

# GLL

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Max Kade Haus students visited the law firm Kirkland & Ellis while on their study tour to Munich in May

# Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends,



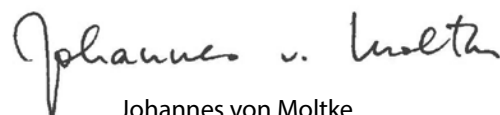
I write this on the last day of Spring classes, in the middle of summer, and the halls of the MLB are comparatively quiet. Students have headed home, are pursuing internships, or find themselves abroad on one of our study programs in Tübingen, Freiburg, or at Goethe Institutes across Germany; just perhaps, some of them are also taking time out to watch some soccer as the European Cup plays out in France.... Faculty, meanwhile, have turned their attention to the broad variety of fascinating research that defines this Department: research on the medieval conceptions of media, on the role of university museums, on the politics of migration; on the aesthetics of ancient and modern ruins, musical performance and on the role of sound in literature; on depictions of violence in fin-de-siècle Berlin and Vienna and on profound shifts in the very notion of life over the past two centuries – the list could go on, and we will report here on the fruits of these labors as they appear in print over the coming months and years.

The relative quiet of the summer months affords the opportunity to look back on a year full of energy and activity in the Department, during which I found myself telling audiences (and administrators) on various occasions how “teachable” Germany seems to be these days. For better or for worse, German-speaking countries have been in the news and have become the epicenter for the big questions concerning migration, cultural integration, freedom of speech, the future of the European Union, and many others. And the same could be said, in many respects, of Sweden and the Netherlands, two of the other countries in our Department’s purview.

We were fortunate, then, to have been able to bring to campus several prominent interlocutors with whom we were able to discuss some of these questions over the course of the past year: from the Consul General of the Federal Republic, who gave his prognosis on the refugee crisis; to Peter Richter, New York based cultural correspondent for the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, who read from his recent autobiographical novel on the 25th anniversary of German unification; to Michael Götting, a young Afro-German author and cultural activist who read from his debut novel *Contrapunctus*; to Ingo Schulze, an important contemporary author who hails from the former East Germany and has accompanied the ongoing process of unification with great sensitivity (and occasionally satire). Having Götting, Richter, and Schulze here only whetted our appetite for a more sustained exchange with German authors’ voices, and I’m thrilled to report that we managed to obtain major funding from the Max Kade Foundation to host visiting authors at Michigan on a recurring basis. Our first guest, German-Turkish author Selim Özdoğan, arrives in the Fall and will offer a mini-course for advanced undergraduates as well as public readings. In September, he will join a panel with two further notable authors, Kerstin Hensel and Ulrich Peltzer, for a symposium on contemporary German Literature. We hope that many of you will be able to join us for these and other public events, and catch up on the many goings-on in the Department. And if you don’t want to wait for the next newsletter to read about them, you can keep up with us on our website, or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

As ever, if you find yourself in the neighborhood, do stop by: we’re always happy to hear from alumni and friends and to find out how they’ve taken the teaching of things German back into the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johannes v. Moltke". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Johannes von Moltke  
moltke@umich.edu

## Max Kade Visiting Author



Selim Özdoğan

Von Harald Krichel, CC BY-SA 3.0

During the fall semester, we will host Turkish-German author Selim Özdoğan in a three-month Writer-in-Residence program, funded by the Max Kade Foundation. As the author of eleven novels and four short story collections, Özdoğan has contributed significantly to the contemporary field of transnational German literature. He received the Adelbert von Chamisso Prize in 1999, and has since held fellowships from diverse organizations such as the Literaturbüro NRW (2006), the Arts Foundation of North-Rhein Westphalia (2014), and the Robert Bosch Stiftung (2015). Özdoğan maintains a weekly column with Zeit Online and has substantial experience working with students at different levels.

At the core of this residency is a one-credit writing workshop, which will meet for two hours a week over the course of seven weeks. We will also arrange for Özdoğan to visit diverse classes within the Department, ranging from our workshop in literary translation to seminars in literature and culture. The presence of a Turkish-German author on campus will be an invaluable supplement to our current curricular offerings; it will afford students an experiential point of access to topics addressed in the classroom, and will expand students' understanding of minority culture in Germany today.

## Mark your calendars for these events:

### Gegenwartsliteratur Symposium

Tuesday, September 20th, 4:00 pm  
UMMA Multi-Purpose Room  
525 South State Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Selim Özdoğan will be joined by Kerstin Hensel and Ulrich Peltzer for a discussion on contemporary German literature. On the preceding evening (Monday, 9/19) we will screen and discuss Christoph Hochhäusler's most recent film, *Die Lügen der Sieger* (2014), which Peltzer co-wrote.

### DeVries-Vanderkooy Lecture: Ronald Bartlema

Thursday, October 6, 8 pm  
Vandenberg Room, Michigan League  
911 North University, Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Ronald Bartlema is the director of NOS Jeugdjournaal, a 35-year old Dutch television news program for children.

