosch, Collegiate Lecturer and Director of Dutch & Flemish Studies

In Winter term 2024, after 10 years of enrollment growth, the LSA Curriculum Committee approved a minor in Dutch Language and Culture. Designed to expand students' linguistic, communicative, and intercultural skills, the minor brings together language and culture towards the goal of exploring the colonial foundations of Dutch-speaking societies: Belgium, the Netherlands, and Suriname. Moving away from traditional Euro-supremacist frames in Dutch Studies, the minor is built around the action items of the Anti-racism in Language Programs report, a collaboration between Dutch and other language instructors, faculty from the LSA Anti-Racism Task Force, Language Resource Center (LRC) staff, and black, indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC) students. With this minor, the Dutch program holds itself accountable to those students who voice their concern that DEI recommendations are not implemented and thereby become empty promises.



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Before entering the minor program, our students have already learned to examine, challenge, and expand the language in Dutch textbooks toward more equitable forms of communication. They understand that some languages survived Dutch colonialism (e.g. Lenape), while others emerged and thrived in colonialism (Bahasa Indonesia, (Afri)Kaaps, Papiamentu). In the required languages courses for this minor students not only learn "standard" Dutch and Flemish but also Surinamese Dutch while building knowledge of the other languages of Suriname: Indigenous (e.g. Arawak), Creole (e.g. Sranan Tongo), and the languages displaced through colonialism (e.g. Surinamese Javanese).

The required culture course for the minor is *Anne Frank in Context*, a Holocaust course that applies theories of decoloniality to the study of the Holocaust and *The Diary of Anne Frank*. In the context of Dutch colonial genocides in Indonesia, Africa, and the Americas, students learn about *Kahal Zur Israel* (the first synagogue in the Americas in Dutch Brazil), about Nazi Germany's study of U.S. race law, and about Jewish concentration camps in WWII Indonesia. Special attention is paid to modern-day antisemitism, to the ethics of Holocaust and colonialism comparisons, to the ethical use of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Class visits by Holocaust and colonialism survivors allow students to hear first-hand accounts of their experiences.

Our minors find their individual focus in elective coursework in the areas of diaspora and race studies, and in the arts. Our first minors will take CARILLON 150 this fall, where they will learn from Associate Professor Tiffany Ng about the decolonization of our campus's large Low Lands (Belgian and Dutch) instruments. In all, our new minor is a unique one. Where traditional language programs are structured to promote a language-to-culture path (students enter elementary language courses, and if interested become majors or minors, working toward upper-level topics courses on particular culture topics), the minor in Dutch Language and Culture creates an opportunity for students in our English-taught culture courses in decoloniality to become interested in Dutch in all its diversity. This culture-to-language path attracts a diverse pool of students and is protective of language studies in a time when language programs are threatened around the country. We welcome our new minors in Dutch Language and Culture into an active collaboration of truth-telling and change!

FACULTY FOCUS

The Department Welcomes Paul Kurek!

Helmut Puff, Elizabeth L. Eisenstein Collegiate Professor of History and German Languages



Paul Kurek (University of California, Los Angeles) a Postdoctoral Fellow/Assistant Professor in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures.

Be so kind as to tell us something about the book-length study you are currently writing.

During the Third Reich, Berlin was to be renamed Germania and become the neoclassic capital of the world—a project that was impossible without forced laborers and concentration camps. In *Heavy Load-Bearing Modernity: A Cultural Geology of Albert Speer's Berlin/Germania* I unpack the fascinating history of

a monument that remains of this planned transformation, the so-called "Schwerbelastungskörper" or heavy load-bearing cylinder, made of 12,650 tons of ferroconcrete. I am excited to be teaching a class on Hitler's Berlin next winter semester.

What are the challenges of doing this kind of work?

The many historical layers—technology & sciences, architectural history, biographical history, forced labor, Holocaust, and more—require respectful engagement and making careful connections.

Share with us a lasting impression from your first semesters at U-M.

I greatly enjoyed sharing and discussing a miniature version of my book at the department's Research Colloquium!

