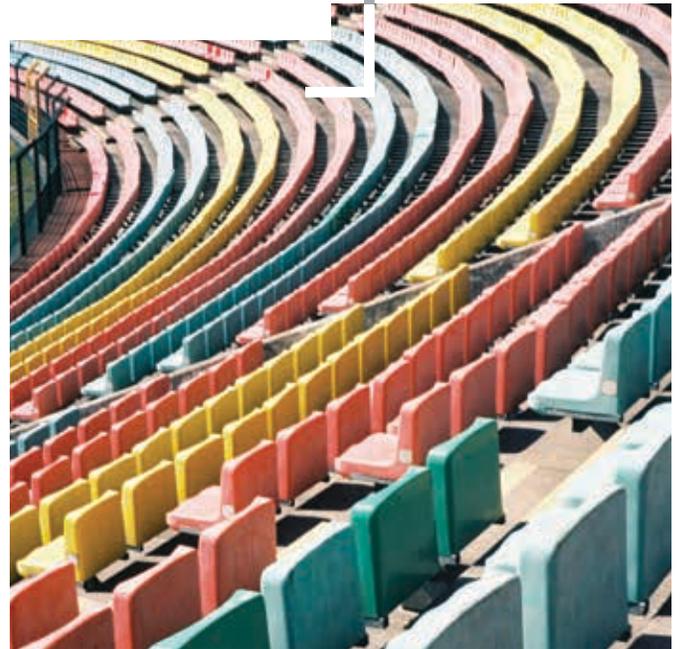


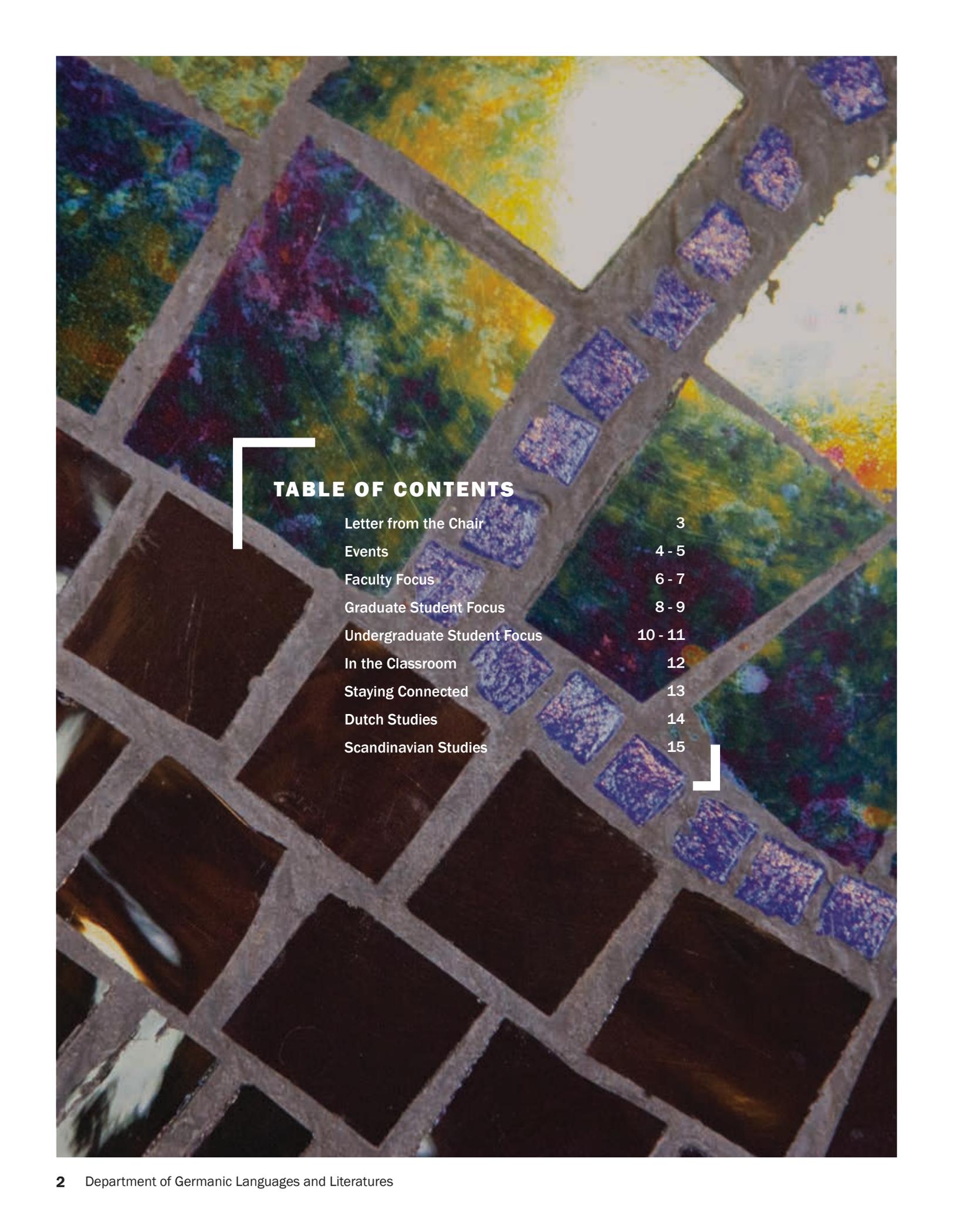


**DEPARTMENT OF  
GERMANIC LANGUAGES  
AND LITERATURES**

**NEWSLETTER  
WINTER 2018**



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



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# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



