

Newsletter 2021-22

Northwestern

Department of
German

WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES



LETTER FROM THE 2021-2022 CHAIR



Message from the Chair:

Late in the spring, students and their families, faculty, and staff of the German Department gathered to celebrate this year's graduating seniors. I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate our graduating majors and minors and wish them all the best for their future. While it is unfortunate that large parts of their experience were deeply affected by the COVID-19 pandemic they more than overcame these difficulties and excelled.

This year's graduation reception was the last official event during my tenure as chair of the department. Peter Fenves will take over the position for the 2022/23 academic year. Chairing is not possible without the ongoing support, hard work, and dedication of everyone in the Dept. – from undergraduate and graduate students, to staff and faculty. Therefore, I would like to thank everyone for being such wonderful colleagues and making the German Dept. a special place in the university.

As many of you know already, our dear friend Professor John Paluch will be retiring after a stellar career at Northwestern spanning several decades. It is hard to imagine the department without John's presence. At the end of May, we celebrated his accomplishment in Kresge Hall. More than one hundred friends, family members, colleagues, and students came to pay tribute to him. Among those gathered were the Friedman family (Suzanne, Arthur, and David). They continue generously supporting the different study abroad initiatives of the department through the Friedman-Kline Foundation. This year alone we gave out more than \$30,000 in travel grants. Thank you Suzanne, Arthur, and David for your generosity!

I wish everyone a relaxing summer and a great new academic year!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Paluch'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.



Thank you for all the years, John Paluch

Congratulations to John Paluch on his retirement. Who better to describe his impact than his students themselves!

"Professor Paluch, you are one of the kindest and most intelligent professors of whom I've had the honor and privilege of being a student. You are possibly the best professor I've ever had and whoever thinks they can take that title away from you faces an extremely daunting task! I know this will not be the last time I will see you for I shall verily try to see you as much as possible for as long as I live! I wish you all the blessings and happiness that this world offers and I shall see you soon!"

"Professor Johannes! You have been such a warm welcome to Northwestern and the German Department. Without a doubt, you are my favorite professor here at Northwestern. You are the most kind and thoughtful person I know, checking in on and catching up with students who are no longer a part of your class and finding opportunities for them to continue to explore the German language and culture. Your energy and passion for teaching is always invigorating and I cannot thank you enough for all you've done. Thank you for everything Johannes!"

"Your sincerity, enthusiasm, and passion for supporting students will be sorely missed, John! Thanks for everything you brought to this community!"

"We miss your smile and cheerful voice that echo through the long hall way of Kresgel!"

"Herr Paluch! You retain a special place in my heart as the person who convinced me to study abroad in 2011. That decision changed my life for the better. I went on to win a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to Germany in 2014. Now, I teach German 1 at a high school in Denver. More than any other individual, you opened the door for me to explore cultures other than my own. I will forever be grateful."

"Thank you for being an amazing German professor! Your support has been instrumental to getting me to Germany this summer, I can't thank you enough!"

"I have never met someone so passionate about language and teaching who easily created that same excitement in others. Your classes taught me to see the joy in the learning process and beyond language, to seek new experiences, challenges, and travels. You have undeniably shaped my time at Northwestern for the better - as you have with countless others. I am so grateful to have been your student."



Dominic DeSocio

New Faculty Member Profile: Dominic DeSocio

Prof DeSocio is thrilled to be joining the German faculty at Northwestern! Before coming to Northwestern, he completed my PhD in German Studies at the University of Michigan in 2021 and taught as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of German Studies at Vassar College.

During his graduate education, he won two teaching awards from the University of Michigan, including its highest honor for graduate student instructors. While at Vassar, he was awarded funding to establish a year-long, interdepartmental working group and foster collaboration around language pedagogy as well as to pioneer the use of virtual reality in teaching intermediate German in a project entitled "Mapping Queer Berlin." Drawing on these experiences and years-long work at Michigan's Center for Research on Learning and Teaching as a teaching consultant, his research interests include language-learning technologies, incorporating skills of humanistic inquiry into language courses, and diversifying what and how we teach in the German classroom through queer and feminist approaches. He has published articles and book chapters on topics such as teaching German queerly, undergraduate research in the language classroom, the temporal politics of the New Woman in the novels of Marieluise Fleißer, queer temporality in German modernist prose, and on queer German book culture more broadly.