### Gunther Hauk Lecture

Friday, November 4, 6:30–8 pm  
Great Lakes Room, Palmer Commons  
100 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Teacher, lecturer, biodynamic gardener, and beekeeper Gunther Hauk's book, *Toward Saving the Honeybee*, calls for a change in approach to beekeeping. Lecturer Andrew Mills, who teaches a bee-themed section of German 325, invited Hauk to U-M to discuss the future of bee species.

### The Norén Festival

November 16–20  
various locations across campus

The works of Swedish playwright, novelist, and poet Lars Norén will be showcased by Chicago-based theater group Akvavit, Kate Mendeloff, Malcolm Tulip, and Maria Lindholm Gochman.

## Alice Goff: Michigan Society of Fellows Assistant Professor



Alice Goff is a historian of German cultural and intellectual life in the modern period. Her research and teaching focus on the history of museums, aesthetics, and the relationships between material objects and political thought in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. As a post-doctoral fellow with the Michigan Society of Fellows, she holds appointments in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures and History Department. She comes to U-M from UC Berkeley, where she completed her PhD in History in 2015. She also holds a master's degree in Archives and Records Management from the University of Michigan, and a bachelor's degree from Bryn Mawr College.

Alice is currently at work on a book project with the provisional title, "The God Behind the Marble: Transcendence and the Art Object in the German Aesthetic State." It tells the story of artworks caught up in the looting, iconoclasm, and shifting boundaries of German states during the French Revolution and Napoleonic wars and the consequences of their displacement for German political, religious, and intellectual practice at the beginning of the nineteenth century. By examining the development of private collections, public museums, and church treasuries, this work examines the frictions that arose between the precarious fates of artworks on the ground and the assertions of art's ideal autonomy in philosophy and criticism.

When not tracking the abuses of art objects in the nineteenth century, Alice is working on a new project on the early modern *Kunstkammer* in the German Democratic Republic, and developing a first year seminar on inanimate things that have been said to have spoken in German history.

### Kira Thurman named 2016–18 UMS Faculty Fellow



performance and arts-based learning into their teaching.

Congratulations to Assistant Professor Kira Thurman, who was named a 2016-18 faculty fellow of the University Music Society (UMS). During the two-year experience, she will participate in in the Mellon Faculty Institute on Arts-Academic Integration, which explores ways for faculty to meaningfully incorporate

### Andrei Markovits Awarded By Political Science Department



generated copious and well-deserved praise from students in several of Markovits' courses.

Andrei Markovits, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, Karl W. Deutsch Collegiate Professor of Comparative Politics and German Studies, has been honored with the Department of Political Science's Tronstein Award for excellence in undergraduate teaching. His enthusiasm, individual attention to students, and wisdom

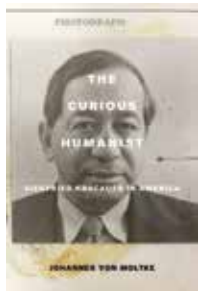


## ***Violent Sensations: Sex, Crime, and Utopia in Vienna and Berlin, 1860–1914***

Scott Spector

From University of Chicago Press: "In *Violent Sensations*, Scott Spector explores how the protagonists of these stories [media reports on crime]—people at society's margins—were given new identities defined by the groundbreaking sciences of psychiatry, sexology, and criminology, and how this expert knowledge was then transmitted to an eager public by journalists covering court cases and police investigations. The book analyzes these sexual and criminal subjects on three levels: first, the expertise of scientists, doctors, lawyers, and scholars; second, the sensationalism of newspaper scandal and pulp fiction; and, third, the subjective ways that the figures themselves came to understand who they were. Throughout, Spector answers important questions about how fantasies of extreme depravity and bestiality figure into the central European self-image of cities as centers of progressive civilization, as well as the ways in which the sciences of social control emerged alongside the burgeoning emancipation of women and homosexuals."

## ***The Curious Humanist: Siegfried Kracauer in America***



Johannes von Moltke

From University of California Press: "During the Weimar Republic, Siegfried Kracauer established himself as a trenchant theorist of film, culture, and modernity, and he is now considered one of the key thinkers of the twentieth century. ...Johannes von Moltke details the intricate ways in which the American intellectual and political context shaped

Kracauer's seminal contributions to film studies and shows how, in turn, Kracauer's American writings helped shape the emergent discipline. ...Adopting a transatlantic perspective on Kracauer's work, von Moltke demonstrates how he pursued questions in conversation with contemporary critics from Theodor Adorno to Hannah Arendt, from Clement Greenberg to Robert Warshow: questions about the origins of totalitarianism and the authoritarian personality; about high and low culture; about liberalism, democracy, and what it means to be human."