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

Wherever it finds you, I hope this newsletter finds you well in these tumultuous times. I'll get to what I mean by tumultuous in a moment; but first, I'm pleased to report that the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures is bursting with activity once again, from the classroom to faculty research, from our ambitious schedule of talks and events to our efforts at outreach and community engagement. We're especially proud to have received—for the second time already!—the College of LSA's Department Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education, which was officially awarded at the beginning of the semester. This is a tribute

to the engagement and dedication of everyone in the department, from our outstanding lecturers, professors, and staff to the graduate and undergraduate students who give back so much, and across all three undergraduate programs: German, Dutch, and Scandinavian Studies. Please take a moment to congratulate your favorite member of the department for this collective achievement!

At the same time, we remain keenly aware that our work does not take place in a vacuum, but in the overlapping contexts that make up our current cultural and political moment. This fall, I taught "Fascist Cinemas"—a course on the history of film in Germany, Italy, Spain, and Japan from the 1920s through WWII. It is a course I've taught several times, but this past semester, it felt different. A number of students who signed up for the class back in April, mainly because it helps them satisfy distribution requirements, have told me that in the wake of Charlottesville, understanding the history of fascism and fascist culture has taken on a new urgency; others are looking outward from our screenings

and lectures, working hard to get their bearings in a world that is witnessing newly emboldened white supremacists, threats to democratic institutions, and a tidal wave of populism.

That wave has engulfed Europe as much as the United States. Here in the department, we have certainly been following this fall's elections closely, first in Germany and now in Austria, after the Netherlands had voted in March. These elections have brought the far right into the mainstream of national politics, a development that long seemed unthinkable after the end of Nazi Germany. Students had the opportunity to engage with these portentous political developments, whose consequences extend to the European Union and beyond, in their classes—including Silvia Grzeskowiak's 4th-semester language course on "News and Media in the German-Speaking World," Peter McIsaac's upper-level seminar on "Current Events Through German Media," and Andy Markovits's course, cross-listed with Political Science, on "German Politics in Europe since 1945." Andy even organized an election viewing party for

his students, and he has commented on the outcome of both the German and the Austrian elections for the press (see our website for links to his articles).

In these ways and more, many of which you'll find detailed in the coming pages, we strive to help make students aware of the culture and politics that surround them, whether close to home or in the German-, Dutch-, and Scandinavian-speaking countries across the Atlantic. We do so in the firm belief that cross-cultural encounters of the kind enabled by language learning, study abroad, and literary and cultural studies remain key for navigating, and hopefully ameliorating, these tumultuous times. Read on to see the many ways in which we approach this task in our diverse departmental activities.

Sincerely,

Johannes von Moltke  
moltke@umich.edu

# DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS

As a leader in the field of Germanic Languages and Literatures, the department continues to attract world class artists, authors, and academics to the University of Michigan. We sponsored many events in the fall of 2017 which brought together an incredible amount of talent and a broad range of perspectives. Importantly, these events also provided exciting outside-the-classroom learning opportunities for students, faculty, and the broader university and southeast Michigan communities.

## BeTroit. Berlin. Detroit.

Places where devastation is still visible alongside new opportunities. Cities that are rough and at the same time interesting and beautiful. In 2016, artists from both cities—poets, emcees, singer/songwriters, beat producers—came together in Detroit and created an entire album in just one week of rich collaboration. In September, the department hosted many of those artists in Ann Arbor for a screening of Philip Halver's inspiring documentary about the process alongside live artist performances. We also welcomed a delegation of social workers from Berlin to the event for an evening that was an inspiring, cross-cultural and multi-media. For more information visit <http://be-troit.com/>



Top image: Still from film *Havarie (Collision)* © Philip Scheffner.

Bottom image: Group shot © be-troit.com 2017



In October, author Merle Kröger and filmmaker Philip Scheffner brought a fascinating collaboration to Ann Arbor. *Havarie (Collision)*, combines a web of stories in which worlds intersect and collide—refugees in the Mediterranean, a Miami-based cruise ship, Russian and Ukrainian tankers, and a Spanish maritime rescue crew are set against a flood of news images about the refugee crisis. *Havarie (Collision)*, Scheffner's film and Kröger's novel, radically redirects our imagination of Europe to a set of coordinates in the Mediterranean Sea. The novel is a maritime thriller by one of Germany's most celebrated crime writers, building suspense through the eyes of a diverse array of memorable characters. The film premiered at the 2016 Berlin Film Festival and won the German Film Critics Award for Best Experimental Film of 2016.

**Global Cultural Encounters** between the Material and the Immaterial, 1750-1950, was a three-day interdisciplinary workshop in August which explored our world's interconnectedness since the modern era. It brought together scholars from many disciplines, including history, anthropology, religion, performance studies,

Germanic languages & literatures, and East Asian studies. Assistant Professor Kira Thurman presented her paper on the musical diaspora, "Encountering Beethoven in Rural Alabama: German Music and Black Education in the United States, 1870-1940."



**German students from** area high schools and U-M enjoyed a live musical performance by the Munich hip hop group EINSHOCH6 in November. This free concert was held at the Neutral Zone, Ann Arbor's teen community center. The band also conducted an on-site

workshop for our language classes. You can view their music videos in German through Deutsche Welle and the Einshoch6 Youtube channel. U-M students have been particularly enjoying "Deutschlehrerin" and "Lass uns reden."