He enjoys spending much of his free time with his miniature dachshund Helen, pursuing a passion for 1970s gay American literature, playing video games, and exploring the Midwest's nightlife as an avid disco and house music dancer. Living in Chicago and working at a university like Northwestern has been a long-held dream of his, so he is truly delighted to in this department and begin working with colleagues and students!

FACULTY UPDATES

Christine Helmer - Professor Helmer was Senior Martyr Fellow at the Marty Center for the Public Understanding of Religion at the University of Chicago Divinity School. She was elected to a four-member board of the Internationale Schleiermacher Gesellschaft based in Halle/Berlin, Germany and organized a conference on Schleiermacher's political philosophy that will take place Dec. 8-10, 2022 in Wittenberg, Germany. She organized the "Logic and Luther" zoom group that meets once a month to discuss how late medieval and early modern theologians make use of philosophy in order to construct doctrine, with a special focus on Christology and ecclesiology. Together with Professor Anne Käfer (University of Münster) Professor Helmer taught a five-week zoom course on Schleiermacher's 1799 text, *On Religion: Speeches to its Cultured Despisers* (Über die Religion: Reden an die Gebildeten unter ihren Verächtern). Professor Helmer continues to serve on the academic advisory board of the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies (Helsinki, Finland), and will give a talk at the 20th anniversary celebration of the Collegium in June 2022 on the topic of theology and cosmopolitan knowledge. Together with Professor Shannon Craigo-Snell (Louisville Presbyterian Seminary), Professor Helmer finished editing a volume, *Claiming God: Essays in Honor of Marilyn McCord Adams* to be published in summer 2022. Her edited volume, *Truth-Telling and Other Ecclesial Practices of Resistance*, to which she contributed an extensive introduction and a chapter on feminist constructions of doctrine, was published in summer 2021 with Lexington Press/Fortress Academic. She also published essays on topics pertaining to her current research on the theological production of knowledge, Luther studies, the relation between theology and the patriarchy. In April 2022, she was honored at a Northwestern University Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences investiture ceremony with the Peter B. Ritzma Chair in the Humanities.

Samuel Weber - In 2021 Sam Weber published "*Singularity: Politics and Poetics*," at the University of Minnesota Press. And in September of 2022 another book, "*Preexisting Conditions: Recounting the Plague*" will be published by Zone Books. This book derives from two courses on the topic of plague narratives given at Northwestern in 2020-21. A French collection of essays, "*Le Saut*" ("The Leap"), will appear in 2022 in the collection of the International College of Philosophy. In the past two years he has lectured via zoom at the University of Dundee (Scotland), Brown University, Dartmouth College and has been a keynote speaker at the 7th Annual Conference organized by "Derrida Today" (June 2022).



Professors Doerte Bischoff, Christine Helmer, and Ingrid Zeller at the Investiture ceremony for Professor Christine Helmer

Peter Fenves - In 2021 a volume that Peter Fenves had been working on—on and off—for almost twenty years finally made its way into print: Walter Benjamin *Toward the Critique of Violence: A Critical Edition*, ed. Peter Fenves and Julia Ng, trans. Lisa Marie Anderson, Peter Fenves, Austin Harrington, Markus Hardtmann, Dana Hollander, Julia Ng, Bruce Rosenstock, and Alberto Toscano (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2021). The volume contains a new translation of Benjamin's 1921 essay "Zur Kritik der Gewalt" as well as two sets of associated writings—twenty-some fragments Benjamin wrote in conjunction with the theme of violence or force and translations of all the contemporaneous works cited in the essay, only one of which (Georges Sorel's *Reflections on Violence*) had been previously translated. Fenves wrote the introduction to the volume as well as a preface to a passage from Hermann Cohen's *Ethics of Pure Will*. He participated in three colloquia in conjunction with the publication of the volume: the first was held via the