Faculty in the News

Helmut Puff, Elizabeth L. Eisenstein Collegiate Professor of History and German Languages

LSA Collegiate Fellow **Jon Cho-Polizzi** gave an interview with LSA's marketing and communications team in which he shares insights about his work as a researcher and teacher of radical diversity in contemporary German literature ("Communication Is Part of Belonging" - <http://lsa.umich.edu/german>).

In the 50th anniversary issue of *New German Critique*, one of the premier journals in the field, **Kristin Dickinson** explores the promise of undoing monolingual communication by "heterolingual address"—when we "relate to ourselves as we relate to others" ("Queer Spectrality and the Hope of Heterolingual Address," November 2023).

Johannes von Moltke, currently a fellow at the *American Academy in Berlin*, is cited in the *New York Times* on April 6, 2024, on the reverberations of the war in the mideast on German cultural and political life ("Berlin was a Beacon of Artistic Freedom"); one of the foremost scholars of the twentieth-century German writer, critic, and film theorist Siegfried Kracauer, von Moltke also published a review of the English translation of Kracauer's 1928 novel *Ginster* in the *New York Review of Books* (November 11, 2023).

Silke Weineck's "How Racist Car Dealers KO'd Joe Lewis"—a probing piece on "white-collar racism that prevented the world's most popular athlete from selling Fords"—published in *The Nation* on May 3, 2023, made *Bunk History's* list of "The Best History Writings of 2023."

FACULTY FOCUS

Waiting with Mozart

Andreas Gailus, Professor of German

Whether we like it or not, we all must endure it from time to time: waiting. We wait in line at the poll station, for the doctor to see us, or for the arrival of packages, grudgingly realizing that nothing, not even Amazon, is as instantaneous as promised. But is there a history of waiting? How do different contexts shape our experience of waiting? What can waiting tell us about authority, power, and status? These are some of the questions **Helmut Puff** pursues in his brilliant new book, *The Antechamber: A History of Waiting*. Puff shows how, in early modern Europe, architects, moralists, and rulers sought to shape time and social status through the construction of antechambers—interior rooms designated and designed for people to linger and wait. You can get a taste of *The Antechamber* by listening to Puff's podcast on Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart as he waits, in 1777, for a job interview with Duke Max Joseph of Bavaria. <https://digitalscholarship.umich.edu/lsa-history/showcase/season-5-episode-2-waiting-with-mozart/>



A Well Deserved Award

Andreas Gailus, Professor of German



Photo courtesy of Annette Hornischer

We are excited to announce that the Board of Regents has awarded our dear colleague and friend, Johannes von Moltke, a collegiate professorship effective September 1, 2024. The LSA Collegiate Professorship is one of the college's highest faculty honor. It is awarded to those who demonstrate a sustained record of excellence in research and scholarship, teaching, service, and other contributions to the university.

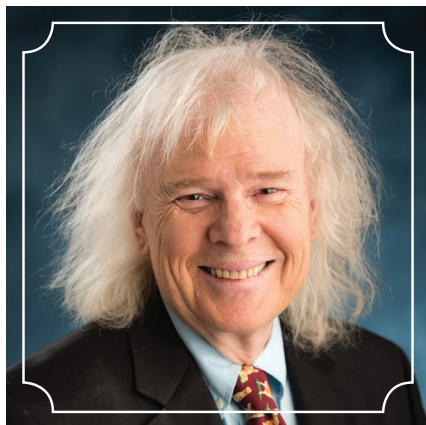
For anybody who knows Johannes and has followed his work over the last two decades, this recognition does not come as a surprise. Since the publication of his award-winning first book on the genre of the Heimatfilm, *No Place Like Home: Locations of Heimat in German Cinema* (2005), Johannes has established himself as a leading scholar in the fields of German film studies, critical theory, intellectual history, and cultural studies more generally. *No Place Like Home* is already considered a classic

in German and film studies. The same is true for Johannes' work on Siegfried Kracauer, a German-Jewish film critic who rose to fame during the Weimar Republic before emigrating to the United States in 1941, which culminated in the publication, in 2016, of *The Curious Humanist*, a magisterial study of Kracauer's life and work in America that garnered many prizes and was reviewed, among other places, in the *Times Literary Supplement*, *The Nation*, and the *Los Angeles Times Book Review*. A beautiful writer whose prose is free of jargon and highly accessible, Johannes is a public intellectual in the best sense of this term. He is also a beloved teacher, a deeply committed advisor, and an amazingly generous colleague who chaired our department from 2014 to 2018. Congratulations, Johannes, on this deeply deserved award!