**The Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures** 2017-2018 Speaker Series included many significant names in the field and beyond, bringing together students and professors to explore:

"Weather as a Problem in Media Theory" with John Durham Peters, the Maria Rosa Menocal Professor of English and Professor of Film and Media Studies at Yale University. Peters is an interdisciplinary media historian and theorist with allied interests in cultural and intellectual history, anthropology, religious studies, philosophy, sound studies, and the history of science and technology.

"Presence as Profanation: German Naturalism's Anti-Apoteoses" with Erica Weitzman, Assistant Professor Northwestern University. Weitzman's teaching and research interests include German literature, philosophy, and culture of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; aesthetics and poetics; theories of the comic; realism and naturalism; critical theory, phenomenology, and psychoanalysis; law and literature; fin-de-siècle and World War I; and literatures of Mitteleuropa and Southeastern Europe.



**Top image** Einshoch6 performing.  
**Bottom image:** Medieval blacksmiths illustration by Jost Amman, 1568.

**The 2017 Annual Werner Grik Memorial Lecture** on "Music, Work, Society: Speculations and Mediations at the Jahrhundertwende." was presented by Professor Celia Applegate, Vanderbilt University. Applegate studies the culture, society, and politics of modern Germany, with particular interest in the history of music, nationalism and national identity. She is the William R. Kenan, Jr. Chair of History and Professor of History at Vanderbilt University and an Edward T. Cone Member in Music Studies.

# FACULTY FOCUS

## Bicentennial Celebration of U-M's Museums - Object Lessons

Recollecting Museum Histories at Michigan

Exhibition dates:  
**Oct 13–  
Dec 30, 2017**

Curated by  
Kerstin Barndt  
in collaboration  
with Richard  
Barnes and  
Amanda Krugliak,  
with original  
commissioned  
artwork by  
Richard Barnes



**The history of the modern** research university is unthinkable without collecting. At the University of Michigan, the first objects brought to campus in the late 1830s included a piece of copper from the Upper Peninsula, bird skins, an Anishinaabe canoe and pressed plants. Today's collections encompass over 25 million specimens and artifacts. As the last exhibition before the closing of the Natural History Museum in the Ruthven Museums Building, *Object Lessons* activates the memory of the museum's building and richly illustrates the University of Michigan's lasting effort to build collections in support of its academic mission and for the public.

Showcasing original objects dating from 1837 to the present, *Object Lessons* affords visitors a synthetic look at 200 years of collecting for science. Museum specimens, artifacts, and documents from the archives bring into focus the University Museum's importance to early state history, its first global collecting expeditions, the changing relationship between culture and nature, science and religion, and the transformation of research and collecting practices from the nineteenth to the twenty-first centuries. Not all of U-M's historical collections survive; the exhibition reflects this fact by focusing also on the life

cycle of collections, on points of origin and decline, and on the shifting valorization of objects over time.

*Object Lessons* draws on collections housed in the University's research museums (Paleontology, Zoology, and Anthropological Archeology), as well as the University Herbarium, the Museum of Natural History, the Stephen S. Clark Map Library, the Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments, the Bentley Historical Library, and the University of Michigan Library.

The exhibition features photography and sculpture by New York-based artist Richard Barnes that engages with specimens, taxidermy, and tools from the collections. Staging these images and sculptures in today's campus museum spaces, Barnes offers an aesthetic reflection of the histories on display. A recipient of the Rome Prize, Barnes has had solo exhibitions of his work at the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh, the Carpenter Center at Harvard University, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and the Cranbrook Art Museum, among others.

Kerstin Barndt, Associate Professor of German and Museum Studies at U-M, teaches European and U.S. museum history and theory as well as twentieth and twenty-first century German literature and culture. Together with Carla Sinopoli, she co-edited the book *Object Lessons and the Formation of Knowledge. The University of Michigan Museums, Libraries, and Collections 1817–2017*.

A visual and performance artist, Amanda Krugliak serves as the art curator at the U-M Institute for the Humanities.

The Museum of Natural History is a partner for *Object Lessons*, providing institutional support and serving as the host of the exhibition in the rooms of the former Ruthven Museums Library.

The project received generous funding from the University of Michigan's Bicentennial Office, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, U-M Office of Research, MCubed, the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, the Museum of Natural History and Institute for the Humanities.

## IFK Fellows: Thurman and Dickinson

In the summer of 2018, both Kira Thurman and Kristin Dickinson will be fellows at the IFK in Vienna. The IFK (Internationales Forschungszentrum Kulturwissenschaften / International Research Centre for Cultural Studies) is currently in its 25th year as one of Austria's premier research institutions. Fellows work on thematically

defined clusters — this year's theme is "cultures of translation" — and on their own research. Both Thurman and Dickinson will be in residence for several months, advancing their research projects on black classical musicians in central Europe and on the history of German-Turkish connectivity through translation, respectively.

## Dickinson awarded the Charles Bernheimer Prize



**The Bernheimer Prize** goes to the best dissertation nominated by a department or program. It was awarded

at this year's ACLA conference in Utrecht. Universities are only permitted to nominate one dissertation per year in the field of comparative literature, and the University of California, Berkeley nominated Assistant Professor Kristin Dickinson. She won the award for her dissertation "Translation and the Experience of Modernity: A History of German-Turkish Connectivity."