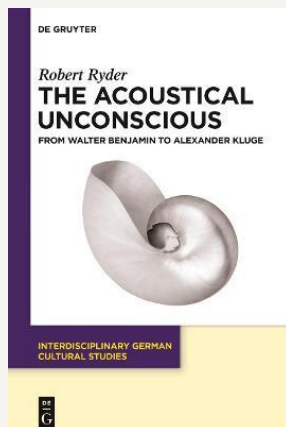
internet and hosted by Universidad Diego Portales (Santiago) and Pontificia Universidad Católica (Valparaíso), the second was also held via the internet and hosted by Simon Fraser University (Vancouver); and the third was held in-person in Evanston and sponsored by our German department and Program in Critical Theory. A segment of Fenves' introduction to this volume was translated into German by Professor Jonas Rosenbrück and published in *Deutsche Zeitschrift für Philosophie*. Stanford University Press will publish a second volume of Benjamin's writings co-edited and translated by Fenves in 2023; this volume will gather together for the first time in any language all (or, more exactly, almost all) of Benjamin's writings on Goethe. 2021 saw the publication of several other of Fenves' writings, including a commentary on the first draft of Heidegger's "Origin of the Work of Art" in a *Festschrift* for Rochelle Tobias; the forward to Anthony Adler's wonderful book on Hölderlin (which derives from a dissertation he completed in our German department); four entries in the recent Cambridge Kant Lexicon, stretching from Kant's writings in the 1750s to those in the 1790s; and an essay in Routledge's *Thinking: A Philosophical History* that represents a condensed version of the introduction to a forthcoming book, which is concerned with Benjamin's idea of epistemic diversity. He also participated in sundry other internet-mediated colloquia, including most recently a discussion of Werner Hamacher's contributions to the study of Walter Benjamin, which was hosted by Universidad Andrés Bello (Santiago).

Jörg Kreienbrock - After finishing his tenure as Chair, Professor Kreienbrock will be on sabbatical leave in the 2022/23 academic year. His plan is to finish a book manuscript tentatively entitled *Anti-Copernican Turns (Benn, Jünger, Brecht)* while being a guest scholar at the University of Rome, La Sapienza in the fall. Professor Kreienbrock will spend the spring and summer of 2023 as a fellow at the Ernst Auerbach Institute for Advanced Studies (University of Cologne) and the Institute of Media Studies at the University of Bochum. During this time he will work on a new research project investigating notions of renunciation, abandonment, and resignation in the literary and philosophical discourse of modernity.

Anna Parkinson - As a Faculty Fellow at the Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, Anna Parkinson presented work from her book project on Holocaust writing and humanism. She participated in: the panel "New Directions in German Studies" (Indiana University Bloomington); "New Directions for Teaching Emotion Studies" (German Studies Association conference); and presented a paper on the Auschwitz trial recordings at the Lessons & Legacies Workshop for New Research in Holocaust Studies (Northwestern). In spring she delivered the keynote address at the graduate conference "Non-Identity" at New York University (CLS/German). At Northwestern, she was a respondent at the launch of Rob Ryder's *The Acoustical Unconscious* (German Department); the respondent to the keynote address by Cecilia Sjörnholm at the conference "Hannah Arendt and Aesthetic Judgement" (Bienen School of Music); and she co-organized Kira Thurman's talk "Singing Like Germans." Two of her essays on trauma in Holocaust literature and psychoanalysis were published in edited volumes. Throughout 2022 she is a participant in the working group "Reckoning and Justice: An Inquiry into Historical Memory, the Arts, and Commemoration," hosted bi-monthly by the Franklin Humanities Institute (Duke University). She was awarded a Provost Grant for Research in Humanities, Social Sciences and the Arts in support of upcoming research trips to Germany.

Franziska Lys - Professor Lys continues to focus her work on improving language teaching through research and course development projects. Over the last year, she has been working with a group of NU faculty from across disciplines on a Buffett Catalyst Grant called "achieving gender equality through the language curriculum". The Buffett Catalyst Grant (two years of support of up to \$ 150,000 per year through the Buffett Institute of Global Affairs) allows researchers through collaborative work to explore topics of global significance by uncovering new questions and perspectives to achieve United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Professor Lys is happy to report that the group received the grant. In addition, Professor Lys is working with three other colleagues on a publication on collaborative practices and material development for less-commonly-taught languages to be published in 2023 and on converting three culture courses to WordPress and developing interactive learning scenarios using H5P. The latter project is supported by an Alumnae of Northwestern 2021-2022 grant.