FACULTY FOCUS

Andrei S. Markovits: Taking Comfort in Rootlessness

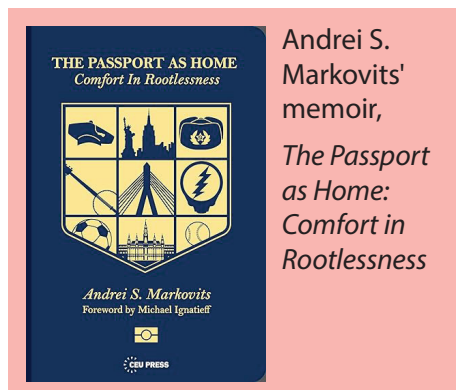
Our distinguished colleague, Prof. **Andrei S. Markovits**, an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and the Karl Deutsch Collegiate Professor of Comparative Politics and German Studies, retired this year after twenty-five years of teaching at the University of Michigan. Our department will not be the same.



With a Ph.D. from Columbia University and an honorary doctorate from the Leuphana Universität in Lüneburg, Germany (2007), Dr. Markovits taught at Wesleyan University, Boston University, and the University of California, Santa Cruz, before joining the University of Michigan in 1999 where he held appointments in the departments of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Political Science, and Sociology. During his years at U-M, he was affiliated with, taught, or had fellowships at the following institutions: American University, Washington, DC; Dortmund University, Germany; Harvard University; Hebrew University,

Jerusalem, Israel; St. Gallen, Switzerland; Stanford University; and University of California, Berkeley, California as well as three prestigious universities in Vienna, Austria. A gifted and beloved teacher who loved interacting with students, he received many awards over the course of his career in Ann Arbor: twice he was awarded the Tronstein Prize for exceptional undergraduate teaching in PoliSci; the *Michigan Daily* named him "Best Professor" (2014); and he garnered the coveted Golden Apple Award in 2007. In 2012, he received the Cross of the Order of Merit, First Class (Bundesverdienstkreuz), the highest civilian honor bestowed by the Federal Republic of Germany on a civilian. His list of publications covers a great number of fields and subfields, among them German and Austrian politics, anti-semitism, anti-Americanism, social democracy and social movements, European politics, comparative sports culture in Europe and America, and animal studies. He authored and co-authored a staggering number of scholarly articles as well as books. He also is sought-after as a commentator in newspapers, magazines, and other publications on both sides of the Atlantic.

In his 2021 memoir, *The Passport as Home: Comfort in Rootlessness* (translated into German and Romanian), Andy Markovits, who has lived a remarkable, and itinerant life uncovers rootlessness as the core impulse of his creativity and



Andrei S. Markovits' memoir, *The Passport as Home: Comfort in Rootlessness*

curiosity. In this remarkable book, he summarizes his years at U-M thus: "I have loved the students, loved the teaching, loved the sports, loved Hill Auditorium, with its world-class performances that replicate Carnegie Hall's. ... Bespeaking my rootlessness even at the University of Michigan, I once asked the dean of our college whether I might become a roaming professor, untethered to any department, who could teach in disparate places, including outside his own college of Literature, Science, and the Arts, something I already had done twice by offering classes in the School of Kinesiology. His response was precious: 'No, Andy! We have no positions for wandering and homeless professors! Continue being a wanderer in your work and spirit. That is called interdisciplinarity, and the college rewards that big time. But in terms of an affiliation, an anchor, you are compelled to do that work in something that our college and university call departments.'" We wish our colleague Andy Markovits the best for his future wanderings. We are profoundly indebted to him for his countless contributions to German

GRADUATE STUDENT FOCUS

Introducing the 2023 Graduate Student Cohort!



Jean Pieterse has a BA from the University of Cape Town, South Africa, and a MA from Stellenbosch University and Universität Leipzig. His main research interests centers around the 'Blütezeit' of 19th-century German literature and philosophy, with a focus on the interplay between materialist scientific theories/philosophies, fantastic modes of fiction, and representations of the human–nature binary within an ecocritical framework.



