

Newsletter 2023-24

Northwestern

Department of
German

WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES





Letter from 2023-2024 Chair

Jörg Kreienbrock

Dear students, colleagues, staff, alumni, supporters, and friends of the German Department,

As another academic year closes, our annual newsletter is a perfect opportunity to thank everyone who made the 2023/24 academic year a success, including faculty, staff, and members of the German Undergraduate Advisory Board. Returning as chair last fall, it was my pleasure to discover that the German Dept. had been thriving under the leadership of my successor Professor Peter Fenves. Thank you for your service! I hope that I will be able to follow in his footsteps and keep the German Department on track. Please take a minute and review some of our department highlights over the past year.

This spring, the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Franziska Lys, and a committee of tenure-track and teaching-track faculty introduced new major and minor requirements, aligning our policies with other language departments in Weinberg College. Please read up on these changes on our website at: <https://german.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/major-minor/> and talk to me or Professor Lys if you have any questions or comments. Graduating with a major or minor in German might be easier than you think!

One of the finest accomplishments of the department is the ongoing success of our study abroad offerings. The study abroad adviser, Professor Robert Ryder, placed many students in various academic and internship programs in Germany. This summer, twenty students will participate in the Summer in Berlin Program directed by Professor Domenic de Socio. It should be noted that without the continuing support of the Max Kade and the Friedman-Kline Foundations, these activities would not be possible. The whole German Department is deeply grateful for your contributions!

I wish everyone a relaxing and joyful summer. I hope to see you all in the fall!



FACULTY UPDATES



Peter Fenves - In the last year Professor Fenves co-edited a volume that contains the dissertation of Felix Noeggerath, a legendary yet mysterious figure in early twentieth-century German thought whom Walter Benjamin, for one, dubbed “the universal genius.” In his “Afterword” to the volume, *Synthesis und Systembegriff in der Philosophie* (New York, 2023), Fenves presents the relationship between Benjamin and Noeggerath as it developed on the basis of shared attachment to the Goethean idea of synthesis. Correspondingly, for the past several years Fenves has been in the process of putting together a volume of Benjamin’s writings on Goethe, which will appear (with his extensive introduction) in early 2025. Two of Fenves’ books were recently translated into Spanish: *La reducción mesiánica: Walter Benjamin y la forma del tiempo* (Santiago, 2023), trans. Mauricio Oportus, and *Kant Tardío: Hacia otra ley de la tierra* (Buenos Aires, 2024), trans. Victor Ibarra and Rudy Pradenas. For both of these Fenves wrote new prefaces. Essays of his recently appeared in a variety of scholarly journals and public venues, including *boundary2* and the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. In the spring of 2024, he gave papers and presentations a several locations, ranging from the Brauer Lecture Series in the German Department at Brown University, through a set of workshops in the Romance Language Department at the University of Michigan, to Benjamin-based conferences in Canada and (via Microsoft Teams) Europe.

Erica Weitzman - Erica Weitzman has continued to serve as the department’s Director of Graduate Studies during the 2023-2024 academic year. This year she presented a number of talks on various topics, including a paper at the German Studies Association conference on Theodor Fontane’s memoirs of the 1848 revolutions, a paper on materialism and the non-human at the American Comparative Literature Association conference, a talk on Karl Marx and the German anarchist philosopher Max Stirner at this year’s Rutgers-Reed Philological Seminar dedicated to the theme “Apropos of Nothing,” and an upcoming presentation this June on Friedrich Nietzsche and David Friedrich Strauß at a five-day workshop at Princeton University on the topic “Dissent and Discord.” She also delivered invited lectures at the University of Pennsylvania (on her most recent

book, *At the Limit of the Obscene: German Realism and the Disgrace of Matter*), at the workshop “Listening to Kafka” at Notre Dame University, the colloquium “Derrida’s Law” at Cardozo University, and at the University of Bern as part of a lecture series on Franz Kafka. In addition to these talks, Professor Weitzman also published two articles: one on the comedy of synopsis in the modernist author Robert Walser and the nineteenth-century popular philosopher Fritz Mauthner in a special edition of the journal *Colloquia Germanica* on the topic “Short Forms and their Affordances” (2023), and another on naturalism and instinct in the Swiss novelist Gottfried Keller for the four-volume compendium on the occasion of his 200-year anniversary, *Gottfried Kellers Moderne* (De Gruyter, 2024). For the spring quarter, she also developed and taught a new advanced undergraduate seminar, “German Cultural Criticism (and Beyond),” which she hopes to make into a permanent fixture of the German Department’s course offerings. For the forthcoming academic year, Professor Weitzman has been awarded a full-year fellowship from Northwestern’s Kaplan Institute for the Humanities to work on her ongoing book project, tentatively titled “Bluster: Bourgeois Anxiety and Expository Style in Late Nineteenth-Century Germany.”