## ***Our Ancient Wars: Rethinking War through the Classics***

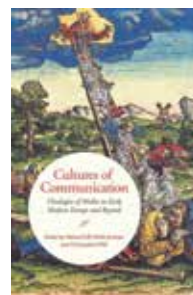


Silke-Maria Weineck (editor with Victor Caston)

From University of Michigan Press: "*Our Ancient Wars* features essays by top scholars from across academic disciplines—classicists and historians, philosophers and political theorists, literary scholars, some with firsthand experience of war and some without—

engaging with classical texts to understand how differently they were read in other times and places. Contributors articulate difficult but necessary questions about contemporary conceptions of war and conflict."

## ***Cultures of Communication: Theologies of Media in Early Modern Europe and Beyond***



Helmut Puff (editor with Ulrike Strasser and Christopher Wild)

From University of Toronto Press: "Contrary to the historiographical commonplace 'no Reformation without print' *Cultures of Communication* examines media in the early modern world through the lens of the period's

religious history. Looking beyond the emergence of print, this collection of ground-breaking essays highlights the pivotal role of theology in the formation of the early modern cultures of communication. The authors assembled here urge us to understand the Reformation as a response to the perceived crisis of religious communication in late medieval Europe. In addition, they explore the novel demands placed on European media ecology by the acceleration and intensification of global interconnectedness in the early modern period."

## Alamanya: Transnational German Studies

By Ali Bolcakan



Alamanya: The Transnational German Studies Working Group brings together graduate students from such diverse departments as German, History, Anthropology, Musicology, and Comparative Literature to explore a variety of transnational topics in the German sphere, including issues related to translation, migration, colonialism and exile. Alamanya emphasizes the diversity of artistic expressions in communities marked by migration and exile and calls for an interdisciplinary approach that encourages academic collaboration at the nexus of nation, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class and religion.

Alamanya's Winter 2016 topic was the **Europe-wide refugee crisis**, with a focus on the far-reaching implications of the recent influx of migrants for German society at large; among other topics, we discussed recent changes to German asylum law, the highly debated proposal for a quota-system to distribute refugees amongst EU states, and the critical role that Germany continues to play within the crisis at large.

In February 2016, Alamanya organized a screening of Burhan Qurbanli's feature film *Wir sind jung, wir sind stark* (2004) which was shortlisted for

Germany's submission to the Academy Awards. *Wir sind jung, wir sind stark* retells the events leading up to the 1992 rightwing extremist attack on a refugee housing center in the northeastern city of Rostock-Lichtenhagen. The film offers an important historical context to the current situation, as such rightwing extremism in the early 1990s was largely in response to an influx of refugees from the Balkans at the onset of the Balkan wars.

In April 2016, Professor Ipek Celik from Koç University in Istanbul gave a talk on the refugee crisis as Alamanya's culminating event for the 2015–16 academic year. Professor Celik's recent book, *In Permanent Crisis: Ethnicity in European Cinema and Media* (University of Michigan Press) engages many of the questions that have occupied Alamanya. Individual chapters on contemporary British, German and French films examine the ethnicization of migrants in times of crisis via aesthetic representations. In her talk, Celik built on the theoretical framework in her book in order to reflect on the current situation.

Looking forward to the fall, Alamanya plans on organizing an event with author-in-residence Selim Özdoğan.

### We're happy to share news of successful grant and fellowship applications by our graduate students:

**Emma Thomas** will be a graduate fellow at the Institute for the Humanities next year. She also received an Institute for Research on Women and Gender/Rackham Graduate Student Research Award.

**Naomi Vaughan** will be a 2016–17 graduate student fellow in the Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies. The program is administered by the Freie Universität Berlin, where **Andrea Rottmann** will also be studying on our department's Sturm/FU Exchange.

**Kathryn Holihan** was awarded a prestigious Fulbright Research Fellowship to work in Germany next year.

## Saying 'YES' to Opportunities in Germany

By Tay Tantivirun

This summer I am doing a three-month internship at ZF Friedrichshafen AG. Located in the south-west part of Germany by the Bodensee, the company is known for its design and research & development in the automotive industry.

On my first day I was assigned to a top-secret facility much like the ones from a James Bond movie, where personal usage of cellphones, laptops, and cameras is strictly forbidden. As soon as I entered the Forschung und Entwicklung Zentrum (Research & Development Center) I felt like a kid in a candy store. There were test cars and auto components on display everywhere! Even on office tables, there were finely-engineered auto parts sitting there begging me to touch them and explore each moving mechanism.

ZF also has a wonderful program known as Students@ZF. This committee organizes trips and activities for all the interns. Some of the events include going to a Beach Party, meeting students at a weekly stammtisch, sailing on the Bodensee, and visiting Europa Park (Germany's largest). Of course, as someone who often "does too much in too little time," I signed up for most of the activities—it was the best decision I've made.

If there's one thing I learned, it would be to say YES to every single invitation. I had delicious home-cooked Pakistani curry, went on a run with my supervisor's colleague, saw the UEFA Euro Cup (Germany vs Ukraine), and danced the night away with other interns at a beach in Hagnau. And when I thought I was too busy, I joined the Friedrichshafen Rowing Club to practice my German and meet other members of the rowing community. I hope to compete at the Baden-Württemberg regional championship in July!