When not researching, writing, and developing new teaching materials, 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. Professor Lys continues to work with the faculty in the Middle East and North African Languages Program which she has been directing for the last four years. As program director she is responsible for hiring, reappointment, and promotion of faculty, new course development and budgeting.



Professor Ryder's book *"The Acoustical Unconscious: From Walter Benjamin to Alexander Kluge"*

Robert Ryder - In March 2022, Rob published his first monograph, *The Acoustical Unconscious: From Walter Benjamin to Alexander Kluge*, with De Gruyter Press. As the first book-length study in English of Benjamin's linguistic, cultural-historical, and media-theoretical reflections on sound, the book takes its departure from Benjamin's notion of the optical unconscious as a way to begin thinking about—and differentiating from—its acoustical equivalent.

Rob also began his first year as the study abroad advisor in the department. He not only advised a number of students who are studying German this summer in cities like Leipzig, Hamburg and Bayreuth, but he also began—under the expert mentorship of the outgoing study abroad advisor, John Paluch, and with the help of our graduate student alumnus, Clemens Ackermann—an internship program with AREA2036 in Stuttgart. Rob looks forward to expanding this internship opportunity and offering future students more options for finding internships in German-speaking countries.

Ingrid Zeller - It has been another rewarding year for Professor of Instruction Ingrid Zeller. Most recently, Ingrid enjoyed co-organizing the ninth annual cross-institutional German College Immersion Weekend in Northern Illinois by the title of Vom Kaffeehaus zum

Biergarten: Kultur und Küche im Deutschunterricht, held at the Goethe-Institut Chicago on May 7, 2022, in which more than 20 Northwestern students participated. She was also delighted to serve on the Council on Language Instruction committee that planned the Festival of Languages and Culture, which took place between May 16-20, 2022 and consisted of language and culture tables at the Rock, cultural and social events, and a Variety Show! Ingrid's conference presentations this year included a session at the CSCTFL (Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) on On the Case – Solve the Mystery: Crime, Espionage, and Detective Series in the German Curriculum, and at the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching on Foreign Languages) Convention on Black Lives Matter – in German-speaking Regions Too, together with Mohamed Esa and Mariah Carol.

She is currently serving as AP German Table Reader in Cincinnati and is looking forward to traveling to Bonn with AATG's new college program as this year's academic director in July. In August, Ingrid will be co-chairing a "Sektion" on Visuelles Lernen mit Bildern, Filmen, und Bild-Text Verbindungen at the IDT (Internationale Deutschlehrkräfte Tagung) in Vienna, and will also be giving a presentation in this context!

Ingrid is grateful for the extraordinary collaboration with wonderful students and colleagues at Northwestern, the AATG, the Goethe-Institut, and the AP community. As adviser for the GUAB (German Undergraduate Advisory Board), she applauds the fantastic events and projects, initiated or supported by our fabulous GUAB members this year, including the GUAB's active and creative engagement during the ninth annual cross-institutional German college immersion experience in Illinois, and the latest boat-ride with a German architecture tour and party on the Chicago River!

Denise Meuser - Denise Meuser serves as the Coordinator for the Beginning German program and enjoys working with and mentoring the graduate students as they take on the responsibility of teaching language courses. This past year, she taught online summer courses, Beginning and Intermediate German, and Focus speaking, in which students created their own podcasts in German highlighting personal interests that ranged from salsa dancing to the return of outdoor music festivals. Additionally, Denise completed graduate work in the School of Education and Social Policy and earned the Certificate in Higher Education Administration and Policy. She is an active member of Weinberg's Language Proficiency committee, chaired this year's departmental search committee and served as the Interim Council on Language Instruction Chair. She attended the Chicago Language Symposium in April, and continued service on the Funds committee, Advisory committee, and Teaching Award committee for the CLI. Denise is a Trustee on the Board of the German International School of Chicago currently serving in the executive committee as secretary and is excited to play a small part in the school's continued growth.