Samuel Weber - Samuel Weber is completing a book entitled “The Coppola Perspective: Reconsidering the Uncanny in Freud, Heidegger and Derrida.” He is also working on a project on “Kafka’s Uncanny Animals.” In the past year he has lectured via zoom at UCSD and Fudan University (Shanghai) and will be giving talks this summer in China (Beijing, Shanghai) and Japan (Tokyo, Kyoto)

Jörg Kreienbrock has been working on a book manuscript entitled *Counter-Copernican Turns: Situating Knowledge in German Literature and Thought 1905-1955*. He also published three articles: “Critique as Counterproduction: Repair Work in Alexander Kluge,” in: *The Germanic Review*, Vol. 98, No. 2 (Summer 2023); “*The Technique of Exposition: Eccentric Beginnings in Heimito von Doderer’s Die Strudlhofstiege*,” in: *Parallax*, Vol. 29, No. 3 (Spring 2023); “Precarious Property: Adam Müller’s Theory of Poetic Possession,” in: Sophie Duvorney, Karsten Olson, Ulrich Plass (eds.), *Representing Social Precarity:*

Work, Poverty, and Dispossession in German Literature and Culture, London: Bloomsbury 2023.

Christine Helmer - Christine Helmer’s co-authored (with Amy Carr) book, *Ordinary Faith in Polarized Times: Justification and the Pursuit of Justice* (Baylor University Press 2023) was a finalist in the 2023 National PROSE Book Awards competition in the theology/religious studies category. Professor Helmer’s co-authored (with Amy Carr) article, “Hospitable Courage in a Divided Church” (*Yale Divinity School Reflections Journal* Nov. 2023: [TBD](#)) was awarded an “award of merit” in the scholarly article category in the 2023 Church Press Awards competition. Professor Helmer co-organized the annual conference of the *Internationale Schleiermacher Gesellschaft* in Wittenberg, Germany (Nov. 30-Dec. 2, 2023) on the topic, “Schleiermachers Christliche Sittenlehre: Krisen und Potentiale”. Professor Helmer continues to guide the monthly zoominar, “Logic&Luther”, which has an international membership, as well as organizing events in the international Lutheran Scholars Network, such as the panel, “New Directions in Luther Scholarship,” at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Nov. 2023). Professor Helmer guest-edited a special issue of the *Neue Zeitschrift für systematische Theologie und Religionsphilosophie* (vol. 65, issue 3) “New Directions in Lutheran Christologies”.

Anna Parkinson - Anna Parkinson was invited to give the 2023-24 Annual Grilk Lecture by the German Department at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; her lecture explored the concept of “contrapuntal humanism” in the work of author H.G. Adler. In April 2024 she held an online lecture at the Center for Medicine, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies at Cedars Sinai, drawing from her recently published article: “Revisiting the ‘Talking Cure’: Capturing Children’s Wartime Experiences through Hans Keilson’s Work on Sequential Traumatization” (2024). She also presented on German filmmaker Harun Farocki’s work at the German Studies Association of Australia (2023, University of Sydney), and at the German Jewish Studies Conference (2024, University of Notre Dame). In 2024 she was elected to the Advisory Board of the American Friends of Marbach (Deutsches Literaturarchiv, Marbach, Germany).

FACULTY UPDATES

Franziska Lys - This academic year Professor Lys was focused on researching in what ways generative Artificial Intelligence tools can be used to provide personalized learning experiences for every student by allowing learners to move at their own pace and to learn in ways that best suits their learning styles. She examined the strengths and limitations of prompt driven ChatGPT for a creative writing task with students of German at the advanced level who were asked to develop, write, and illustrate a unique children's story using ChatGPT as a thinking partner. Interacting with ChatGPT in German, students engaged in informal and low-stakes writing-to-learn activities that could help them think through ideas and key concepts for their stories, as well as learn new vocabulary, expressions, and language patterns. Answering to learner-produced prompts, ChatGPT provided both explicit and implicit learning situations that focused on vocabulary development and grammar in a meaning-focused context, creating conditions in which learners could learn according to their current language proficiency. Learners also prepared illustrations for their story using an artificial intelligence image generator. Dr. Lys published her research in a book chapter called "Creating Stories: Generative Artificial Intelligence Tools as Writing Tutors" (AI in Language Teaching, Learning, and Assessment (Chapter 11). IGI Global. 2024). A second project under way is the redevelopment of an online grammar learning website for second-year German called Intermatik. Originally developed in 1995 by Dr. Lys and used throughout the next 20 years in our second-year language program, her colleague Dr. Kerlova and Dr. Lys decided that it was time to update this gem of a learning platform. So far, they have received more than \$ 20'000 in grant money (Alumnae of Northwestern University grant, Hewlett Grant for Curricular Innovation, Open Educational Resource Grant) for this project. The actual research will start this summer and will involve all language instructors in the department of German. When not researching better approaches to language teaching, Professor Lys takes care of German majors and minors in her role as Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS). She is also responsible for keeping the electronic course catalogue up-to-date, for helping develop the early and quarterly schedule, and for attending regular DUS meetings.