Parks Mason is a native of Frankfort, Kentucky. He earned his BA in German Studies from the University of Kentucky. His main research interest are with 20th-century German-Jewish literature and Hebrew Bible Reception.

Upcoming Graduate Student Conference: De/limiting Translation

Veronica Williamson, Ph.D. Student

The department's graduate students are busy at work organizing a conference on the topic titled "De/limiting Translation." Scheduled to be held in Ann Arbor, November 7-9, 2024, our conference explores the multiple natures of cultural, literary, visual, or other modes of translation by exploring texts' movements between contexts. Through these discussions, we hope to uplift graduate student scholarship by featuring students affiliated with U-M as well as other institutions in the U.S., Canada, and Germany.

Additionally, we are pleased to announce our keynote speaker will be Professor Esra Akcan (Cornell University), whose work studying the global movement of architecture identifies the concept of architectural translation. In *Architecture in Translation: Germany, Turkey, and the Modern House*, she writes, translation is "the very medium that exposes not only the formal but also the epistemological and ethical dimensions of cultural interactions." A definition that also shapes our conference theme. While the title of her keynote is not yet announced, we expect a compelling talk.

Community members and interested individuals are welcome to attend and enjoy the conference! Further details will be announced on the department's website soon.



Congratulations, Dr. Beck-Soldner!



In August 2023, **Lauren Beck-Soldner** successfully defended her dissertation *Futurity in Migration:*

Women's Memory and Postnational Imagination in Contemporary German Literature. Moving between close readings and astute theoretical analysis, this dissertation investigates three contemporary novels by women authors working in Germany between 1989 and 2020. Overall, Lauren shows how these works problematize the categories of family history, memory, and futurity through the embedded contexts of gender, migration, and the end of communism in Europe. Congratulations, Lauren!

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT FOCUS

Schokoladenstunde

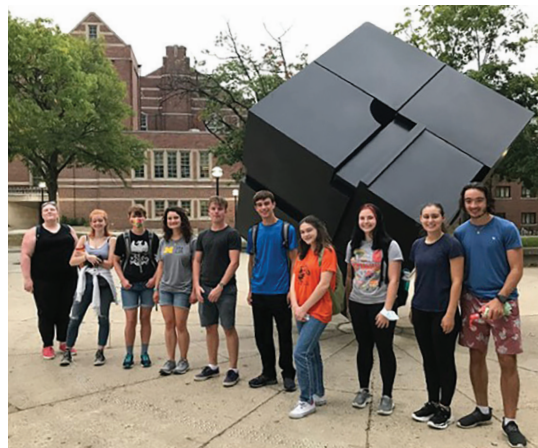
Silvia Grzeskowiak, Lecturer

Schokoladenstunde is a long-standing weekly conversation group facilitated for the past decade by **Silvia Grzeskowiak**. Open to all German language students, it offers a fun and engaging space to practice German language skills, while enjoying authentic German chocolates and playing traditional and award-winning German games.

Convo on the Go

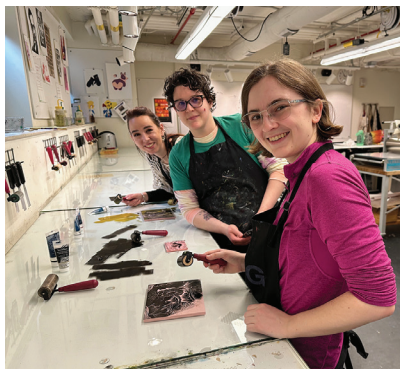
Mary Gell, Lecturer

Going strong since September 2020, German Convo on the Go is open to all. Our weekly walks give students a chance to connect, laugh, practice German, move, and enjoy the Huron River, the Arb, Washtenaw Dairy, West Park, Forest Hills Cemetery, Argo Dam, Marching Band practice, etc. In the bitter cold, the best hikes are staircases leading to breathtaking rooftop sunset views. Always lots to see and say.



Kreativwerkstatt

Iris Zapf-Garcia and Laura Okkema, Lecturers



Kreativwerkstatt is a weekly workshop where we draw, craft, paint, embroider or design our individual creative projects while chatting in German. It has become a safe space to nurture our creativity, relax and practice speaking skills. A highlight last semester was printing our own linocuts in the RC's printing lab.