Martina Kerlova - Martina has spent the past academic year teaching in person and greatly enjoyed seeing students in the classrooms again. In German she also coordinated the Intermediate Curriculum, developing further our affiliation with TalkAbroad, and preparing big changes for next academic year (new textbook for 102!). In Slavic she continued to serve as Director of Undergraduate Studies and taught her course about the city of Prague. Martina published an article: "Erich Heller's Disinherited Mind: A Bohemian Jewish Germanist in Anglo-American Exile" in the *Journal of Austrian-American History*. Erich Heller was the Avalon Professor of German at Northwestern University in the 1960s and 1970s.

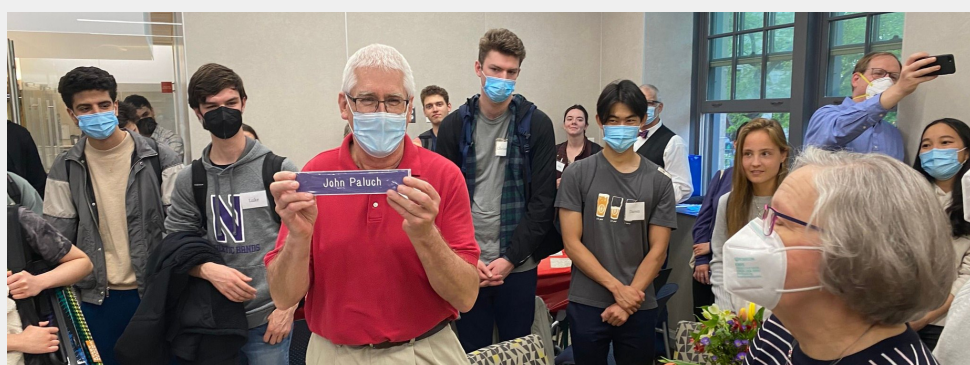
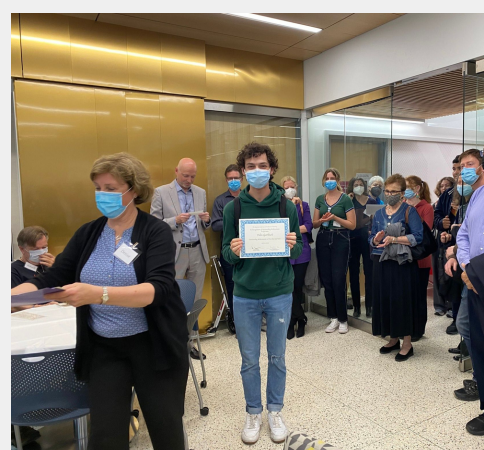
Xan Holt - Xan Holt joined the Department of German at Northwestern University as a Weinberg Postdoctoral Fellow in fall 2021. Since then, he has presented papers at the German Studies Association's annual conference, the annual conference of the Northeast Modern Language Association, and a conference on Cold War travelogues organized by the Leibniz-Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung in Berlin.

Isabel von Holt - Isabel von Holt's first book *Figurationen des Bösen im barocken Trauerspiel. Eine Studie zu Andreas Gryphius und Daniel Casper von Lohenstein*, came out in February 2022 with De Gruyter's book series "Frühe Neuzeit." The book project received awards from the Fonte-Stiftung, the Ernst-Reuter-Gesellschaft (ERG) and Deutscher Akademikerinnenbund (DAB). Her article „Recalcitrance, Resistance, and Revolt in Daniel Casper von Lohenstein's Ibrahim Sultan" appeared in the 2021 issue of *Feminist German Studies*. She presented her work at numerous conferences such as the American Comparative Literature Association and the German Studies Association and gave an invited talk on Neobaroque and Camp in Latin America at the Philipps-Universität Marburg. She taught a wide range of classes on the undergraduate and graduate level, with a focus on German literature and culture in the 20th and 21st centuries, and co-organized the German film series. For her involvement as a Faculty Fellow at Willard Residential College, she received the 2022 T. William Heyck Award.