This opportunity of a lifetime would not be possible without the resources from U-M's Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures and the assistance from Cultural Vistas in pairing me up with ZF and guiding me through the bureaucratic process of obtaining my visa work authorization. I am also extremely grateful for the Sturm Scholarship provided by the Sturm family through the German Department, as well as the international scholarship from the College of Engineering. I am where I am today because of my family, friends, and teachers. From the heart, I thank you all. Herzlichen Dank.



Get updates & more photos at Tay's blog: <https://taystravel.wordpress.com/blog/>

### 4th Annual Open-Book Translation Contest

On April 4, 2016, German students participated in an open book translation contest. Congratulations to the winners:

- Cosima Neumann**, first
- Todd Maslyk**, second
- Brandon Cummings**, third

### Department Awards Almost \$50,000 of Summer Funding

Thanks to the generous support of donors, especially Mr. and Mrs. Sturm, Ms. Julia Sturm-Smith, and Ms. Eva Sturm, the German Department was able to award a total of just under \$50,000 to fifty-nine of our German students to offset the costs of their summer internships or study abroad at the Goethe-Institut.

# gds Graduation 2016



## German Majors

Matthew Victor Ackerman  
 McKenzie Elizabeth Barber  
 Matthew Charles Barera  
 Daniel Michael Berger  
**Marion Grace Berger**  
 Molly Breen-Bondie  
 Michael Joseph Brosseau  
 Brianna Marie Chambo  
 Changqi Dai  
 Andrea Ruth Daniel  
 Christopher David Darnton

Albert Benjamin Defluri  
 Lillian Anne Ellis  
 Steven Timothy Flack  
**Kaitlyn Marie Frank**  
**Taylor Nicole Fulton**  
 Samuel Hugh Gaegauf  
 Philip Arthur Gilmore\*  
 Erik Douglas Grandy  
 Kelly Elizabeth Hilk  
 Curtis Wayne-Germond Hill  
 Brian Richard Hopkinson

Whitney Marie Hubbell  
 Helen Eva Huetteman  
 Jonathan Orr Johnson  
 Alexandra Rae Kane  
**Julia Rose Kortberg**  
 Erik Anders Ljungman  
 Todd Alan Maslyk  
 David John Maycock  
 Sarah Jane McGinn  
 Fedor Pavlovich Miryugin  
 Jacob Robert Mitchell

William Russell Morgan  
 Kirsi McLaurin Myntti  
 Benjamin Edward Nichols  
 Chloe Llewellyn Nolingberg\*  
**Aubrey Lauren O'Neal**  
 Serenity McDaniel Powers  
 Molly Diane Reitman  
**Stuart Lee Richardson**  
 Peter Thomas Riedy\*  
 Allison Maike Rosenau  
 Erin Anne Ross

Kaitlyn Grace Saslow  
 Matthew Thomas Schaefer\*  
 Jared Matthew Simard  
 Tyler Thomas Sullivan  
 Alexandra Lauren Theuer  
 Lewis Aeron Thomas  
 Jacquelyn Marie Timoszyk  
 Alexandra Hanna Trecha  
**Bianca Troncone\***  
 Gabrielle Onalee Werth  
 Ana Isabelle Grace Witteveen

## Master of Arts

Danny Harald Gronmaier

## Scandinavian Studies Minors

Albert Benjamin Defluri  
 Arnor Runar Halldorsson\*

**Anna-Lisa Edith Lawrence**

## Departmental Awards

### Bronson-Thomas Essay Prize

*Winner of the Advanced German Essay Prize*  
 Ana Isabelle Grace Witteveen

### Frank X. Braun Award

*Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor*  
 Kathryn Leslie Holihan  
 Mary Ellen Hennessy

### Martin Haller Prize

*Best Senior Honors Thesis*  
 Stuart Lee Richardson

### Lecturer of the Year Award

*Student Nominated Award for Excellence in Teaching and Promoting German Language and Culture*  
 Mary Rodena-Krasan



Visit <https://www.facebook.com/umichGerman/> to view the complete photo album from our graduation reception.