GERMAN DAY 2025

Friday, April 11, 2025

Theme: Alles über Österreich

Students will explore and investigate the history and importance of Austrian culture.

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MAX KADE HAUS

A Year of Language and Community

Vera Irwin, Max Kade House Director

The Max Kade Haus, a Michigan Learning Community and the only language house on campus, has been a home for German language learners since 1967. This year, 27 Max Kade residents, ranging from third-semester learners to native speakers, came together to immerse themselves in German culture and language.

The Max Kade year began with a variety of activities that encouraged language practice, cultural exchange and interpersonal connections. Our residents and house guests enjoyed Kaffeestunden and Deutschtschisch, German-speaking board game nights, and TV and film evenings. They organized a trip to Chicago to experience an authentic German Christmas market and the Max Kade Haus' own soccer team participated in the university's tournament and showcased teamwork and sportsmanship. The culmination of our year was

a week-long study trip to Munich where we explored the city's historical sites, enjoyed local cuisine, and practiced German in real-life situations — a hands-on cultural experience that was both educational and exhilarating.

As the year concluded, a traditional German farewell dinner provided a moment to reflect on the friendships and experiences shared, while also welcoming new residents for the upcoming new year at the Max Kade Haus. We are looking forward to a new year of friendship, laughter, and continued learning through cultural immersion and community.

Max Kade applications for the 2025-2026 academic year open in October 2024. For more information and to apply, visit lsa.umich.edu/german/undergraduate-students/max-kade-german-residence.html.



IN THE CLASSROOM

An Evening of Hands-On Learning in GER 232

Iris Zapf-Garcia, Lecturer

One of the highlights for the students in my German 232 on German Food Culture this past winter semester was getting some hands-on experience cooking regional German dishes. With the generous support Lynn and Mark Gendleman Fund, I was able to rent the South Quad test kitchen for an evening, where my students then worked at six different stations to prepare Käsespätzle (noodles with cheese) with caramelized onions and cucumber salad, meat patties and potato salad, and Blackforest cherry cake in individual jars. This was a great opportunity to practice understanding and following original German recipes, as well as learning some basic cooking skills. The event was a huge success. What my students reportedly liked best was getting to actually see and eat the dishes we had talked about in class, collaborating to prepare them, and conversing in German along the way. I hope to offer this again in future semesters!



Weitergeben Website Launch

Kelsi Morefield, Ph.D. Student

The department was delighted to launch *Weitergeben*, an online resource of German course materials for teachers. Including detailed lesson plans created by graduate students, lecturers, and professors alike, *Weitergeben* is a digital platform that provides teaching materials that highlight the heterogeneity of German culture throughout different mediums and periods.

Available to all instructors, not just those at the University of Michigan, *Weitergeben* can assist instructors in discovering material that expands many students' views of Germanic Studies. Although the current website includes a broad range of materials, with lesson plans on Yoko Tawada's *akzentfrei* and Karl Heinrich Ulrich's letters, for example, *Weitergeben* is ever-expanding.

As *Weitergeben* continues to grow, instructors from across the field of Germanic Studies are invited to contribute their own lesson plans to the site. We welcome you to visit sites.lsa.umich.edu/weitergeben/ to explore this new resource.

STAYING CONNECTED

To the University of Michigan Scandinavian Program,

December 11, 2023

I write to express my heartfelt thanks to the program and all connected individuals who support students at the University of Michigan in learning Scandinavian, particularly Swedish, languages and culture. The funds raised by the Scandinavian Program afforded me the opportunity to leave North America for the first time in my life and explore Sweden with the rest of my second-year Swedish class (and our lovely Professor Johanna Eriksson).

As a "HAIL scholar" receiving an income-based full ride to the University of Michigan, working between 20-35 hours year-round to afford rent and other expenses, the much-anticipated trip to Sweden was out of my budget, despite its relatively low cost. After expressing this to Johanna, I was overwhelmed to hear that the Scandinavian Program would be able to cover the difference between the total cost and what I could reasonably afford.