PROFESSOR PALUCH'S RETIREMENT AND SPRING GRILLFEST

Congratulations to all on the successful completion of the academic year 2022. It was a delight to see so many of our fantastic, talented, wonderful, and fabulous students and to celebrate the end of the year with them and the faculty in the German Department at our celebratory Grillfest on May 24, 2022. We wish you all a well-deserved break and meaningful and inspiring summer and look forward to seeing you again in the near future. This Grillfest also served as a celebration of the long and illustrious career of Professor John Paluch, who is retiring.





A WONDERFUL TIME HAD BY ALL

Congrats to the Class of 2022



Congratulations to all of our German majors and minors who graduated in June 2022. Below, our students tell prospective students why they studied German and what mattered to them most in choosing this path. You can also read about their career plans and personal dreams for the future.

Majors



**Mackenzie
Gentz**

I used to tell people that I found German by accident. My parents—one Norwegian and the other Korean—did not want to compete for which heritage language I would choose to learn, so I chose a language I had always liked but never studied. Over the years, puzzle pieces arose, which fill in more background for why I chose German. They include: my mysterious German last name, which comes from neither of my parents; the report I completed on Austria and PEZ candy when I was 10; the dense history of music and art in Germany; and my several missed opportunities to visit Germany as a teenager. Little by little, my life's details pointed me to German—it was no accident. When I think of the German Department, I think of people.

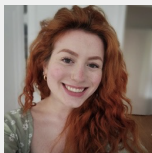


**Christopher
Mazurek**

I have been in love with the German language and culture since high school. It was there I began to study German and even had the

privilege of studying abroad in Austria, which introduced me to the beautiful, vibrant culture of German-speaking countries. I knew I wanted to major in German at Northwestern, and the German department went above and beyond to nurture my interests. After my first year at Northwestern, I jumped at the opportunity to study abroad in Berlin with Northwestern professors, which turned out to be one of the highlights of my undergraduate career!

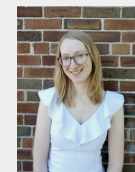
In the major, I focused on 20th Century German and Eastern European history and how historical trends have evolved into contemporary German politics in the 21st Century. I greatly enjoyed this topic of study, as it made me feel closer to my family who had experienced that history first-hand. I believe that the German major has taught me to analyze complex issues by considering various, multi-faceted perspectives, a skill which will undoubtedly prove itself fundamental to my future career in medicine. I cannot thank the German department and its myriad of wonderful faculty and staff enough for making my undergraduate years unforgettable!



**Sarah
Reitmeister**

I started studying German in high school when my childhood best friend first connected with her biological family from Switzerland. Taking German together was a way of supporting her in her journey to get to know the people she'd waited her entire life to meet.

Little did I know, that experience would spark a deep passion for learning German language, history, and culture. The language came very naturally to me, and Germany's importance in world history cannot be understated. I majored in German at Northwestern as a way to keep learning and keep the language in my life. Although I will not be using it in my data science career, I hope to keep up my skills by consuming more German media, like my favorite Netflix show, *Dark*.



**Jessa
Shortridge**

I began learning German in high school, and especially after participating in my high school's two-week German exchange program, I knew I wanted to continue learning the language. Arriving at Northwestern I dove right into the German program, finding a community of passionate educators and friendly students. It was a no-brainer to declare a German minor, and subsequently switch to a double major along with theatre. I have learned so much in the past four years, not only about the language, but also history, culture, literature, and current issues in German-speaking countries. I am also so grateful for my broadened perspective and for all the relationships I have formed along the way. Unfortunately COVID prevented me from studying abroad in Berlin my junior year, but I'm thrilled to say I will be living in Germany next year, teaching English through a Fulbright grant!



**Aili
Simpson**

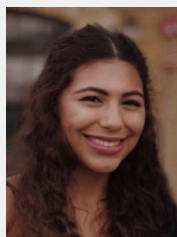
I chose to study German because cross cultural experiences and communication are important values to me. The department has also been a very welcoming community and a wonderful addition to my Northwestern experience. I have learned a lot - from May Ayim to Bauhaus. I am excited to use the knowledge and skills I gained to approach problems in my future career from a more global perspective.

