

DEPARTMENT OF
GERMANIC LANGUAGES
AND LITERATURES



NEWSLETTER
Winter 2023



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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



After a series of dreary days, the sun has come out again, bathing the campus in light and offering a much-needed infusion of energy

to students, faculty, and staff. Final exams are just around the corner, new piles of papers await grading, while preparations for the Winter term are already underway. Fatigue aside, it's been a good semester, and not just because Michigan won the big-ten football title and is heading for the playoffs (full disclosure: being German, I only care about soccer, where the news has been much bleaker). A few weeks ago, Santa J. Ono began his tenure as the new president of the University of Michigan, and many of us look forward to his ideas and leadership.

News from the MLB is also good. With in-person instruction fully restored, the hallways are bustling again with students and filled with voices trying out German, Dutch and Swedish sentences. Our study abroad programs are also back in full swing, with four students participating in our year-long program in Freiburg and 15 (!) signed up to go to Tübingen in the Winter. As all students returning from Germany will tell you, nothing compares to the experience of living in another country, far away from parents and outside the comfort zone of one's familiar culture and language. As good as our courses are, it is the experience of studying abroad that truly changes lives. One of the students who can testify to

this is Stanislaw Gunkel, the 2021 recipient of a year-long study abroad scholarship funded by our generous donors, Mr. and Mrs. Sturm. Read the letter from Stas' parents for an account of how the year in Freiburg enriched his life [see p. 7].

Our faculty continues to garner accolades for their research. Kira Thurman's book, *Singing Like Germans: Black Musicians in the Land of Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms*, named one of NPR's Best Books of 2021, has won no fewer than six major awards, including prizes from the British Royal Musical Association, the American Historical Association, and the German Studies Association. News just arrived that three of my colleagues—Kerstin Barndt, Scott Spector, and Silke Weineck—won the coveted Michigan Humanities Award. The award comes with a semester-long research leave, so stay tuned for news about future publications. We are also thrilled to welcome two new faculty members to the department. Besides Megan Ewing, whom we featured in our last newsletter, Jon-Cho Polizzi is joining us from UC Berkeley, where he completed a fascinating dissertation on the representation of the rural in German literature (for more on Jon's work see p. 4). However, sadly, after 35 years, our former chair and dear colleague, Fred Amrine, will retire from his position at the University of Michigan. As chair, Fred not only hired half of our current faculty and oversaw the reorganization of our undergraduate and graduate program; it was under his tenure that the department developed the so-called Michigan model of German Studies, characterized by a

strong emphasis on interdisciplinary research, that has since become the dominant model of German Studies in North America. For a glimpse of Fred's many accomplishments as a teacher, scholar, and administrator, please see page 5.

And there is much more happening in our department. Have a look at the following pages for reports about a fantastic concert by the Swedish folk band Jaerv [p. 11], updates on the Dutch program [p. 10], an article about the career paths of our undergraduates [p. 3], the profile of a new donor [p. 9], a new course on the environment [p. 8], and much more. And please follow us on our departmental website (<https://lsa.umich.edu/german>) and social media to learn about upcoming events and departmental happenings in real time. I wish you a relaxing break and a guten Rutch [happy slide] into the new year.

Andreas Jailer

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HIGHLIGHTS

What Are You Doing With Your German Degree?

Kalli Federhofer, Lecturer

The study of foreign languages has never been popular: neither at college nor in high school. As most of you were majors or minors in German, you were always in the minority, and even that group is dwindling.

The American Council of Trustees and Alumni states only 12% of 1,100 U.S. colleges and universities require an intermediate foreign language background for graduation. What is even more troubling is that U.S. institutions of higher education lost 651 foreign language programs between 2013 and 2016 alone. And that is before COVID-19 hit us. As there is no federally mandated foreign language requirement in U.S. high schools and only a handful of states have a mandatory foreign language stipulation for high school graduation, only 20% of public school students have studied foreign languages before they enter college.

If we look at the popular majors or minors at the University of Michigan, we have noticed a shift. While English, History, and Political Science have largely lost majors and minors and admission in the Ross School of Business may no longer be the ultimate goal of our undergraduates, a strong shift has occurred towards students studying Computer Science and Information Science.

Where does this leave German? If we take a snapshot over the last 12 years, we notice a drop in the total number of German majors and minors by around 25%. Those who declare the major or minor will hear, like you, the question: "But what are you going to do with it?"