Children's story written and illustrated by German language students partnering with AI

Professor Lys continues to direct the Middle East and North African Languages Program. This is the first year the program has three students graduating with a minor in Arabic. An additional six students have signed up. As program director she is responsible for hiring, reappointment, and promotion of faculty, new course development and budgeting. One of the highlights this year was the continuation of the two-year research project called "Language Curricula and Gender" originally awarded to a group of researchers in the Spring 2022 (Buffett Institute for Global Affairs catalyst grant \$ 300'000). The group's goal is to research how the language curriculum reinforces, exacerbates, or disrupts cultural assumptions and stereotypes about gender and propose an inclusive and gender bias-free curriculum with new critical teaching approaches. Using the results from a faculty and student survey developed in the spring 2023. Dr. Lys and two of her colleagues (Professor Mikhael and Dr. Raddawi) presented a talk this Spring called "Achieving Gender Equity through the Language Curriculum" at the 2nd Annual Gender-Inclusive Language Conference at the University of Southern California. They currently also have a paper under review called "Advancing Gender Equity in the Language

Curriculum: The Role of the Instructor" to be published in Issues in international language teacher education, development, and evaluation: Challenges, opportunities, and innovations (Routledge, 2024). The development of the three new courses together with her colleagues (Dr. Topcuoglu, Dr. Tzucker-Seltzer, Professor Mikhael) exploring the multi-faceted culture in the Middle East (Cairo and the seven layers of civilization (in Arabic), The four-dimensional Jerusalem (In Hebrew), and Istanbul, gateway between the East and the West (in Turkish)) was the foundation for a co-authored book chapter called "Language Learning Through Three Iconic Cities: A Shared Approach to Curriculum Development in Arabic, Hebrew, and Turkish" published in Sharing Less Commonly Taught Languages (LCTLs) in Higher Education: Collaboration and Innovation (Routledge, 2023). And lastly, Dr. Topcuoglu and Dr. Lys presented at the Consortium of the Middle East National Resource Centers' Virtual Language Workshop in the Spring 2023 on the approach used to develop these three courses, highlighting the untethered faculty development approach. The talk was called Untethering Faculty Development in MENA Languages: A Collaborative Effort to Reflect on, Assess and Share Teaching Practices.

FACULTY UPDATES



Ingrid Zeller hosts river cruise with German vice-chancellor Robert Habeck

Ingrid Zeller - Professor of Instruction Ingrid Zeller is grateful for another rewarding and inspiring year with her students in German 102, 205, 115, and 245 and with the GUAB at Northwestern University. In "German 245: Bauhaus and Beyond - German Influences on the Chicago Skyline," she was thrilled to welcome German-speaking architects Dirk Lohan and Joachim Schuessler to campus recently and to give a river cruise for the students in the course.

In Summer 2023, Ingrid completed her term as academic director for the college study abroad program in Bonn, organized through the AATG, and is delighted that NU students have been participating and are continuing to participate in this wonderful program.

In September, she started her term as chair of the Council on Language Instruction and has been working with the different committees on exciting initiatives. Recent highlights of the CLI included a poster exhibit of remarkable women in the main library, the Festival of Languages and Cultures, the Language Symposium, and a workshop on promotion.

In April, Ingrid enjoyed co-organizing the eleventh

annual cross-institutional German College Immersion Weekend in Northern Illinois by the title of Grüezi, Servus, Moin - Vielfalt und Identität im deutschsprachigen Raum together with 11 engaged colleagues from regional colleges, including Northwestern's Martina Kerlova, Rob Ryder, and Domenic DeSocio.