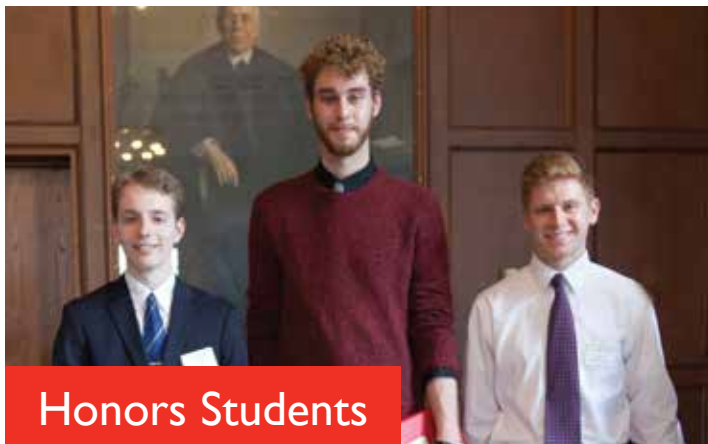


## German Minors

<b>Isaac Lev Ahuvia</b>	Jacob Andrew Dollman	Bailey Bergt Hulswit	Ryne Paul Menhennick	Charli Ann Spier
Cory Ball	James Michael Eccleston	Sukyun Jung	Jodi Elizabeth Newton	Alec Benjamin Stenzel
Mitchell Todd Beckman	Jessica Lynn Feathers	Emily Jane Koelzer*	Markus Francis Olind	Evangelos Robert Theodoracatos
Marion Bonneaux*	Evan Jon Gennrich	Shannon Marjorie Lane*	Taylor Anne Oosting*	Nathan Tran
Emily Carolina Bostelmann	Jennifer Mollie Gleit	Chelsey Ann Lang	Devon Ellen Pawloski	Ronnie Vincent Trower*
Kailash Rene Nair Brodeur*	<b>Jeanne Louise Goodman*</b>	Crystal Anne Lee	Caleb Zachary Cobb Pratt	Jacob Gerald VanHoof
Ryan Richard Brown	Nathan Coalter Greve	James Alexander Liddy	Mahesh Rao	Teresa Marie Vasievich
Alexander Sands Carley	Connor Ethan Grieb*	Mallory Christine Loeffler*	Alicea Jade Rice*	Gretchen Marie Weed
Yinying Chen	Benjamin David Quick Groh	Lars Lopatka*	Felipe Carvalho Lopes Rogerio	Lisa Wiesenberger
Jimin Choi	Katherine Priscilla Guilmette	Dominic Benjamin Mastruserio	Abigail V Rogers	Mark Edward Wilhelm
Joel Timothy Clark	Simon Han	Mark Patrick McBride*	Amelia Katherine Runco	Beatriz Hilbert Wink
Gabriela Maria Columna	Courtney Ann Haupt	Thomas Hayes McIlwaine	Erich Wolf Schmalder	Ji Youn Won*
Adrienne Aubrey Corona	Nathan Scott Hegenauer	Eric Matthew Meaney	Kaye Lynn Schulte	Shirley Zhou
Paul Lawrence Deford	<b>Daniel Huang</b>	Rachel Mary Menchak	Nia Lynn Scott	

\*Denotes December 2015 graduates. Bold names are members of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

All photos taken by Sara Nesbitt.



## Honors Students

Todd Alan Maslyk      William Russell Morgan      Stuart Lee Richardson

Congratulations to **Stuart Richardson**, double major in German and International Studies, who has won the Honors Program's prestigious Raoul Wallenberg Humanitarian Award. The Award is one of nine Prizes given out to Honors Seniors, and it recognizes the awardee's overall excellence, past or current accomplishments, and future potential in the area of humanitarianism. All of these were displayed in Stuart's recently defended honors thesis, "Becoming Sinti und Roma: The Evolution of German-Roma Relations in the Bundesrepublik (1949–1985)."

# gds In the Classroom

## Mapping Black Central Europe

by Kira Thurman

**What does it mean to be black and German? And why do many people think that is a contradiction?**

In the winter of 2016, the German Department teamed up with the History Department and the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies (DAAS) to explore these questions in the class, “Germany and the Black Diaspora” (GER 396/HIS 396/AAS 395). The course explored black identities throughout Central European history, beginning in the medieval era and ending in the present day. The eighteen students who took the course not only interacted with each other; they also engaged online with students from University College London and from the University of Missouri who were also taking the same class (taught by Kristin Kopp at the University of Missouri, and Jeff Bowersox at University College London).

One of the highlights of the semester was the creation of a digital map of Black Germany, which featured historical figures, paintings, and events that explained an aspect of Black German history. With help from U-M librarians Justin Joque and Mara Blake, students learned geo-spatial technologies to create a shared digital map. The purpose of the map is to “make the invisible visible” and show that black people have always been a part of Central European history. Using digital technologies to capture their stories—from the beatification of St. Maurice in the 1200s to the life of Afro-German soccer player Gerald Asamoah—allowed students to see the rich and diverse history of German-speaking Europe. For more information, visit [www.blackcentraleurope.com](http://www.blackcentraleurope.com).



GER396/HIS 396/AAS 395 students who created the map:

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Maria Backman        | Natalie Greifer        |
| Cody Barlow          | Michael Griffin        |
| Shadae Boakye-Yiadom | Marcus Jackson         |
| Brittany Boyle       | Imran Hakim Mohamedsha |
| Caitlyn Brennan      | Amanda Nilsen          |
| Jasmine Craft        | Raven Odom             |
| Adelia Davis         | Nicholas Simon         |
| Jacqueline Dressler  | Alexandria Stehney     |
| Taylor Ferguson      | Ryan Wier              |



The map of Black Central Europe is organized by type and category



Adelia Davis (right) presented her findings at the mapping party

Photos courtesy of Gregory Parker.