A German degree from U-M has always only been partly

about the German language with its verb positions, cases, and abhorred adjective endings. However, writing research essays, taking language classes, analyzing films or engaging in multimedia projects, lead to professional skills like intercultural communication, cultural adaptability, and they impart an awareness that drives the global economy.

The first destination of our German majors and minors after graduation is crucial. U-M's Career Center indicates that 90% of the recent graduates continue their education or have found employment. In our Exit Survey that we distribute to graduates in May, our students indicate their own academic or professional plans after graduation:

some found employment at companies in Michigan (Bosch, SAP, ThyssenKrupp), while others went out-of state (Oracle, Target, Epic Systems).

Many Engineers continue education for an additional year by being

accepted into the SUGS (Sequential Undergraduate/ Graduate Studies) program at U-M. Each year, one or two of our students will get certified through the University of Michigan to teach German at a local high school.

However, the vast majority of our students will enroll in graduate programs in Natural Sciences or even venture to Medical School. In the last few years, we had students who began Medical School at MSU, Wayne State, CMU, Case Western, U-M, Columbia. The trend to continue graduate studies in Germany continues to grow, especially for programs that are taught in English. This October, two recent graduates began their regular *Medizinstudium* at German universities: one in Würzburg, the other in Freiburg.

For us, the question "What am I doing with a German major or minor?" translates into the question, "What are we going to do with this information?" Can we connect you to other students or alums who share the same academic or professional trajectory? Send us your story or information (german.alums@umich.edu). We always look forward to hearing back from you.

FACULTY FOCUS



Welcome Jon Cho-Polizzi

Kira Thurman, Associate Professor of German and History



We are delighted to welcome Jon Cho-Polizzi as an LSA postdoctoral fellow and assistant professor to the University of Michigan. Awarded a Ph.D. in German and Medieval Studies from UC Berkeley in 2020, he is a remarkable scholar and translator of contemporary literature. His dissertation project, which he is revising into a manuscript, explores the concept of homeland from the perspective of different minorities in 19th and 20th century German literature.

Jon is active in his role as an accomplished and well-connected translator. Jon has almost single-handedly helped lend an English-language voice to a new group of writers whose literary and essayistic output centers their own postmigrant backgrounds as people of color, Turkish Germans, and German Jews. He has translated the writings of Max Czollek, for example, and edited the open-access translation for the pathbreaking book, *Eure Heimat ist unser Albtraum (Your Homeland is our Nightmare)*. His translation

of Bachmann Prize-winning author Sharon Doda Otoo's novel, *Adas Raum (Ada's Realm)* is forthcoming (March 2023).

A dedicated and inspirational teacher, Jon designed and taught his own courses such as "Berlin: Making a Modern City," "Untranslatables," and "What is Modern German Literature?" while at UC Berkeley. His pedagogy centers close-reading in the classroom, whether of a paragraph from a novel or a poem. Celebrating a reading process that pays attention to the idiosyncrasies of an author's language, Jon ensures that students learn how to identify the unique aspects of a literary work that contribute to its cultural and historical complexities. Because of his dynamic work in the classroom, he received an Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor award from UC Berkeley's German department.

Jon is not only a gifted thinker, translator, and teacher, but also a cheery presence in the department's hallways already. For all of these reasons and more, we are so pleased to have him join our community!

Congratulations



Kerstin Barndt is part of a team of faculty awarded a \$250,000 research grant from a new LSA program known as the Meet the Moment Research Initiative. She is part of a research team whose project, Meeting the Mnomen: Restoration of Wild Rice Populations for Environmental and Social Justice, won the LSA Vital Impact Project Award. This project explores wild rice restoration in the Matthaei Botanical Gardens' Willow Pond at U-M. The team will evaluate water, sediment, and biodiversity by examining the Mnomen plant. It will have an inclusive partnership with Michigan's Tribal communities, as the Mnomen is an at-risk native plant and traditional food for the Anishinaabek community.



Kira Thurman continues to receive accolades for her book, *Singing like Germans: Black Musicians in the Land of Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms*.