## Thank you, Kathleen Canning!



**Kathleen Canning**, our long-time colleague in the German and History Departments, will become dean of humanities at Rice University January 1st, 2018.

A member of the U-M faculty since 1988, Canning recently stepped down from her post as chair of History, a department with 81 faculty members that has been ranked in the top seven nationally during the last decade. At U-M, she was the Sonya O. Rose Collegiate Professor of History and the Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of History, Women's Studies and German.

We thank Canning for her passion in reinvigorating the humanities, teaching, and leading the way in her research.

## Thurman awarded the Berlin Prize Fellowship at the American Academy



**Each year, the American Academy** awards two dozen semester-long Berlin Prize fellowships to outstanding scholars, writers, and artists from the United States. Kira Thurman, Assistant Professor of History and German, was awarded this prestigious prize for Fall 2017.

Fellows, who come from the humanities, social sciences, public policy, and the arts, pursue independent projects in a residential community at the Hans Arnhold Center, a historic villa on Lake Wannsee. They share their work with German colleagues and audiences at lectures, readings, discussions, concerts, and film screenings, which form the core of the Academy's rich program of public events.

The German magazine *Der Spiegel* calls the American Academy "the most important center for American intellectual life outside of the United States."

# GRADUATE STUDENT FOCUS

## "Mediating the Modern" Graduate Student Conference

by Emily Gauld, current PhD graduate student

Graduate students from institutions across the country and abroad joined the University of Michigan's Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures on September 29th and 30th for the graduate student conference "Mediating the Modern: Sound/Image/Text." Both borrowing from and looking beyond the work of German media theorist Friedrich Kittler, conference participants spent two days exploring productive points of contact between contemporary media theory, on the one hand, and the

literary and cultural histories of mediation, remediation, and intermediation, on the other. Preceding the conference, students took part in a workshop led by Professor Celia Applegate (Vanderbilt) discussing selections from her most recent publication *The Necessity of Music: Variations on a German Theme*. A keynote address by Professor Sean Franzel, Associate Professor of German at the University of Missouri, kicked off the conference, which included four panels: Theorizing Sound; Materiality

1800/1900/2000; Violent Images, Auditory Objects; and Intermediations: Film, Literature, Photography. Presentations addressed topics ranging from 18th-century Parisian street criers to Kittler's musical proclivities, from insect experiments to Japanese Manga, and from Nazi architecture to feminist filmmaking. Discussions navigated from aesthetic humanism to cybernetic post-humans and back, bringing participants' ideas and questions into conversation with one another. Conference

participants worked together to interrogate the meaning of modernity, how it is represented, and how it is experienced, on both collective and individual levels. The conversations and ideas generated by the conference attest to the vibrancy of a rising generation's innovative work within our individual disciplines and fields as well as an interdisciplinary and intermedial approach to German studies.

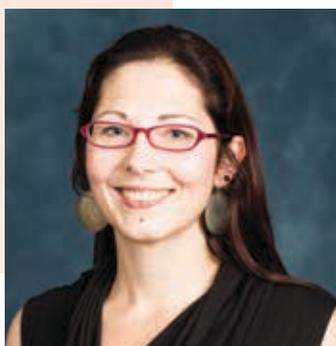
## Dissertation Defenses

Congratulations on successful dissertation defenses!



**Samuel Heidepriem** successfully defended his dissertation on Friday, July 14, 2017. Sam's submitted dissertation is titled *Aesthetics, Politics, Revolution: Concepts of Representation in Schiller,*

*Fichte and Büchner*. Sam accepted a three-year postdoctoral research fellowship in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China.



**Elizabeth (Biz) Nijdam** successfully defended her dissertation, *'Drawing for Me Means Communication': Anke Feuchtenberger and German Art Comics after 1989*, during the Spring/Summer 2017

term. Biz is in Berlin, where she has joined the Program for Advanced German and European Studies as a postdoctoral fellow.

## Welcome New Students!



### Giovanni Doveri

Giovanni earned his B.A. in German Language and Literature and Arts and Letters magna cum laude from Portland State University. Thereafter, he completed his MA at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Giovanni is interested in how modernist literature critiques existing social conditions and gives glimpses of dreams of a better life.



### Erin Johnston-Weiss

Erin received her B.A. (honours) from the University of Manitoba, and an M.A. in German Studies at the University of Manitoba. Erin's current research focuses on the comparative representation of 'difficult knowledge,' genocide and mass atrocities in German and North American Museums, as well as Holocaust representation and pedagogy.



### Hannah Lichtenthäeler

Hannah is the current exchange student from Freie Universität Berlin, where she is pursuing her M.A. in North American Studies. Her majors are culture and sociology; she is mostly interested in television, film, serial narratives and feminisms. Hannah received her B.A. from the Freie Universität Berlin in North American Studies in 2016.



### Özlem Karuc

Özlem earned her Staatsexamen I, the equivalent of an MEd, with majors in English and German from the University of Dortmund and in Turkish from the University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany, in 2013, and her Staatsexamen II, a professional teaching certificate, in 2015. Özlem's current research interest focuses on the intersections of motion pictures and culture.



### Hannah McMurray

successfully defended her dissertation on Tuesday, May 23, 2017. Hannah's submitted dissertation is *Winning New Freedom: Intersections of Text and Image in the Montage, Typographical, and Graphic Design Work of*

*Kurt Schwitters*. Hannah is working at the Musée de l'Élysée in Lausanne, Switzerland - one of Europe's leading photography museums - on a 6-month internship in the department of External Affairs as part of the Museum Studies Program at the University of Michigan.

# UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT FOCUS

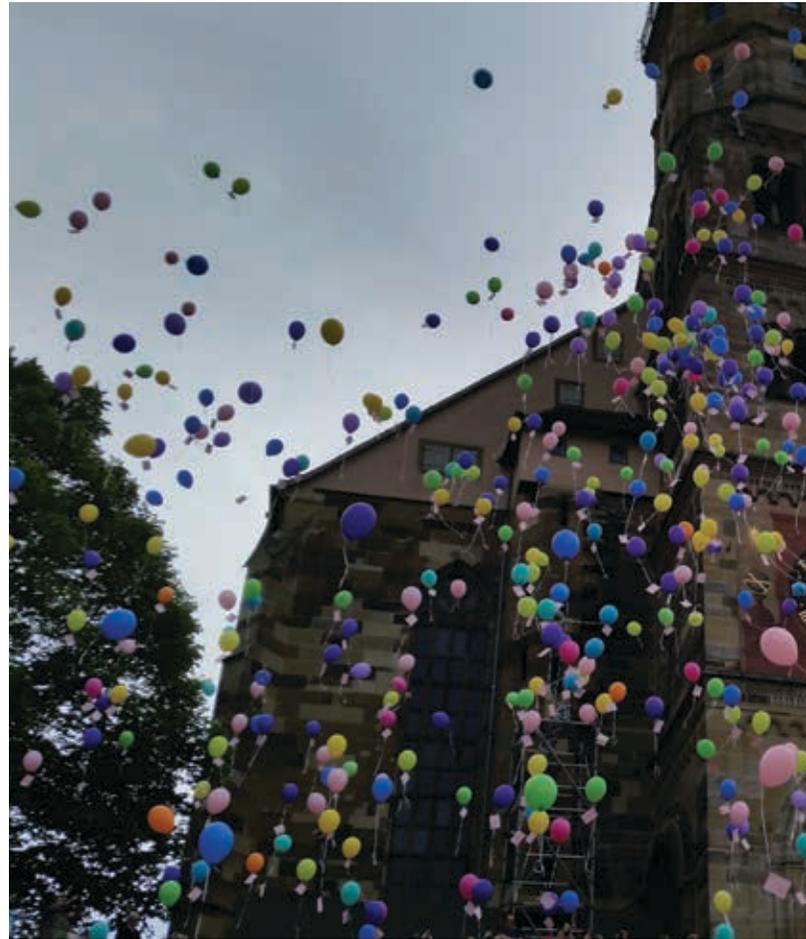
## Department Awarded for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education Award

### Each year, one LSA

teaching unit receives the Department Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education. For the 2016-17 academic year, the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures won this prestigious college award. The following excerpt from Associate Dean Angela Dillard's announcement lists some of the many reasons why the department was recognized:

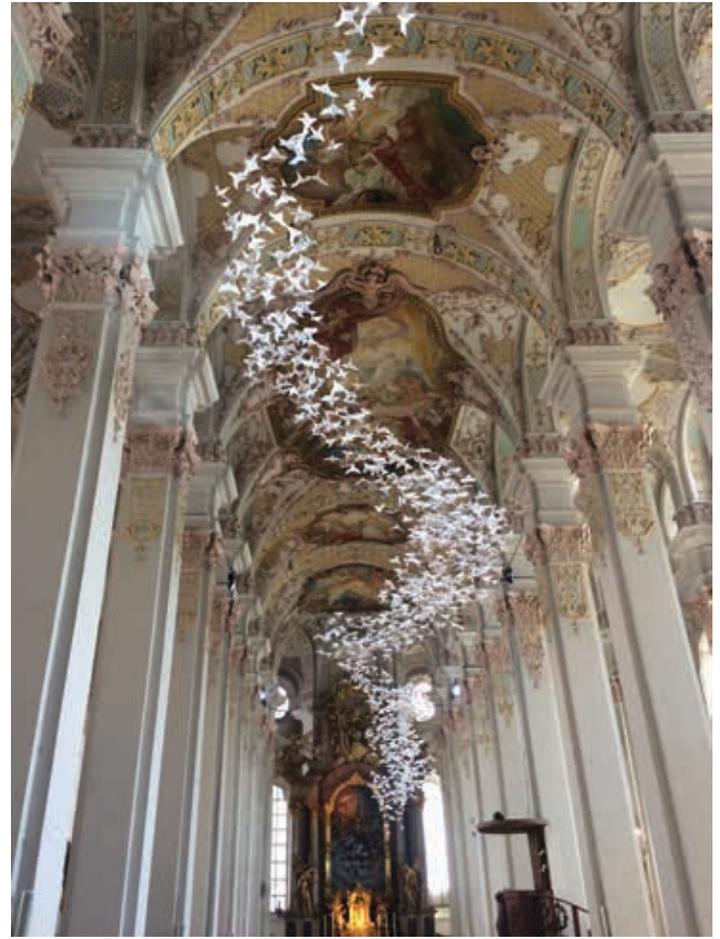
"The Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures has demonstrated a thoughtful and coherent collective approach to undergraduate education and has also created a caring and welcoming atmosphere around the department. The selection committee was impressed with the pedagogical leadership of the department, including an extensive set of resources for highly engaging language learning and a variety of courses on topics including business, science and engineering, and law, without shortchanging opportunities to engage with grammar, literature, and other aspects of culture. The philosophy of "culture from the beginning and language until the end" seems to provide a remarkably engaging and successful model.