## Werner Grilk

By Johannes von Moltke

The Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures mourns the passing of Werner Grilk, a student, colleague, and dear friend to the Department. Werner passed away peacefully at Arbor Hospice in Ann Arbor on March 18, 2016.

Werner Grilk was born in 1928 in Davenport, Iowa. He obtained a B.S. from Northwestern University and a PhD from the University of Michigan with a dissertation on the Austrian dramatist Ferdinand Raimund. Though his particular interests lay in German language comedy and German humor, he cultivated a broad range of expertise and interest in 19th- and 20th-century German literature, art, and political history. He served as undergraduate advisor for many years and contributed his expertise to the MLA Bibliographic Committee, whose German section he chaired from 1977–80. Those who recall leafing through the tomes of the MLA Bibliography prior to the digital era will also remember the centrality of this resource for all humanistic scholarship; even as we now rely on digital databases, we continue to benefit from the content supplied by the likes of Professor Grilk.

Werner Grilk retired from U-M in 1992, but he remained active in the community. In

particular, he could be found at virtually any concert the University Musical Society put on and he enjoyed talking about the performances afterwards with friends. Together with Warren L. Hallock, his partner of 37 years who passed away in 2013, Werner led a rich life full of friends, music, socializing and travel.

Once a year, though, Werner would reliably return to the German Department for a special event in his honor. In 2002, a former student of Professor Grilk's, who prefers to remain unnamed, endowed a lecture in his teacher's name. The annual "Werner Grilk Lecture in German Studies" is today a marquee event of the Department. We now look back on a series of renowned, international speakers whose names taken together provide a veritable map of the protean field of German Studies. The list has meanwhile become too long to enumerate in detail—though each lecturer is honored on a plaque on the third floor of the Modern Languages Building. The themes of the Grilk Lectures have ranged from Germany's colonial legacies to musical performance in the Holocaust, to contemporary discourses and practices of memory; from literature and modernism, to intellectual history, to aesthetic theory and photography; from



Werner at the 2008 Grilk Lecture

20th-century dreams and nightmares to the specter of Capital haunting neoliberal Europe. When Professor Grilk was no longer able to join the proceedings for the lecture delivered by Professor Andreas Huyssen of Columbia University this past November, we were nonetheless still able to share with him the excitement that the special day brings to the Department each year. As we begin planning for the sixteenth annual Grilk Lecture this Fall, we miss his gentle and gregarious presence—and at the same time, we are deeply moved to note that his legacy will live on in the lecture series that bears Werner's name.

## Josh Brigham 2016 Memorial Scholarship

The German Department offered a one-time travel scholarship in memory of Josh Brigham, a rising senior who died in Ann Arbor on July 24, 2015. He studied German in our classes to prepare for graduate school in Munich, and was a wonderfully engaged student and active community member who coached Special Olympics and various children's sports activities. In Josh's honor, we awarded \$500 toward the cost of the 2016 Max Kade Munich study tour to Hannah Kelley-Watkins. Hannah's passion is education. She's building on her volunteer tutoring experience as she teaches English to teens in Poland this summer.



## Interdisciplinary Conference on Netherlandic Studies 2016

by Annemarie Toebosch



ICNS conference attendees at the Detroit Institute of Arts

U-M hosted the 18th biennial Interdisciplinary Conference on Netherlandic Studies (ICNS) June 2–4. Organized by Dutch and Flemish Studies in collaboration with the American Association for Netherlandic Studies (AANS), the conference provided a forum for scholars and instructors to discuss their work in the area of Dutch culture, language and history.

The conference was opened by Geert De Proost, General Representative of the Government of Flanders in the US. His review of Flemish history in the US and in Michigan provided a local context for conference participants arriving from over 10 countries. His discussion of a shared Dutch-Flemish history and culture formed a fitting start to the conference theme of “Imagining the Low Lands”. Associate Dean for the Humanities, Anne Curzan, introduced the Representative and lauded the conference as an example of interdisciplinarity in the humanities.

The regular conference sessions of over 40 paper presentations were preceded by the docentendag (instructor day), a professional development day for instructors of Dutch at North-American universities. Peter Schoenaerts, theater actor and Dutch second language specialist, led the instructors in a day-long workshop on the use of media and theater in the Dutch language classroom.