Marfield Prize (National Award for Arts Writing)

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Ralph J. Gleason Music Book Award

Royal Musical Association's Best Monograph Prize

German Studies Association's DAAD Prize for Best Book in History/Social Sciences

American Historical Association's George Mosse Prize

Named one of NPR's Best Books of 2021



FACULTY FOCUS

Fred Amrine: An Outstanding Career

Andreas Gailus, Chair and Professor



As Goethe, Fred Amrine's favorite writer would have said, this semester marks an "epoch" in the life of our unit. After 35 years, Fred will retire from his position at the University of Michigan on December 31, 2022. It is no exaggeration to say that the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures

will not be the same without him. Nobody has shaped our unit more profoundly than he has. When he began his tenure as chair in 1995, our department had lost much of its earlier reputation and was on the brink of mediocrity. By the time he handed over the reins in 2004, the department had hired seven new tenure-track faculty and thoroughly revised its language and graduate programs, giving rise to what became known as the "Michigan Model" of German Studies: an emphasis on interdisciplinary research (embedding the study of literature, film, and the arts within the broader context of German culture, politics, and history) that was soon emulated by departments all over the country and has since become the guiding model of German studies in the U.S. While it is true that without Fred Amrine this department will not be the same, Fred's work has left an indelible mark on what we do and who we are.

Fred joined our department in 1986 and soon thereafter published a series of volumes that established him as one of the most important scholars of Goethe and the Goethe age in North America. Looking back, the two volumes on Goethe's scientific writings that he edited almost thirty years ago opened an intellectual perspective on European intellectual history that has assumed increasingly greater importance since. At the heart of these books is the recognition that Goethe's writings articulate a compelling non-mechanistic approach to nature that reveals the shortcomings of modern scientific positivism and offers a rich alternative to it. This was not a popular view in academia back then, but Fred, undeterred, pursued this line of thought over the following decades with admirable

stubbornness, situating Goethe's insight within a broader network of thinkers, writers, and artists, reaching back to the 17th century Dutch philosopher Spinoza and forward, via German Romanticism and Idealism, to figures as diverse as Rudolf Steiner, the founder of anthroposophy and the Waldorf educational system (whose writings he continues to translate into English), Ludwig Wittgenstein, the Viennese pioneer of analytic philosophy (and later one of its most ardent critics), and Joseph Beuys, perhaps the most influential post-war German artist and sculptor. Meanwhile, academia had caught on, and when the Goethe Society devoted a special section of its yearbook to the theme of "Goethe and Environmentalism" in 2016, it did well to mark out for honorable mention Amrine's own essay, "The Music of the Organism: Uexküll, Merleau-Ponty, Zuckerkandl and Deleuze as Goethian Ecologists in Search of a Paradigm." Sometimes, stubbornness pays off.

And then there is Fred's teaching. For a foreign language department like ours, it is difficult to attract large numbers of undergraduates, yet this is exactly what Fred has accomplished many times over. Besides teaching our largest lecture course on "German Fairy Tales," Fred was a trailblazer with his development of 1-credit mini-courses on topics ranging from psychoanalysis to German expressionism, and from the imagination to the work of Joseph Beuys. All of these courses regularly enrolled upward of 80 students, many of whom had never taken classes in our department. One of Fred's most enduring contributions to our curriculum involved the redesign of our lower-level language curriculum, which he, along with Hartmut Rastalsky, re-oriented from a focus on grammar to topics and themes of broader currency. In recognition of his extraordinary contribution to undergraduate education, Fred was awarded an Arthur F. Thurnau Professorship in 1998, the university's highest teaching honor.

These lines provide no more than an inkling of Fred's outstanding career as a teacher, scholar, and administrator. Thank you, Fred, for everything you have done for this department and this university.

GRADUATE STUDENT FOCUS



Congratulations to our M.A. December Graduates!



Erin Johnston Weiss



Rhiannon Muncaster

Accolades



Pavel Brunssen: Ph.D. Student, German Studies

Pavel published two book chapters. One was in an edited volume of the German Studies Association 25 book series titled "Antisemitic Metaphors in German Soccer Fan Culture Directed at RB Leipzig". The second book chapter was published on December 12 and titled "Zwischen Anfeindungen und Bildungsprojekten: Antisemitismus und Gegenstrategien im deutschen Fußball" in *Heulen mit den Wölfen: Der 1. FC Nürnberg und der Ausschluss seiner jüdischen Mitglieder*, by Bernd Siegler.



Onyx Henry: Ph.D. Student, German Studies

Onyx was interviewed by NPR to talk about the new Franco-German Cultural Center of Atlanta and their new programming. The Alliance Française d'Atlanta and Goethe German Cultural Center have joined forces to create the new Franco-German Cultural Center of Atlanta. You can learn about this partnership at tinyurl.com/5n8ndz2p.