Minors



**Malaysia
Billman**

While I had taken German throughout high school, I didn't truly fall in love with the language and culture until I started taking German classes at Northwestern. Although taking German courses (and eventually minoring in it) was not an initial part of my college plan, I am so glad I decided to continue studying German as it has led to so many wonderful experiences and meaningful relationships with both my peers and mentors throughout my time here at Northwestern. As a Bienen student who plans to study and eventually even work in Germany, learning German has been so relevant to my musical studies as it has given me fresh new perspectives on both classical music and the world around me and I have experienced so many opportunities that I would not have had without German. I am so grateful for the German department and their support and investment in my studies and interests and I can't wait to see where my journey with German will take me.



**Bianca
Crockett**

Coming to Northwestern, I was unsure about what I wanted to study. I was overwhelmed by

the amount of choice I had, but one area I knew I wanted to explore was the German language to be able to better communicate with my family in Berlin. The small class size, easy-going atmosphere, and engaging curriculum made my transition to University so easy and I quickly knew I wanted to study as much German as I could during my time at Northwestern. I have taken at least one German class every quarter since coming here and have learned so much not only about the language, but also the culture, history and have utilized my knowledge in my other areas of study. My German minor and working with the amazing faculty in the German department has been one of the most fulfilling aspects of my education here. Although I didn't get a chance to study in Germany, I am actively looking for career opportunities there and excited to see where my minor takes me.



**Shayan
Ghodsi**

Being that many members of my family emigrated to Germany, I originally began studying German in high school to strengthen my family connection. I continued pursuing German at Northwestern to gain a broader perspective on world affairs and because I enjoyed immersing myself in a foreign culture. I really enjoyed my studies at Northwestern, particularly due to the wide variety of coursework I was able to take. I plan on using my skills in German mostly as a means of communicating with my friends and family who also speak the language. However, I can also see myself continuing to study German to become a certified medical translator in accordance with my ambitions of becoming a physician.



**Wendy
Li**

My interest in German began in middle school, oddly enough because of my love for FC Bayern at the time. I wanted to learn the language on my own, but I was very confused and gave up. At first taking German in college was a fun thing for me and a way to fulfill a childhood dream, but I'm glad I stuck with it. I enjoyed my freshman summer in Germany, although I did not participate in the Berlin program, and the German literature, politics, philosophy, and history I learned later at Northwestern. Overall, it's very nice to read books, watch movies, and

browse the internet in another language. I hope the pandemic will end soon, that travel becomes easier, and then I can spend some time in Germany.



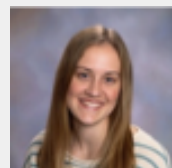
**Aaron
Pulvermacher**

I first started studying German during my first year at Northwestern on a whim while trying to find classes to fulfill my theme requirements for my engineering degree. Not only did I end up really enjoying the class, but I also found a great department that was willing to assist me in any way they could so that I could improve my German skills. Before my first year studying German was finished, I ended up adding a German minor and planning a trip to Germany to take language courses to continue in my German education. I plan on using the German language skills that I obtained at Northwestern to open more opportunities in the international job market and to perhaps one day return to Germany to work.



**Sam
Rezaei**

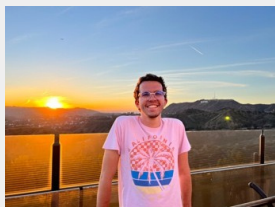
Sam majoring in Economics and Biology, Pre-medicine, with a German minor. He is currently involved in Northwestern Men's Rugby, Relay for Life, WNUR-FM, Northwestern Art Review, and Effective Altruism. He is a researcher in Neal Blair Biogeochemistry Lab, and a technician at the Illinois Glaucoma Center (information from LinkedIn)



**Caroline
Roach**

I started studying German because my grandma grew up in Germany and I wanted to learn more about her past and culture, because she often did not talk about it. I have a few cousins in Germany and my twin brother is also taking German at his university so it was a way for us all to connect on a new level. I really enjoyed the German department and classes at Northwestern because it extended way beyond simply language learning. I learned a lot about cultural norms and expectations, history, and food through both the classes offered and the multitudes of various events available for students. As a chemistry major, German was a great addition, not only to

diversify my schedule but also for the future is a lot of interesting chemistry research going on in Germany, as well as many basic fundamentals and concepts of chemistry that are founded in the German language, so I am hoping to use both aspects of my time at Northwestern in tandem in the future.