The department's outreach reaches well beyond the University; impressively, the department's approach to German Studies has become known as the 'Michigan Model,' and a comprehensive website of resources is available to users around the world. Likewise, educational accomplishments of members of the department, and the reflections of former undergraduates, speak to the vision and leadership of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures in undergraduate education. The department reflects a strong commitment to the College's priorities in diversity, equity, and inclusion: through its designated R&E courses; through its emphasis on thinking about diversity, ethnic difference and minority identities; and through other opportunities, such as hosting minority German authors through the writer-in-residence program inaugurated this past academic year. The success of the Scandinavian and Dutch programs is impressive in its own right, and student comments reflect a healthy and helpful general atmosphere throughout the department: a close-knit community with extraordinarily active, friendly, and knowledgeable faculty and advisors, all with a strong commitment to excellence in undergraduate education."



## Photo Contest

**The University of Michigan** Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures' photo contest was open to all students affiliated with the department through research, study, or an internship abroad completed between May 1-August 31, 2017. We received over 40 submissions and photos were judged on subject matter, composition, technical quality, creativity, and originality by a select



panel of U-M staff and faculty members. Award winners received monetary prizes and bragging rights. The winners are:

**First Place, \$100.**

*The Top* (See cover, upper left, for photo). Obertsdorf, Bayern, Germany.

**Robert Fenton**, Mechanical Engineering BSE, German Studies Minor (2019), Summer 2017 recipient

of a Sturm Scholarship for Goethe-Institut Study. “Right as I reached the top of a mountain after a hike, there happened to be people paragliding off the top. It was a spectacular convergence of man and nature.”

**Second Place, \$75.**

*Kinderfest at St. Michael's Church* (Above left). Schwäbisch Hall, Baden-Württemberg, Germany.

**Anne-Elizabeth Jones**, German BA (2020), Summer 2017 recipient of a Sturm Scholarship for Goethe-Institut Study. “The children of Schwäbisch Hall release balloons on the steps of St. Michael's Church during Kinderfest.”

**Third Place, \$50.**

Heiliggeistkirche (Above right). München, Bayern, Germany.

**Kiera Soraghan**, Chemical Engineering BSE, German Studies Minor (2018). “Heiliggeistkirche located in München, Bayern. There was a special art exhibit on display, of white paper doves descending on the altar.”

Along with the first place winner, additional submissions can be found on the cover.

# IN THE CLASSROOM

## German 346 - Media Matter

by Tyler Whitney, Assistant Professor

**How can German literature, philosophy, and cultural history help us to make sense of our own media environment and technological present? What do the histories of reading and writing, film and sound recording, teach us about the social, political, and aesthetic implications of a still unfolding media revolution, one marked by the rise of digital computing, data aggregation, automation and tracking?**

**German-speaking Europe** occupies a unique and troubled place in the history of media, the site of both groundbreaking technical innovations and some of their most nefarious applications – from Gutenberg’s invention of the printing press, through the extensive use of radio and film for political propaganda during the Third Reich, to elaborate networks of state-sponsored surveillance in former East Germany. Not surprisingly, Germany has also produced some of the most influential theorists of media and played an invaluable role in the development of media studies as an academic discipline.

This winter semester the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures will once again offer the



seminar “Media Matter: From Print to Screen Culture,” which explores this complex history and the critical insights it has engendered. Cross-listed with American Culture and Screen Arts & Cultures, the seminar also moves beyond the German-speaking context to examine parallel developments in the United States, thereby making it of interest to students from a variety of majors and minors.

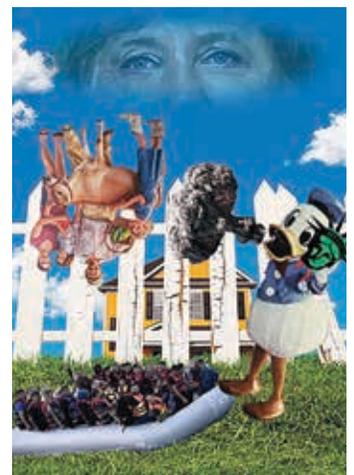
The seminar’s emphasis on interdisciplinarity and Transatlantic exchange is reflected in the range of topics covered over the course of the semester, including German print culture around 1800, the typewriter and female labor, German colonialism and phonographic sound archives, Nazi radio, Afrofuturism and the development of techno music in Detroit and Berlin, data aggregation on social media, surveillance and tracking

at Amazon warehouses and the Disneyland theme park, online book clubs, ‘genetic art’ and biological design. In addition to engaging with scholarly articles, literary texts, films and audio recordings, students are asked to create their own politically oriented photomontage in the style of the German Dadaists.

Each semester, the seminar mines the remarkable reservoir of resources on campus and in the Ann Arbor community. Students visit the Orson Welles Archive at the Hatcher Graduate Library with Film Studies Field Librarian, Philip Hallman, to sift through boxes of archived letters from Welles’ infamous 1938 radio play “War of the Worlds.” Other events have included visits to Duderstadt’s Computer and Videogame Archive on North Campus, exhibitions and sound installations at UMMA, and film screenings on media-related topics at the Ann Arbor Film Festival.