Kelsi Morefield: Ph.D. Student, German Studies

Kelsie is one of three authors of the article, "SnapChat This, Instagram That: The Interplay of Motives and Privacy Affordances in College Students' Sharing of FoodPorn", which just appeared in the journal *Telematics and Informatics*.



Megan Pounds: Ph.D. Student, History of Art; German Studies Certificate Student

Megan was awarded the DAAD German Studies Research Grant. She is conducting dissertation research on Berlin Dada political stunts at the Berlinische Galerie.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT FOCUS

Reflections from Afar

Ann & David Gunkel, parents of Stanislaw Gunkel (A.B. 2023, German & International Studies: Global Environment)



As parents of a U-M German major, we are so grateful for our son Stanislaw's year abroad during the 2021-22 Academic Year in Freiburg program at Albert-Ludwigs-Universität. As former study abroad students ourselves, we know the life changing and transformative nature of studying languages and living abroad. We're grateful for an impressive year of courses, travel, discovery and wonderful friendships made possible by the U-M German Program and AYF. Some highlights of the year are:

Freiburg: The beautiful medieval university town on the edge of the Black Forest remains a gorgeous place to live and study. With its clubs, cafes, bars, seepark, Biergartens, hiking and gorgeous old town anchored by the Gothic Münster--he certainly found a second home there.

Travel - die Reise: Staś visited Basel, Berlin, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Köln, and Paris. As parents, it is heartwarming to receive a text from your son at a baroque string orchestra in a Freiburg techno club, a Nick Cave show in Köln, or the Chancellor's office in the Reichstag.

Music - die Musik: Staś had a blast playing with the BLACK FOREST BADGERS (the AYF house band) this past year, including gigs at the Freiburg Sister Cities Festival and The Carl Schurz Haus Fourth of July Festivities with the American Counsel General.

Internship - die Praktikum: Staś loved his work with this Bachpaten Freiburg in Water Ecology and Conservation, a nonprofit which protects local streams and rivers with water testing, site cleanup, removal of invasive species, habitat and endangered species protection, conservation, and school outreach programs. He enjoyed building rafts out of river garbage and whacking 10-foot tall invasives to save spawning toads!

Courses - die Kurse: With a full thirty credit course load in everything from Ecocriticism to EU Politics, Creative Writing to Sustainability, living, speaking, studying and writing in German is the best education of all.

Friendship - die Freundschaft: The warm friendships with students from around the world truly made this year special. We're thankful for the smart, creative, kind and talented friends that have entered and enriched his life. Those connections have only deepened since his return to Ann Arbor.



IN THE CLASSROOM



Being Green While Learning German

Shubhangi Dabak, Lecturer



I have always been interested in issues related to the environment and sustainability, but I was particularly impressed when Greta Thunberg, as a fifteen-year-old, started the 'Fridays for Future' movement in 2018. Greta and other young activists sat in front of the Swedish parliament every school day for three weeks to protest the lack of action on the climate crisis. Shortly after that, I attended a Goethe Institute seminar about environmental awareness held in Freiburg, the Green City, and it culminated in the course Environment and Sustainability, which is taught as a topics course at the fourth-term language level.

Germany is a world leader regarding environmental protection. It is the land of Energiewende, the politically supervised shift from nuclear and fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy. In this class, students learn about sustainability, renewable energies, environmentally compatible mobility, resource efficiency, and how environmental protection is implemented in Germany. The class includes a trip to the Campus Farm, the sustainable straw bale house, and the Ann Arbor Farmers Market. With these field trips, the students also

learn about sustainability in their own neighborhood.

In addition, the students do several mini projects based on what they are learning in class. After learning the importance of upcycling, the students come up with their own ideas and upcycle their own products. In another project, students try to live as much as possible without plastic products for two weeks, create a vlog about it, and share it with other students.

There is also a 'virtual exchange' with senior students from Sankt Ursula Gymnasium in Freiburg. This virtual



exchange is a valuable opportunity to connect with international peers to share experiences and explore perspectives beyond our individual and immediate social context.