ICNS 2016 provided unique connections between culture and scholarship in a series of special events and exhibits. In an excursion to the Detroit Institute of Arts, participants learned



Three of U-M's Dutch and Flemish Studies directors: Ton Broos, Annemarie Toebosch, and Kees Snoek

about Netherlandish art in the DIA collection before appreciating the specific art in person. They enjoyed a special lecture by Diederik Oostdijk (VU Amsterdam) on the Netherlands Carillon at Arlington National Cemetery before climbing U-M's Burton Tower to the Baird Carillon platform and feeling the bells toll selections of its dedication music, as performed by U-M Associate Professor of Carillon, Tiffany Ng, and U-M Dutch program alumna Sipkje Pesnichak.

A special session on the Circulation of Dutch Literature (CoDL) project by scholars from the Huygens Institute (Netherlands), Eötvös Loránd University (Hungary), Sapienza University of Rome (Italy), and KU Leuven (Belgium), was followed by a display of a subset of the University Library's impressive Dutch holdings. Professor of Papyrology and Greek, Arthur Verhoogt, treated participants to a selection of the university's famous papyrology collection. The conference ended at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens with a banquet and a beautiful and powerful keynote address “Wringing Beauty from an Obscure Language” by former U-M Director of Dutch and Flemish studies and ICNS/AANS veteran Ton Broos.

Conference space was generously provided by the International Institute and the School of Social Work. We thank our university sponsors, the Nederlandse Taalunie, the Government of Flanders, and the Netherlands America University League for their generous support of the conference.



## Scandinavian Program Updates

by Johanna Eriksson



U-M students during their trip to Helsingborg, Sweden, in March

Four of our U-M students are currently studying at Uppsala University: Hanna Ljungman, Joshua Blazen, Connor Genther and Jason Butcher. They are focusing on courses relating to their respective majors, some dreaming of returning to Sweden for graduate school. In their spare time, they are active in the student nations and student-run social clubs, which is one of the best ways to socialize and get to know Swedish students. Our students have also made the most of their opportunities by visiting other parts of Scandinavia and Europe, with spectacular trips to the Ice hotel in Jukkasjärvi, Russia, Latvia, and Spain, to mention a few destinations.

I am also in Sweden on sabbatical with my family and we celebrated Valborg in the south of Sweden, in the fishing village Arild. There, old and new Sweden met in a moving way by the bonfire on the beach. After the performance by the local Swedish chorus in traditional folk dresses, a group of Syrian refugee families from a nearby conference center, now functioning as a refugee center, sang the Swedish national anthem as well as some Syrian songs. Warm applause followed, and Swedes and Syrians approached each other to talk, which was encouraging to see.

A couple of former students have shared exciting news: Sara Ann Knutson (AB '15) has been accepted to a PhD program in archaeology at Berkeley. Aaron Kahn (AB '06) has never let go of his dreams of living in Sweden, and recently he was offered a job as a copy writer in Helsingborg, he claims, thanks to the

exchange we are having with Campeon and ProCivitas Privata Gymnasium. Congratulations! We are so proud of the both of you and wish you the best of luck! We love hearing from our former students.

In March, the second year Swedish students had the opportunity to go to Helsingborg for the annual study trip, chaperoned by Britt-Marie Martinsson, their instructor during the winter semester, and me. As always, we are very grateful for and impressed by the host families as well as our students, who, in turn, host the Swedes in Ann Arbor for a week. The U-M students are very fond of Swedish pastries and candy. Perhaps it is time for someone to open a Swedish or Scandinavian coffee shop in Ann Arbor?

November 16–20, 2016, the Scandinavian Program will showcase the Swedish playwright, novelist, and poet Lars Norén with several staged readings and more polished productions by three groups: the Chicago-based theater group Akvavit, head of drama for U-M's Residential College Kate Mendeloff, and theater professor Malcolm Tulip (U-M School of Music, Theater and Dance). The translator Marita Lindholm Gochman, who has worked on translations of Norén's plays for many years, will also participate. One of the most prominent playwrights in Sweden for decades, he has yet not been performed often in the US.



### Johanna Eriksson Named U-M Collegiate Lecturer

Awarded to a lecturer with a sustained record of outstanding teaching and service and a demonstrable impact on students' lives, this is a rare honor, with no more than three awarded campus-wide in any given year. In addition to receiving the title of Collegiate Lecturer, Johanna has the option to name her lectureship to honor a former U-M instructor. Congratulations to Johanna on this well-deserved award!

## What do U-M German faculty do in the summer?

By Johannes von Moltke



*Tubularia indivisa* (Nr. 191a), Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka, Dresden Germany, 1885. Image courtesy of The Corning Museum of Glass.

As both students and faculty know all too well, U-M has a grueling schedule that keeps us incredibly busy virtually non-stop from September through April. While it can be particularly challenging for faculty to maintain and advance their research agendas during Fall and Winter semesters, the flip-side of all this is a comparatively long period of four uninterrupted months for research and writing in the summer. The considerable productivity of these periods is reflected in faculty publications, lectures,

and conference presentations year-round, about which we aim to keep you informed on our website. Here, we single out only three faculty summer projects that the Department was fortunate to be able to support this year with additional research funds.