**Left image:** Film still from the documentary *Halfmoon Files* (2007), dir. Philip Scheffner.

**Below image:** Student-produced, Dada-inspired photomontage thematizing contemporary German politics.

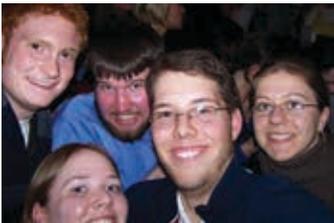


Finally, the course utilizes the department’s own speaker series, which regularly features lectures on related topics by prominent scholars of media from around the world. In the past, students attended a presentation by the media preservation specialist, Patrick Feaster (Indiana University), who, among other things, was involved in playing back the world’s earliest sound recording. This coming semester the course will tie in with lectures on nineteenth century ‘paperwork’ and Nazi technoscience by contemporary media theorists Petra McGillen (Dartmouth) and Geoffrey Winthrop-Young (U. of British Columbia).

# STAYING CONNECTED

## My Time in the Max Kade Haus

by Sean Moberg, '08 A.B.



**Left top image:** Back on campus for the Penn State game with my dad.  
Photo credit: Bertley Moberg.

**Left bottom image:** Photo credit: Laura Kingman.

**Right image:** Photo credit: Ryan McKown



**I first laid eyes on the Max Kade German Residence,** back in its previous location in Baits II, as a high school senior. I was trying to decide where to live on campus in the fall, and scheduled a brief tour with then-head resident Stacy Swennes. Stacy showed me around the building, introduced me to a few of the other residents, and told me about the study abroad trips to Germany. By the time I walked out of the building, my mind was made up, and no amount of dire warnings from my older friends about the horrors of living on North Campus could deter me.

After I moved in the following fall, I soon met people who would become some of my best friends throughout college, and even to the present day, through the Kade program. The Kade Haus gave me both a social and an academic network from day one. I only ended up minoring in German, so I did not spend as much time in the Modern Languages

Building as many of my housemates, but this just made the Kade house all the more valuable to my experience. The opportunities to practice my German around the dorm and to engage more deeply with German culture helped me engage with my German studies in a much deeper way than most people get with their minor.

Best of all, though, were the study abroad trips to Europe. My freshman year the trip fell through, but after that, we went to Berlin, Munich, and Vienna in successive years. I still tell friends stories of getting stranded with friends at Ostbahnhof in Berlin after the trains stopped running (the words “nicht einsteigen” have a very sinister feel in the wee hours of the morning, several miles from the youth hostel!) and the time we got forty or fifty people in the Hofbräuhaus in Munich to start singing “Hail to the Victors!”

Encountering German and Austrian culture, with the foundation in conversational German that the Kade program was able to provide was an unmatched experience that I have carried with me ever since.

Since leaving Michigan, I have gone on to complete a Master’s degree at the University of Notre Dame and a PhD at the Catholic University of America, both in the area of Early Christian Studies. I work especially on the development of Christian monasticism in the fourth and fifth centuries, and love nothing more than teaching undergraduates about the history and thought of the early Church. I still use my German skills in research from time to time, but the bigger imprint my experience in the Kade program left on me lies in the way I learned to understand and appreciate a foreign culture and country. Both as a historian and as citizen, I can think of few skills that seem more practical to me today than that. I am deeply grateful to the Kade program for providing me with a community dedicated to developing that appreciation. I hope that it will continue to do so for new students for many years to come.

# DUTCH STUDIES

## 22nd Annual De Vries – Van der Kooy Memorial Lecture with Gea Sijpkens

by Annemarie Toebosch, Director of Dutch Studies



In the past decade or two, the term “helicopter parent” has gained popularity in U.S. higher education to describe a generation of overprotective parents. Their children, who are now our students, are often criticized for being “coddled,” “overly-sensitive,” and “dependent” young adults. The generalization ignores the fact that many students have grown up in households with a parent who had neither the time nor the resources to hover over them. What’s more, the labels ignore the possibility that there’s an upside. Maybe helicopter-parented students have been shown a model of an important level of altruism, of care for others. Concerned about others, our current postmillennial, or “Generation We,” students are reported to value jobs

where they can do good over jobs with higher paychecks.

In the Netherlands where the achterbankgeneratie (the “back seat generation”) has received similar criticism, one program has turned the notion of youth, dependence, and care on its head. Students in the town of Deventer have been living in an elderly home, essentially living with their grandparents in exchange for room and board. On October 12, Gea Sijpkens, CEO of Humanitas Deventer, explained the social and societal power of her program to an audience of over 100 university and community members as she presented the 22nd De Vries – Van der Kooy Memorial lecture “Aging and Engaging: Dutch Pragmatic Innovation in the Care for Old and Young.”

She explained how the home, in the face of budget cuts, receives companionship for the elderly from students. Subsequently, the elderly have a renewed zest for life and connection to the world, and students report a deeper sense of life, death, calm and civic engagement.

Ms. Sijpkens’ visit extended beyond the lecture to classroom visits and meetings with members of the local elderly and elderly care community. Dutch program students, especially those in the Michigan Community Scholars Program (a residential program that focuses on community service) considered how the Humanitas Deventer program could work on campus. Local professionals who are setting up student-elderly programs stated that the visit caused

**Above image:** Dutch studies program director Annemarie Toebosch, Gea Sijpkens, and Wendy Woods, MCSP Associate Director, with students.

a real shift in their thinking away from recruiting students in health-related fields. This Dutch program explicitly warns against student-elderly health care-based relationships. The strength of the program, it argues, is in old and young sharing life and becoming friends.