Ingrid's conference presentations this year included two sessions at the Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in March 2024: "Teaching German Dialects through Films and TV" and "Women at the Bauhaus - Pioneering Equity and Innovation," two sessions at the ACTFL Conference in November 2023 by the titles of "Songs, Stories, and Social Justice: Inclusivity and Social Justice through Ezé Wendt and his Music," co-presented with Mohamed Esa, and "Bauhaus and Beyond: Teaching Culture through Architecture and Design," an invited lecture for the Chicago Columbia Club in April 2024 on "Bauhaus und sein Einfluss auf Textilien und Keramik," and a workshop for the Southern Illinois AATG Chapter on "Teaching Inclusivity and Social Justice through Short Films" in July 2023.

As adviser for the GUAB (German Undergraduate Advisory Board), Ingrid congratulates this wonderful and extraordinary group for their immense dedication and for the fantastic events and projects they initiated and planned, including the Maifest, the Karneval, and the Herbstfest celebrations that were organized together with Global Initiatives, a German cook-out, an excursion to the Christkindlmarkt, the Stammtische, and a visit to the Bavarian Symphony.

Robert Ryder - Rob has been pursuing both his German studies and pedagogical research. He gave two invited talks: one in October at the GSA on Ernst Schoen and Walter Benjamin, and the other this past April on Kafka and noise. He led a Roundtable at ACTFL on Internships Abroad in November and in May was invited to the University of Chicago's German department to speak about our German business curriculum and successful internship program. In the fall he taught the course, "Beer and Brewing in Germany and Chicago," for the first time, which he's already looking forward to teaching again next year. And he's planning a German Internship and Career Forum for Fall quarter 2024, funded in part by the

German Embassy. CEOs, trade organizations, and other representatives from the Chamber of Commerce and various German company subsidiaries will be invited to campus for the purposes of informing NU students how they can best plan for their future careers in Germany.

Domenic DeSocio - Domenic introduced a new course to Northwestern, "Queer East-Central Europe" which he co-taught with a colleague in the Slavic department. As this year's faculty director, he also has worked to redevelop the Berlin study abroad summer program by redesigning the course on contemporary German history and society and planning several new excursions, such as to Berlin's famous nightclubs and the LGBTQ+ museum; he is very excited to travel to Berlin with Northwestern students this summer! Happily, Domenic's article on the use of virtual reality in the language classroom was accepted and will be published in *Unterrichtspraxis* in Fall 2024.



Prof. Zeller and students enjoy an architectural boat tour of Chicago

FACULTY UPDATES



Lenbachhaus Art Museum Munich, Germany famous for The Blue Rider group of Expressionist artists

Martina Kerlova - Martina has spent the past academic year active in both of her home departments, German and Slavic. She taught Intermediate German with our bridging curriculum, using Impuls Deutsch 2. To share our experience using this textbook with our teaching colleagues elsewhere, Martina reviewed this book in Unterrichtspraxis. To offer our students a German Grammar platform at no cost, Martina, together with Prof. Lys, secured three grants for our team of Professors at NU to develop online open access German grammar and culture materials over the summer. These include the Open Educational Resource Grant, the Alumnae of Northwestern Grant, and the Hewlett Grant. The work starts the minute the spring quarter ends!

Martina has also served as Director of Slavic Languages and has been working with the Slavic team,

ensuring that our students have robust study abroad options; this past summer she travelled to Riga and established an affiliation with a renowned Russian language school in Riga, Latvia: Liden and Denz.

During her sabbatical leave in the spring quarter 2023, Martina carried out research in the archives of the Brotherton Library at the University of Leeds and in the German Literature archive in Marbach am Neckar. She presented a paper on her research at the annual German Association Studies conference: "Lost Home – Return to Home: Three Bohemian German Intellectuals in Exile." Martina also presented a paper, "The Extrinsic Values of Ungrading in Language Instruction," at the conference on "Grading Less-Learning More through Ungrading in World Languages, Cultures and Literatures."

Denise Meuser - Denise Meuser is currently enjoying a Spring Quarter sabbatical. This April she flew to Germany to research the artist Gabriele Münter. In Munich she visited the Lenbachhaus to view a new art exhibit "The Blue Rider. A New Language" and traveled to the picturesque town of Murnau to experience the Münter house and museum. Back in Evanston, Denise kept busy. She attended TeachX on campus and is currently updating her Canvas pages to meet universal design accessibility goals. She also participated in standard setting for the College Board's CLEP German exam along with faculty members from across the nation. This summer, Denise plans to teach one session of Beginning German and collaborate with her colleagues on revising the online grammar for Intermediate German. Denise has enjoyed this sabbatical quarter immensely and appreciated having time to read, research, and recharge for the upcoming academic year.