**Helmut Puff** traveled to the world-famous Herzog August Bibliothek in Wolfenbüttel, where he researched courtly etiquette manuals from the 17th and 18th centuries with a view toward advancing his new research project on the history of waiting and biding time. While there, he also revisited archival materials pertaining to the Diet of Worms for a talk at a conference commemorating the

500th anniversary of the Reformation. Given his internationally recognized expertise in this area, Professor Puff will surely be a busy man in 2017.

**Kerstin Barndt** will be working with **Alice Goff** to bring their curatorial expertise to bear closer to home, on an overlooked set of objects among U-M's vast collections. From the mid-19th to the mid-20th century, two glass artisans from Dresden supplied museums around the world with glass models of animal species that could not be displayed live or preserved at the time. Known as "Blaschka Models" after father and son Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka who produced them, these intricate, delicate objects were acquired by Michigan from Harvard in 1928. Barndt and Goff will reconstruct the Blaschka Models' history in the context of U-M's history of collecting and display. They will be on view in a specially curated space in the German Department this fall—come visit!

**Kira Thurman** will continue her research for her current book manuscript on African American musical performers in Germany during the 19th and 20th centuries. She will be looking at archival materials on figures such as the African American tenor Roland Hayes, who traveled to Berlin in May 1925 but was met by intense protests; the Hampton Choir that performed in the city 6 years later; as well as Aubrey Pankey and Paul Robeson, who performed (and in the case of Pankey even sought asylum) in the former GDR in the 1950s and 60s.

# Staying Connected

## "German skills are incredibly relevant."

By Kirsten Kortebein (AB '12)

When I first stepped foot into Kalli Federhofer's office in 2009, I had no intention to major, to minor, or do anything in the German Department but fulfill my LSA language requirements. On that afternoon, though, I walked in as an undecided freshman, and walked out holding a piece of paper—notarized with Kalli's legendary calligraphy—stating that I would be minoring in German. You can probably guess that my relationship with German did not end after I completed my minor requirements. I majored in German (alongside my major in communications), and spent every summer interning throughout Germany.

I graduated from U-M in December 2012. Since then, I've lived and worked in Berlin as a photojournalist. While I contribute regularly to news outlets like NPR, my focus as a journalist and photographer is adventure sports. I cover extreme sports for magazines like *Outside* and *Runner's World*, photographing incredible humans doing incredible things around the world.

This career is not, actually, a non sequitur to my German degree. In fact, it's very much the opposite. The experiences, skills, and language abilities that developed throughout my time in the German Department are woven deeply throughout my work and identity as a journalist.

I was first published journalistically in 2012. I worked with another young journalist to publish a piece for the *New York Times* about a legendary Moroccan ultramarathon runner. After spending weeks tracking him down for an interview, the only common language either of us had with the Moroccan runner was

German. All of the interviews conducted for the piece were completed thanks to my studies in the German Department. What a world, eh?

Beyond the unexpected applications of German, there are also more traditional ones. Since I decided to build my journalistic base in Berlin, knowledge of German language and culture has been crucial to establishing my career. Having the possibility to navigate the European media world with an understanding of German media (shoutout here to Professor Peter McIsaac) has given me a significant advantage in establishing relationships with newspapers, magazines and interviewees.

Having watched other journalists interview German speakers in English, and having conducted interviews with the same people in German, I can confidently say having the ability to reach someone in their own language is an asset. I can't emphasize how much more receptive people are when a journalist approaches them in their own language. Furthermore, when I produced a piece for NPR during Berlin's celebration of the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, many of the people with whom I talked were in their 60s or 70s, and were rarely confident in their English skills.

As I write, I'm on an airplane from North Africa to mainland Europe. I just finished an eight-day, no-internet, dusty-dirty photo job in the Atlas Mountains, where, you guessed it—actually you probably didn't guess, because it isn't logical—German was my operating language of the week. German emerged throughout my days in the mountains as the common language between myself and many of



Kirsten took this photo of Omar Bouhrim running on a wooden bridge when covering the Trans Atlas Marathon in Morocco

those I was interviewing, and facilitated relationship-building with the subjects of my assignment. I've used German while on assignments all over the world, and each time it pops up, from the depths of Argentinian Patagonia to Norway's Arctic Circle, it always provides an indispensable edge as a journalist.

German skills are incredibly relevant. They're relevant in politics, and they're relevant in international relations; they are relevant in networking, and they are relevant in business. But the reason I'm writing this is to emphasize that German skills can also be relevant in the most unexpected places, and throughout the most unexpected careers.

So, get cracking. Suffer through that German 300 grammar class, and pay attention during Business German. Your time in the German Department at U-M will continue to give back to you after graduation—especially when and where you least expect it to.



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**Students at German Day on April 15, 2016**

1,000 high school and middle school participants incorporated the theme, Umwelt, in their competitive events and utilized recycling and compost bins to make German Day as close to a zero-waste event as possible.

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