Molly Amrine (Sophomore, LSA) says, "The environmental theme of German 232 has made the class feel very applicable to my life. We learn both vocabulary and information on climate that are greatly useful outside of the classroom. I'm leaving this class much more aware of how I can make a difference within the climate crisis—in addition to having improved my



German skills. I also really enjoyed how our class trips to local hubs of sustainability—like the U-M Campus Farm and Ann Arbor Farmers Market—have further connected what we're learning to the world around us. I would recommend this type of themed class to anyone open to reassessing and empowering their understanding of sustainability!"

Nathan Lee (Senior, Psychology) says that this class has helped him realize "that the largest, and often most forgotten, fight is climate change. This issue affects the entire world and by studying other countries like Germany, we can learn and adopt new ways to be green for our Earth, while also completing the language requirement! This was by far the most fun and innovative German class in my sequence."





STAYING CONNECTED

Introducing the Alois and Hedwig Zeit Endowed Scholarship

Andreas Gailus, Chair and Professor



When Alois (Lou) Zeit was a graduate student in our department in the early 1960s, his monthly rent was \$140. Not much by today's standards, until you consider that his teaching fellowship amounted to a meager \$230.

Then and now, graduate students at the University of Michigan pay the lion's share of their salary on rent (a studio in Ann Arbor costs upward of \$1,500, a room in a shared apartment not much less). In recognition of these financial difficulties and out of a desire to honor his parents, Lou created the Alois and Hedwig Zeit Endowed Scholarship to support graduate students in our program.

Lou joined our department in January of 1961 (back then, the academic year began in January). Thanks to Professor Martin Dyck, he was offered a teaching position after only one semester even though he had only a B.A. from Wayne University and not yet, as usually required for teaching fellows, a master's degree. Teaching was time-consuming (he taught two classes per semester, and in Spring 1964, even taught at Oakland University, traveling back and forth between Rochester and Ann Arbor several times a week), but it paid the bills and covered tuition, allowing him to devote the rest of his time to his studies. The teachers from this period he remembers most fondly and who influenced his thinking most strongly were Professors Ingo Seidler (Modern Literature) and Herbert Prenzl (Linguistics). Under their guidance, he embarked on a dissertation project

on 18th-century anacreontic poetry, a topic that, while fascinating, also sent him back to Greek poetry and the complex history of generic transmission. When a position opened at U-M Flint in 1965, he seized the opportunity, perhaps not quite realizing that the extraordinary teaching demands awaiting him there would make it impossible to complete his dissertation. His teaching at Flint over the following 35 years covered the entire curriculum, from introductory language classes to linguistics to upper-division classes on German literature. When drops in enrollment in the early 1970s threatened the department's survival, Lou branched out even further, teaching courses on Ancient Greek poetry, Scandinavian Drama, comparative literature, and a new class on Business German. Besides attracting students from outside the humanities, the latter course also had another effect that would prove consequential: it sparked his interest in economics and

inspired him to learn about the stock market. As a result, he started to "dabble" (his words) in investment strategies, realizing, to his delight, that he was rather good at it. When he

retired from his position at Flint in 2000, he had put aside a nice nest egg, allowing him to enjoy, over the following decades, his favorite activities such as traveling and skiing.

Which brings us to the present and Lou's extremely generous gift to our department. The Alois and Hedwig Zeit Endowed Scholarship is named after Lou's parents who, while themselves not academics, enabled him to pursue his academic career and fulfill his dream of becoming a university teacher, a work he thoroughly enjoyed. We are deeply grateful to Lou for his generosity, which will, in turn, help our graduate students pursue their dreams. Thank you, Lou!

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DUTCH STUDIES

No Winter Blues for the Dutch Program

Trui Moerkerke, Lecturer

After a busy Winter 2022 semester with a 4-day symposium and a semester-long library exhibit celebrating 50 years of Dutch at the University of Michigan, the Dutch and Flemish Studies Program (DFS) continues to build, expand, and foster important connections. On October 20 and 21, instructors of Dutch in North America met in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Topics of the conference included best practices in teaching Dutch and the current challenges and solutions in the profession. As part of this meeting, Karlijn Waterman from De Taalunie (Union for the Dutch Language) visited the Dutch Studies Program at U-M.