Xan Holt - At the beginning of the academic year, Dr. Xan Holt presented a paper on multilingualism in the Netflix series 1899 and helped organize and run a colloquium on critique and post-critique at the German Studies Association's annual conference in Montréal. As part of the Newberry Library's German Studies



Gabriele Münters House and museum in Murnau, Germany

Seminar he workshoped an article on Abbas Khider's critique of the narrative logic of asylum in the novel *Der falsche Inder*, and he presented on the artist and essayist Hito Steyerl's analysis of spam and other forms of digital 'trash' at the 2023 Max Kade Conference at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Alongside conference presentations and research, he also continued his previous editorial work as the editorial assistant of the scholarly journal *The Germanic Review*. At Northwestern this year, Dr. Holt designed and taught courses on Germany and the African Diaspora, waste and discard studies, German film and television, historical and contemporary migration and displacement in Germany and Europe, and contemporary German media from newspaper articles to TikTok videos. In the Fall, he will be joining the Department of Eastern, Slavic, and German Studies at Boston College as a Visiting Assistant Professor.

GUAB UPDATES

The 2023-2024 academic year was filled with many educational, fun-filled events hosted by the German Undergraduate Advisory Board (GUAB). We started off the year with an Herbstfest in collaboration with McCormick Global Initiatives, in which students interested in German culture and language ate German food and learned about study abroad options. Also in the fall quarter, we hosted German exchange students from Glenbrook South School. It was an amazing opportunity for cultural exchange, and we loved hosting tours of our campus. During reading week, we led an excursion to the Christkindlmarkt. Students enjoyed bratwurst and took a break from studying to peruse the souvenir stalls. In the winter quarter, GUAB hosted Karneval Kaffeeklatsch with McCormick Global Initiatives. We learned about German Karneval traditions, decorated masks, and enjoyed delicious donuts. For Valentine's Day, we baked cookies for students to decorate and made cards for that week's Kaffeestunde. GUAB also hosted a cooking event in the Sheil Catholic Center. We made bratwursts with sauerkraut, cucumber salad, and potato salad. In the spring, we organized a trip to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Hall to enjoy a performance by the Bavarian Radio Symphony. Also in the spring, we held a Maifest in collaboration with McCormick Global Initiatives. Students won prizes in a Kahoot about German Maifest traditions, ate German pastries, and made flower bouquets. Throughout spring quarter, GUAB also helped the German department plan for the Immersion Day hosted by University of Chicago. Throughout the year, GUAB hosted a monthly Stammtisch at Prairie Moon, where students interested in German culture and language enjoyed appetizers and conversation. We would like to give a special thanks to Ingrid Zeller, GUAB's faculty advisor, for her support throughout the year. These events would not have been possible without her passion and hard work. We would also like to thank the German Department for their support, and all of the students and faculty who came to our events. We loved hosting these events, and we look forward to what next year's board will bring!

**Your GUAB 2023-24 Co-chairs,
Mia Perkins and Ava Dahnke**

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As a recipient of the Friedman-Kline Family Foundation Fellowship, I wanted to extend my deepest thanks for your aid, which made it possible for me to participate in the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) program Summer in Bonn at the Akademie für internationale Bildung (AiB).

The culture course, Bonn - Cultural Capital of the Rhineland, was a very fast-paced course, meeting only a couple times a week with only an hour and a half to cover material and filling the other days with relevant excursions. It was a bit of a survey course, having only four weeks to cover significant architecture, art, poetry, music, and history. I wish there had been more time to delve deeper into each topic, but it did well with the time it had available. My interest was piqued the most during the section on the Rhine in music and poetry, and I and two classmates led a presentation and class discussion on Romanticism and the Lorelei, examining her development from a story of a girl inspired by the landscape of the Lorelei rock to her literary transformation into a siren to her voice as an alert to political danger to her pop culture image as a femme fatale figure. In addition to learning the historical factors of Bonn's appointment as the provisional German capital, I also learned about and personally observed some of the impacts of its time as a capital city and its remaining status as a UN city.



CONGRATS TO THE CLASS OF 2024

Congratulations to all of our German minors who graduated in June 2024. Below, our students tell prospective students why they studied German and what mattered to them most in choosing this path.