Our trip to Sweden in February 2020 was the highlight of my college experience. I chose to take Swedish as a foreign language mid-way through my freshman

year after developing a focused interest in early childhood education and learning about Sweden's reputation for high-quality, universally accessible preschool. When I elected to take the course, I did not figure traveling to the country would be feasible and I certainly never expected to visit a local "dagis"! Thanks to Johanna's guidance and somewhat forceful encouragement, I contacted a few preschools in the city and received an invitation to tour a Reggio Emilia-inspired center on my final day in Helsingborg. During the tour and conversations with instructors, I explored both my interests in uniquely Swedish pedagogy and in Reggio-based preschools, a curricular model about which I had only read before. I spent the last half-hour of my visit building cities reading "barnböcker" with the young students. I treasure this visit; it was so fulfilling to learn first hand about the topic which had drawn me to Swedish two years prior.

Later that year, I received a fellowship to work on a collaborative study with UMich, Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE), and Boston Public Schools (BPS)

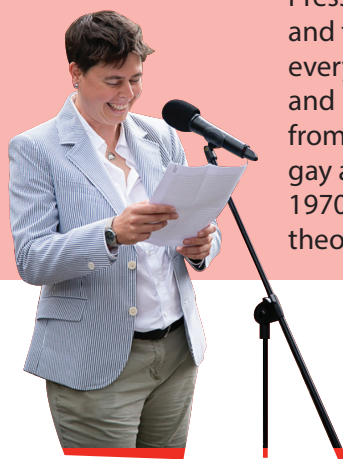
examining the implementation of Universal Pre-Kindergarten in Boston. I moved to Boston shortly after graduating to work for HGSE as a research manager on the project. I now work as an administrator on the Universal Pre-Kindergarten team at the BPS central office. To my delight, I've met two Swedish-speaking colleagues across HGSE and BPS and meet them for the occasional fika.

I still find myself in a state of happy disbelief at the ways in which my career path and Swedish studies intertwined and informed one another. The Scandinavian Program's generosity contributed immeasurable value to my education and I cannot thank its heads and contributors enough. I hope the program can continue to sponsor students with similar limitations to myself and grant them equally rich travel experiences to Scandinavia that form lasting, precious memories.

With most sincere thanks,
Rachel Kushner

Andrea Rottmann '19 Book Talk

Kristin Dickinson,
Associate Professor of
German Studies



In October 2023, former doctoral student **Andrea Rottman** visited the department to read from and discuss her new book: *Queer Lives Across the Wall: Desire and Danger in Divided Berlin: 1945-1970* (University of Toronto Press, 2023). Across a significant introduction and four chapters, Andrea examines the everyday lives of queer Berliners between 1945 and 1970, tracing private and public queer life from the end of the Nazi regime through the gay and lesbian liberation movements of the 1970s. Informed by feminist, queer, and spatial theories, *Queer Lives Across the Wall* explores

how certain spaces—including homes, bars, streets, parks, and prisons—facilitated and restricted queer lives in the overwhelmingly conservative climate that characterized both German postwar states. Needless to say, Andrea's reading led to a lively discussion in a packed conference room! Following the publication of her book, Andrea will continue on as a postdoctoral researcher with the Friedrich-Meinecke-Institute at the Freie Universität Berlin, where she is working on the project "Human Rights, Queer Genders and Sexualities Since the 1970s."

DUTCH STUDIES

In Memoriam: Antonius (Ton) Broos



Ton Broos passed away on March 1 in his home in Ann Arbor at the age of 77.

Joining the department in 1982, he was the first continuous lecturer of Dutch, directing the program for 30 years, until 2012. Among the many things Ton left the program are the De Vries-VanderKooy memorial lecture series and the program's first Anne

Frank course. Redeveloped after his retirement as a Judaic Studies course, Anne Frank in Context embodies the success of the program today.

As Director, Ton inherited the Dutch Writer-in-Residence program (1981-2005). Recently, at a lunch where he met our newly hired Lecturer in Dutch and Flemish studies, he was proud, he was proud and hopeful for the Dutch minor and next chapter of the Dutch program at U-M. We talked about famous Dutch writers he had hosted on

campus, E. M. Beekman, Hugo Claus, Hella Haasse, and discussed digitizing the recorded interview of Surinamese Dutch writer, Astrid Roemer.