In past years, DFS Director Annemarie Toebosch successfully developed the culture courses “Anne Frank in Context” and “Amsterdam: A decolonial revision.” This Fall semester, another culture course was added: “Whose style? Art, culture, and lifestyle trends in Belgium.” As a Belgian lecturer, Trui Moerkerke teaches about modern life in Belgium, focusing on Flanders, the Dutch-speaking part of the country. In a careful study of the language of art, architecture, design, fashion, photography, city planning, music, and literature, students consider the role of social-cultural movements and transnationalism in a post-colonial society. In learning about the global reach of



Guest lecture via Zoom by Magali Elali, founder and art director at The Constant Now, an art space in Antwerp (Belgium) focusing on artists of color.

the Antwerp School of Fashion, about the decolonization of “Belgium’s largest colonial monument” (the Africa Museum), the Flemish settler history of Detroit, the artists of color mentored at The Constant Now (Antwerp), or about the French-Flemish divide, students build reading and writing skills to challenge traditional canons and celebrate local and global diversity.

In our Dutch language instruction, students now learn Netherlands-Dutch in their first year and Flemish-Dutch in their second year, building knowledge, awareness, and sensibilities about the linguistic diversity in the Dutch-language area. We are working towards additional curricular depth and equity by increasingly including materials from the third country where Dutch is an official language: Suriname.

In other news about Dutch, the program will start hosting a weekly *Conversatie & Koffie* in January. Interested students are welcome every Thursday from 1:00 to 2:00 pm in the Conference Room (MLB 3308) of the Modern Language Building on central campus. “Bring your own lunch”, we’ll provide coffee, fun, and casual conversations in Dutch. Local Dutch speakers are also welcome to attend.



Meeting of the Dutch Studies Instructors in North America (Grand Rapids, Michigan)

SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES

Scandinavian Program Updates

Johanna Eriksson, Director, Scandinavian Program

After a two-year interruption due to COVID-19, we were thrilled to be able to arrange a live concert in honor of Signe Karlström in the beginning of October. The audience was invited to a riveting concert with the Swedish folk music group *Jaerv* and Minnesotan duo *The OK Factor*, performing a lively mix of music spanning several hundreds of years. Ann Arbor was the first stop on their U.S. fall tour, and they were able to experience a couple of stunning, warm, and sunny fall days with us. The Residential College Keene Theater welcomed an enthusiastic audience of 120 people from the University, the Scandinavian community and beyond.

Our students were invited to listen to the music and talk to the musicians at their rehearsals at the First Baptist Church, and they could also bring their instruments to an open jam-session at East Quad on U-M's campus, where students and community members joined in. Bruce Sagan, with his Scandinavian fiddlers and other musicians in *En Gång till*, were among the participants the evening after the concert. This was *Jaerv's* ninth U.S. tour, and we would love to see them and *The OK Factor* back in Michigan again!



The Signe Karlström event was arranged in collaboration with CWPS (Center for World Performance Studies) with additional support from DSF (The Detroit Swedish Foundation), SWEA Michigan (Swedish Women Educational Association's Michigan chapter) and AACTMAD (Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance).

Also, back in-person after two years of COVID-19 interruption was SWEA's Christmas fair, which was held on Saturday, November 19 at the Finnish Club in Farmington Hills. More than 500 people came to enjoy Swedish Christmas traditions and buy local and imported crafts and foods. For me, it was especially fun to see many former students with their families of several generations attending! SWEA is grateful that a group of enthusiastic U-M Swedish students and members of the U-M Scandinavian club volunteered at the market and participated in the Swedish school's Lucia procession. This is SWEA's only fundraiser, and the money goes to support Swedish culture in the area. The U-M Scandinavian program, the Swedish School, and the Swedish Club are among the organizations that SWEA supports.

The second-year Swedish students have just signed up for the 2023 spring break study trip to Sweden, and we are thrilled to go to Sweden with this group of students at the end of February. The students that we are collaborating with at ProCivitas Privata Gymnasium in Helsingborg are planning to come to Michigan towards the end of the winter semester. It is now 19 years since the first group of Swedish high school students visited us at the University of Michigan.

Finally, a new 1-credit course which will allow us to invite a short time visitor to teach for the Scandinavian program was recently approved by the university. This course is generously funded by the Detroit Swedish Foundation.

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Chair: Andreas Gailus
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Front Cover Photo Credit: by-studio

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GERMAN DAY

Die neuen und alten 20er Jahre"
(Celebrating the 20s — 1920s and 2020s)

German Day will be held in-person on **Friday, March 10, 2023**. Our theme this year is: "**Die neuen und alten 20er Jahre**" (**Celebrating the 20s — 1920s and 2020s**). Our goal is for students to learn about the fascinating time of the Weimar Republic and, where possible and appropriate, draw connections between then and now.