Sam Casey

I started studying German at Northwestern because I had a base of German courses from high school. My goal was to simply become conversational in another language, as I believe it would improve me as a scholar and global citizen. The Northwestern German Department offered a great range of classes that allowed me to develop much stronger language skills as well as learn extensively about German culture and history. During my Sophomore year, I took two quarters away from German-language classes, but at the beginning of my junior year I got back on track and declared a German Minor with the intent of studying abroad my senior year. I was lucky to be able to study abroad in Vienna for credit and, by the end of my time there, feel comfortable speaking German in my daily life with natives in large part because of the Northwestern German Department. The faculty at the German Department were always willing to help me with anything German or study-abroad related and have created a very welcoming community. I plan to continue to hone my German skills after I graduate.

Ava Dahnke

I took beginner German in my sophomore year without any exceptions, but the welcoming community and a growing interest

in German history and culture immediately drew me in. I participated in the 2022 Summer in Berlin program, where we lived in the Kreuzberg neighborhood and took classes with Northwestern faculty and at Humboldt University. This two-month immersion in German language and culture cemented my desire to pursue a minor in German. Two years later, I could not be happier with my choice. I have taken incredibly interesting classes with amazing professors. I participated in the Global Engineering Trek in Sustainability & Energy to Münster and Hamburg, combining my Chemical Engineering major with my passion for German. I have also been co-chair of the German Undergraduate Advisory Board this past year, and it has been rewarding to help plan events to cultivate community within the department. Next year I'll be consulting with a firm headquartered in Munich, and in the future I hope to use my background to help foster international connections in chemical engineering and sustainability.

Luke McGorry

When I entered Northwestern over Zoom as a freshman in Fall 2020, my German 101 class with John Paluch and the German Department here at Northwestern instantly provided a community where I felt both welcomed and recognized as an individual, even virtually. The opportunity to continue to participate in this community throughout my four years of college is one of the most positive experiences

I have had at NU, and I anticipate that my German skills will be very useful in my professional career as well. After graduation, I plan to enter the medical device industry, where I hope to leverage my engineering and language skills together to work with one of the many biotechnology companies which have roots in both the US and Germany. I will forever be grateful for the experiences I have had with German at Northwestern, and I'd like to thank all of the professors and classmates I've had along the way for creating them.

Cedar Turner

I am a fourth-year undergraduate student at Northwestern University. I am currently on the Dual-Degree track studying Oboe Performance at the Bienen School of Music and Cultural Anthropology with a Minor in German in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences.

I currently work as an on-campus tour guide, but I have worked several jobs each summer since I was 14 years old. I worked as a lifeguard, a bakery cashier, and a barista throughout high school. I was also very involved in my local 4-H club and held several officer positions, as well as being involved in several musical ensembles outside of school. I graduated from College Park High School in Pleasant Hill, CA in the top 1% of my class.



EDUARDO RAMOS TRAVELS TO BERLIN

Dear Friedman-Kline Family,

I would like to take this time out of the holiday season to thank you once more for your contribution to my unforgettable time in Europe this summer. Wrapping up this past year, I've found myself looking back on my time abroad fondly, acknowledging this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I was granted thanks to your support.

I still have difficulty grasping the amazing cuisine, people, and sights that I was able to see on my first excursion out of the country. I can only imagine the beauty of Sansoucci Palace in the winter, or how well a warm plate of currywurst would feel in this weather. As I spend time here in Houston with family and friends I remember the constant hustle of assimilating into another society. I hope to continue living a life which allows me this continued learning, and one where I am in a position to likewise lend a helping hand onto others.

Germany could not have been any more enjoyable than it was throughout my stay there, and I am forever grateful for your support. Wishing you a delightful holiday season and for your generosity to be innumerable times returned.

GERMAN GRAD NEWS AND RECRUITMENT

The German department had a very successful recruitment year for the upcoming 2024 academic year.

We look forward to welcoming **Maria Eliza Zahner** and **Matthew Reeder** in the fall.

Robert Swistelnicki and **Roman Hutter** will be participating in the Paris Program in the upcoming academic year.

Our current cohort of students have spent their time this year studying and researching both in Evanston and abroad, and look forward to an exciting year of study next year!