A leader in the larger Dutch Studies community, Ton forged relationships across North American Dutch Studies programs, hosting the Interdisciplinary Conference on Netherlandic Studies (ICNS) in 1986 and 2002. In our Ton forged relationships across North America, hosting the weekly "Dutch Lunch" in MLB, and served as president of the Netherlands America University League (NAUL).

A few days before he passed, the university honored Ton's legacy with the celebration of the "Dutch Tract Project", the digitization of U-M's large collection of historical Dutch pamphlets generously sponsored by Ton. Memorial contributions may be made to the Ton Broos Dutch Tract Conservation Project Fund -339177, online at <https://giving.umich.edu/basket/fund/339177/> or at University of Michigan Office of Development, Attn: Gifts and Records Administration, 3003 South State Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109.

Introducing Denice Gravenstijn



Following the approval of our decolonial Dutch minor, and with her knowledge of the intergenerational and context-based use of Indigenous and Maroon languages in Suriname, **Denice Gravenstijn** was hired in Winter 2024 to help develop the first Surinamese Dutch language curriculum and Suriname Studies program in U.S. Dutch Studies.

Denice is a sociologist and native speaker of Surinamese Dutch and Sranan Tongo – the lingua franca of the former Dutch colony of Suriname. She most recently coordinated projects to support racial justice and Indigenous rights.

She views the Dutch language as a tool for cultural reclamation and resilience, promoting Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Accessibility.

Enriching the lives of our students, Denice's liberatory work to teach Surinamese Dutch continues the legacy of the late Dr. Renata de Bies, renowned linguist at Anton de Kom University of Suriname, Denice's alma mater, and pioneer in the struggle for the recognition of Surinamese Dutch as a separate, reformed, and reclaimed national variety, authoring its first dictionary. Denice expands students' communicative and intercultural skills in her teaching of our second and third year language courses, and in the development of English-taught culture courses (including a study-abroad course) about Suriname.

SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES

Scandinavian Updates

Johanna Eriksson, Collegiate Lecturer and Scandinavian Program Director

The Scandinavian Program has wrapped up two exciting months with our first writer-in-residence, Hlín Agnarsdóttir, from Reykjavík, Iceland. In Hlín's mini-course, an enthusiastic group of students delved into their own writing inspired by contemporary Icelandic literature, which has been blossoming over the past decades following the towering legacy of their Nobel laureate, Halldór Laxness.

Hlín's own journey as a writer began as a playwright, intertwined with her role as a theater director. Since 2001, she is mainly active as an author and teacher of creative writing.

In April, Hlín presented the Signe Karlström Lecture, focusing on the nuances of the Icelandic language and the art of translation. Icelandic, a language preserved for centuries, is going through rapid transformations in both grammar and vocabulary, which leaves many Icelanders torn between linguistic purism and the inevitability of linguistic evolution.

During her presentation at the Swedish Club of Farmington Hills, Hlín showed us the intricate connection between nature and art in Iceland. Iceland's poetry often transports us to the majestic landscapes of the nation, and it is no surprise that Icelandic art frequently mirrors the wonders of nature in everything from delicate moss-covered terrain to colossal icebergs.

We also got a glimpse of Hlín's own writing at a reading at Literati Bookstore, where Hlín and Agusta Gunnarsdóttir read from Hlín's two latest novels, *Maidenhood* (2021) and *Solitary, a love Research* (2023), which are in the process of being translated into English.

We are immensely grateful to the Detroit Swedish Foundation (DSF) for the generous support of Hlín Agnarsdóttir's residency, enriching our program and our students' experiences. We are planning to repeat the writer-in-residence program on a bi-annual basis.



On the Spring-Break Study Trip this year, we brought the second-year students to Stockholm. From avant-garde ballet at the Opera and a modern version of Ibsen at the City Theater to inspiring art- and history museum visits, the students got a taste of what the city has to offer. Special thanks to our former students now residing in Sweden, Andrew Gomes, Sofia Murad, Hanna Dougherty, and Daniel Hult, for sharing their time with us. It is wonderful to see them thrive in Stockholm. Many thanks to Professor Anna Björklund and engineering student Oscar Björklund for giving us a glimpse into the Royal School of Technology (KTH), and to Professor Lena Norrman for facilitating a visit with her students at the Danish International Studies (DIS).