Streaming of the lecture can be found on the Germanic Languages and Literatures website, [www.lsa.umich.edu/german](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/german), search on Sijpkens. We thank all our many donors at U-M, in the community, and in the Dutch national corps for their generous support of the event.

# SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES

## Learning from Living in Scandinavia

by Johanna Eriksson, Director of Scandinavian Studies

**In September, four** 2016-17 second-year Swedish students who had recently returned from study abroad and internships in Scandinavia, discussed their experiences in the introductory class “Scandinavian Civilization.”

**Elisabeth Benham** studied at Stockholm University in the winter semester. “I lived in a student dorm where we each had our own rooms and shared a kitchen and common area,” Elisabeth told us. “I really enjoyed Stockholm University because of its close proximity to downtown Stockholm, a beautiful city that offers great food, music, and nightlife.” Elisabeth was able to travel to other parts of Sweden while there. “One of my favorite trips was with the student union when we went to Lapland to see the northern lights and meet the indigenous Saami people.” She concludes, “I would definitely recommend

Stockholm for anyone looking for a big city experience and a change of pace from student life in Ann Arbor.”

**Thomas Brooks** studied Norwegian during his winter semester at Oslo University. “My seven months in Norway were, as clichéd as it sounds, life-changing. I learned so much from being immersed in a culture, language, and environment that somehow managed to be both similar and different from my own. At the University of Oslo, I was able to make connections with like-minded students and experience life as a college student 4000 miles away.”

In a group of 20 University of Michigan students, **Lars Johnson** participated in a creative writing course in Reykjavik, Iceland. “The class was all about Fairytales, both reading and writing them. We read a wealth of fantastical narratives, from ancient Norse myths, to tales about

children raised by wolves, to stories of sailors jumping onto the moon at high tide. The writing we produced was even more varied, and even more magical.” Lars found the environment breathtaking, and a perfect place for budding writers: “Reykjavik is cradled by majestic mountains on one side, and a shimmering ocean on the other. Every corner of the countryside had a glacier or a waterfall or a volcano, each more beautiful than the last.”

**Caroline Rothroth** spent eight summer weeks in the south of Sweden, interning for a Malmö-based youth magazine called Gatans Röster. The magazine focuses on providing a platform for young immigrants to Sweden to share their personal stories and perspectives on political events. “It was almost entirely youth-run: articles were written and photographed by a group of students from the Malmö

area, under the supervision of two group leaders and myself.” Caroline enjoyed living in a studio apartment in downtown Malmö, which has a young, progressive and artistic feel. “I felt like I was experiencing Sweden as a resident might - I’d come to think of my neighborhood and apartment as home. I don’t think that could have happened through any means besides total immersion.”

Other study abroad and internship opportunities to Scandinavia are offered through the School of Engineering and the LSA Opportunity Hub. In addition to Stockholm University, CGIS offers academic programs at Uppsala University and DIS Copenhagen and Stockholm. The Scandinavian Studies endowment along with funding through the Highfield Foundation provides scholarships to students participating in these programs.

**Left image:**  
Scandinavian  
Club Soccer  
Team



## Activities put on by the Scandinavian Club

The Scandinavian Club is run by co-presidents Sofia Ackermund and Christian Neubacher. One warm September afternoon, the club played the Swedish lawn-game “kubb” on the Diag. On September 30, an enthusiastic team

participated in the World Soccer cup. The weekly “fika”, coffee hour, is held in the Michigan League at 3 PM on Fridays. Join the club for Swedish conversation, Scandinavian foods, games, movie nights and many other activities.

#### Cover Photos

**Top image:** *The Top*. Obertsdorf, Bayern, Germany. Robert Fenton, winner of the GLL photo contest.

**Bottom Left image:** *Eis auf Theaterplatz*. Dresden, Germany. Jasmina Purtell.

**Bottom Right image:** *Friedrich-Ludwig-Jahn-Sportpark*. Berlin, Germany. Sebastian Lyos.

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Detail from Rackham Graduate School, Sarah Nesbitt.

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German Day:  
**March 23, 2018**

DichterInnen  
und DenkerInnen

## Hermann F. Weiss, Professor Emeritus

**Hermann Weiss, who taught** in the Department from 1968 to 2000, celebrated his eightieth birthday in June 2017. He has been blessed with good health and continues to lead an active life. His work on two under-researched systems of forced labor camps for Jews in Silesia and adjoining areas is continuing. In addition to writing numerous entries on individual camps for the *Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos* (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum), he occasionally publishes detailed papers on some of these almost unknown camps. Two of these appeared in Poland in 2016 and 2017. Among his more recent discoveries is the actual place in Upper Silesia where approximately 9000 men between 15 and

50 were dragged out of Auschwitz-bound trains from Belgium, France, and the Netherlands to be dispersed to forced labor camps. On September 2, 2016, the former freight station in the city of Cosel was dedicated as a memorial site.

In 2010, Hermann Weiss and his wife Becky moved from their rural home to Great Oak Cohousing on the west side of Ann Arbor, where both take an active role in community life. They regularly travel to Oregon to enjoy that beautiful state, and to Germany to visit with family and friends. Hawaii continues to be one of Hermann Weiss's favorite destinations. He would be happy to hear from former students (734-663-9673; [hfweiss@umich.edu](mailto:hfweiss@umich.edu)).