AWARD WINNERS

Outstanding Achievement in First-Year German

**EVAN JOSEPH NEUHART
VINCCI CHAN**

Outstanding Achievement in Second-Year German

**ROBERT YAO
VIKTORIIA SOKOLENKO**

Honorary Recognition in Second-Year German

**MATTHEW CHAPEL
ALEXANDROS DAPIS**

Géza von Molnár Award - German Achievement

ANUSHA KUMAR

Géza von Molnár Award - English

**GIULIA CIGILOT
JOEY MCGARRY**

Friedman-Kline Fellowship

**ELIZABETH AASENG, SAVANNAH ABDUL,
HUNTER GRACEY, ISABELLA HERNANDEZ,
QUINN MCMANUS, ALEXIS SULLIVAN,
MAHLANA WOLF, JONAH TURNER, SANGHOO
LEE, FELIX GARKISCH, JASMINE ZIMMER,
ANUSHA KUMAR, HENRY HERBERT, ISA GRAU**

Max Kade Travel Award Winners

**ELIZABETH AASENG, SAVANNAH ABDUL
ADEYEMI ATTOBRA, OLIVER CHEN, JESSICA
CHEN, HUNTER GRACEY, MJ GUDINO, ISABELLA
HERNANDEZ, QUINN MCMANUS, GABRIELLA
MESSENGER, ABBY MIGGIANI, LEAH
O'CONNELL, KAYA PAYTON, ALLY PEEK,
NICOLE RODRIGUEZ, GABE SHUMWAY, ALEXIS
SULLIVAN, MAHLANA WOLF, DIANE ZHAO**

**A NOTE OF
APPRECIATION
FROM THE ENTIRE
GERMAN FACULTY:**

We want to give our heartfelt thanks to our amazing departmental assistant, **Courtney Essenpreis**, who—among all the other ways in which she has sustained the department throughout the academic year—produced this account of the activities and accomplishments of our faculty and students. Thank you also to **Liz Murray**, who helped facilitate departmental operations in innumerable ways. And thank you, finally, to our gracious group of work study students: **Maddie Farr, Elizabeth Lakoma** and **Rodrigo Carmena-Black**



**CONGRATULATIONS THE FOLLOWING
MEMBERS OF OUR FACULTY:**

Rob Ryder It is our pleasure to announce Professor Rob Ryder's promotion to Associate Professor of Instruction. Needless to mention, that it is well deserved!

Erica Weitzman Professor Erica Weitzman wins Kaplan Faculty Fellowship in the Kaplan Institute! She will be spending the next academic year working on her project *Bluster: Bourgeois Anxiety and Expository Style in Late Nineteenth-Century Germany*.

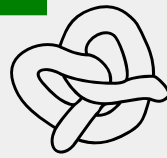
Christine Helmer Professor Christine Helmer's co-authored book (with Amy Carr), *Ordinary Faith in Polarized Times: Justification and Justice* (Baylor University Press), was awarded the status of "finalist" in the National PROSE Book Awards 2023 competition for theology/religious studies. There is only one winner and one other finalist in this category.

Anna Parkinson, Professor Anna Parkinson receives the Harris Endowed Lecture Fund in support of work on her current book manuscript.

Anna has also been invited to participate in the Curt C. and Else Silberman Faculty Seminar on "Refugees and the Holocaust" to be held in June this year at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.



KARNEVAL KAFFEEKLATSCH



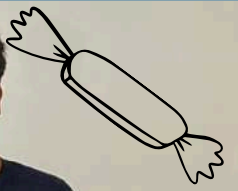
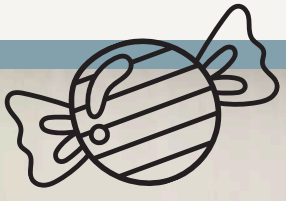
GUAB (German Undergraduate Advisory Board) celebrated Fasching with seasonal pastries and snacks, trivia, games, and more. The holiday is celebrated across Germany, under many names including Fasching, Karneval and Fastnacht, and is the German equivalent of Mardi Gras or Carnival.



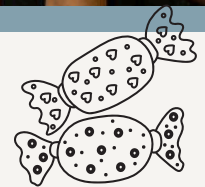
GUAB prepared presentations on Maifest traditions and events ranging from maypoles to the Haymarket Riots in Chicago, we played a KAHOOT, where the winners won mugs from German-speaking organizations filled with representative chocolates, we made a Maybowle (sparkling water, apple juice, lemon juice, and Waldmeister syrup), created flower bouquets, and enjoyed a lot of additional German-related treats!