Last but not least, congratulations to MJ Johnson, who graduated with a double major in Film, Television, and Media and Economics and a minor in Scandinavian Studies. MJ is spending the summer completing an internship with the U.S. Embassy in India.

GERMAN DAY

German Day 2024: How food brought us (back) together

Stacy Swennes, Lecturer

A mist of spring rain on Friday, April 12 failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the 500 high school and middle school students who joined us on campus to compete in the first in-person German Day since 2020. The halls of the Michigan League echoed with the sounds of laughter and occasional last-minute rehearsal, as students prepared to display their German skills through poetry recitation, informal speaking, skits, music and spelling bees.

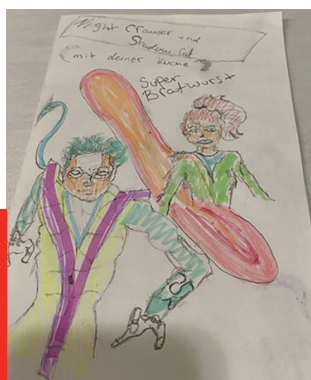


This year's theme, *die deutsche Küche*, encouraged students to explore the epicurean options in the German-speaking world and incorporate that knowledge into their artwork, short stories, podcasts, videos and live performances. In many instances, students focused on how food connects us to each other – a recipe passed down through generations, a neighborhood Grillparty or a Lebkuchenherz given to a loved one at Karneval. Students from Edsel Ford High School created such culinary bonds by bringing the traditional Kaffee und Kuchen experience to retirees at Beaumont

Commons as part of their "German for All" project. Other students produced their own cooking shows by gathering in kitchens to film themselves making Apfelkuchen, Spätzle and other dishes.



Participants also had the opportunity this year to meet fellow German-learners from the other 20 or so schools in attendance by playing German games in the Language Resource Center. Undergraduate volunteers helped brainstorm Scrabble words and Äpfel zu Äpfel matches, while sharing their experience and advice with their younger peers.



Several submissions for German Day in the "2D Art" and "Comics" categories

FEATURED 2024 GRADUATES

Honors Theses

Helmut Puff, Elizabeth L. Eisenstein Collegiate Professor of History and German Languages

Graduating with Honors means to research and write a substantial piece on a topic of the student's choice. For many who commit to this path, doing so is a capstone experience. Writing such a thesis requires commitment, passion, curiosity, and, *Sitzfleisch*: a tenacity of spirit. We as a department are tremendously proud of the three students who have graduated with honors in 2024: Josh Harper (From Ankunft to Zukunft: Gender, Heterotopia, and Vision in Brigitte Reimann's *Ankunft im Alltag*, 1961), Abbey Parker (*Das Magazin: GDR Life & Society, from the Perspective of Pleasure*), and Paul Schanhals (Changing the Way Change Happens: Individualism, Humanism, and Faith in Early Modern Germany through the Lens of *Das Narrenschiff*).



L to R: Abbey Parker, Paul Schanhals, Josh Harper

Translation Studies Capstone Project

Kristin Dickinson, Associate Professor of German Studies

In Winter 2024 undergraduate German major Mia Brodeur completed a translation studies capstone project under the supervision of Professor Kristin Dickinson titled "Translating Queer Histories in Berlin's *Die Freundin*." Her final project included a critical introduction to this Weimar-era magazine as well as a stunning 12-page reproduction of a representative issue, which includes diverse articles genres from across the entire 6-year publication history (1927-1933) of the magazine. Mia won the Senior Prize in Literary Translation from the Department of Comparative Literature for her capstone project. Congratulations, Mia!



We want to connect you to other students or alums who share the same academic or professional trajectory. Please send us your story or information at german.alums@umich.edu.

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Congratulations Class of 2024!

The Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures celebrated our students, their hard work, and many accomplishments in a graduation ceremony on Friday, May 3, 2024 in the Michigan League Ballroom. The ceremony included a warm welcome and remarks from Professor and Department Chair, Andreas Gailus, and included a recognition of the graduates and award winners by our department. A big thank you to graduates, their friends and families, and to all of the Germanic Languages and Literatures faculty and staff who helped to create a wonderful, lasting memory!



German Majors



German Minors