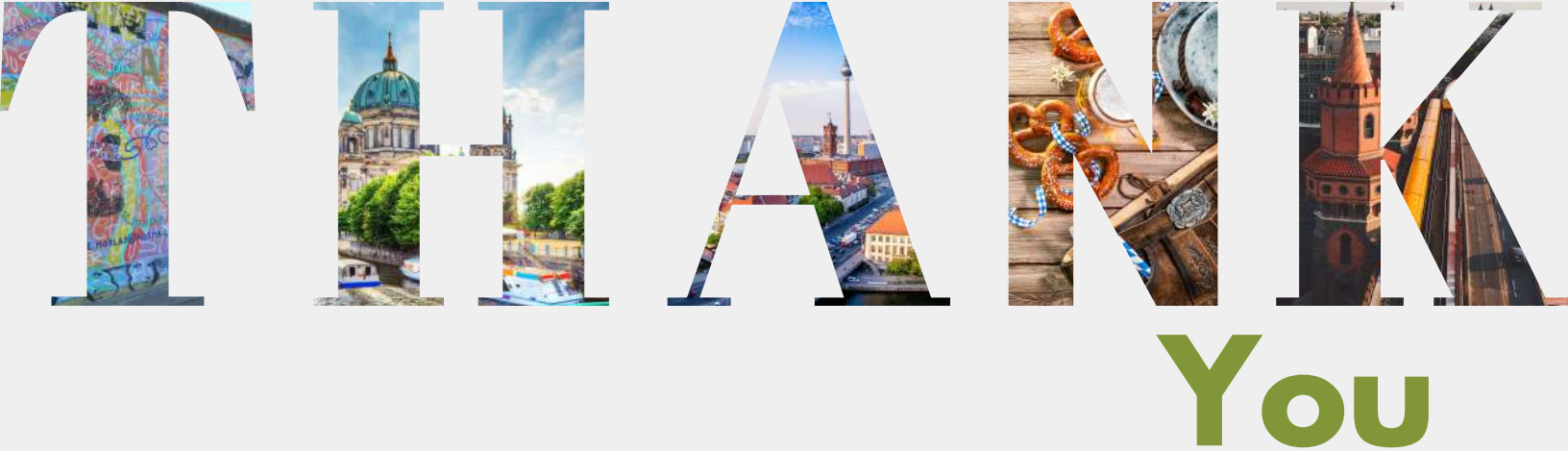
GUAB Maifest Celebration



Evening O'Skits



Kudos to all of our wonderful and talented students in German 101 and German 102 for their excellent performances during class and at the 38th annual Evening O'Skits. Students presented their creative, funny, and fabulous skits from German 101 and their equally fantastic, creative, and thought-provoking graphic novels on topics related to "Heimat" from German 102! The evening was rounded off with a tombola, where students were able to win prizes!



Because of the extraordinary generosity of the Friedman-Kline Foundation (Houston) and the Max Kade Foundation (NYC), the German department was able to provide a wide and deep array of support for summer study programs. This year, we awarded 33 of our students more than \$47,000. As we accept these gifts, we recognize that it is our intrepid students who have brought these honors to our department and university.

The Max Kade Foundation Travel Grants, at \$1,000 per student, were awarded to 19 students who will be participating in our eight-week summer program, “Berlin: Global City in the Center of Europe.” The recipients are **Elizabeth Aaseng, Savannah Abdul Adeyemi Attobra, Oliver Chen, Jessica Chen, Hunter Gracey, MJ Gudino, Isabella Hernandez, Quinn McManus, Gabriella Messenger, Abby Miggiani, Leah O'Connell, Kaya Payton, Ally Peek, Nicole Rodriguez, Gabe Shumway, Alexis Sullivan, Mahlana Wolf, and Diane Zhao.**

We also had a singularly strong pool of applicants for the [Friedman-Kline Foundation Fellowship](#), all of whom have taken one or more of our German courses. We were able to award over \$28,000 to 14 award recipients. Of those, 7 received additional funding for the Berlin summer program: **Elizabeth Aaseng, Savannah Abdul, Hunter Gracey, Isabella Hernandez, Quinn McManus, Alexis Sullivan, and Mahlana Wolf.** Five students are studying or working in Germany at various programs: Jonah Turner will be in Braunschweig for 6 weeks, **Sanghoon Lee** will be in Bonn for 6 weeks, **Anusha Kumar** will be working on three different farms across Germany for 5 weeks via the WWOOF (Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms) Program, **Henry Herbert** has been admitted to the AIMS (American Institute of Musical Studies) Program in Graz, and **Isa Grau** will be spending Fall quarter 2024 in Berlin taking a full courseload in German. Finally, **Felix Garkisch** and **Jasmine Zimmer** have been awarded funding for their summer internships in Berlin, which are administered by the Cultural Vista’s Berlin Internship Program.

Congratulations to all of you who have won these awards, and we very hope and expect that you will have an enriching experience in German-speaking lands this summer!

— **Rob Ryder (as Study-Abroad Advisor) on behalf of the entire department**