Julian Sanchez

My time spent in the German department has been the most impactful part of my Northwestern experience. I started taking German classes on a whim my freshman year but with much encouragement and support from the department I managed to attend language school in Bremen, Germany the summer after my first year. Instilled with a newfound passion for German, language learning and international relations after my trip; I have been intent on making my way back to Europe ever since. My past four years as a business German minor have equipped me with cultural and historical knowledge critical for living and working in Germany. Although my post-graduate plans are not yet set in stone, I will either be studying or working in Europe the following year, in no small part due to assistance from the German department faculty. I'm sincerely grateful to everyone in the department for taking the time to listen to my ever-changing future plans and pointing me in the right direction- towards Deutschland!



**Student Spotlight:
Mackenzie Gentz**

Starting on 26 June Mackenzie will travel to the following cities: Cuzco, Peru; Malaga, Spain; Prague, Czech Republic; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and Onomichi City, Hiroshima, Japan.

In January 2021, she was awarded the Circumnavigator grant, which funds a research project that requires a circumnavigation of the globe. Her project looks at English as a Second Language (ESL) programs' curriculum with regard to accent training around the world. The study will mark a smooth transition into her second language acquisition (Deutsch als Zweitsprache) master's program, which she will start in Germany in October.

She is immensely grateful to still have the opportunity to travel for the grant, which was delayed for a year due to COVID-19.

Message from GUAB

German Undergraduate Advisory Board

This year's GUAB (German Undergraduate Advisory Board) had an amazing year packed with numerous events based on engaging students with the German language, culture, and community. We started out fall quarter with our first Kits and Cats day, where ETHS students taking German came to our campus for fun events, games, and conversation in German. We also went down to the Christkindlmarkt to get some festive food and goodies. In winter quarter we had our Faschings event with McCormick, complete with Faschingskrapfen Pretzels. Spring quarter was home to our Immersion Day, where students from German departments at numerous universities gathered at the Goethe Institute for workshops about German language and culture. In spring quarter we also held our boat tour, where Professor Ingrid Zeller led a fantastic architecture tour in German and we got to catch up while cruising in the city sights. Throughout the year we continued with our Stammtisch tradition, meeting monthly at the Celtic Knot for appetizers and conversation. GUAB would like to thank our fantastic faculty advisor Professor Ingrid Zeller for all of her help this year and making many of these events possible, as well as the entire German department.

Award Winners

Award for Outstanding Achievement in First-Year German

Felix Garkisch, Bienen School of Music, Class of 2023

Award for Outstanding Achievement in Second-Year German

Ace Chisholm, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Class of 2023

Géza von Molnár Award - German Achievement Award

Mackenzie Gentz, Bienen School of Music & Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Class of 2023

Honors from the German Department for 2021-2022

Mackenzie Gentz, Bienen School of Music & Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Class of 2023

Friedman-Kline Travel Award Winners

Griffin Berse, Ava Dahnke, Maddie Farr, Chloe Fisher, Jacob Garcia, Felix Garkisch, Leo Kurland, Aymen Lamsahel, Lindsey Sonnenfeldt, and Allison Spring

Max Kade Travel Award Winners

Eduardo Andrade, Ishika Arora, Rodrigo Carmena-Black, Ava Dahnke, Mia Gleason, Adrian Hoffer, Leo Kurland and Anna Meier

Evening O'Skits



How wonderful to have an in person Evening O'Skits again this past quarter after a two year pause due to the pandemic!



*Thank you to everyone who performed and shared their fantastic ideas and impressive German skills, and their dedicated instructors
herzlichen Dank!!!*



We had the great pleasure of seeing our incredibly talented students in first and second year German classes perform creative, funny, and fabulous skits during this year's 36th annual Evening O'Skits



**May 24,
2022**

Alumni in the Wild

Greetings from Ben Povman, former German student at Northwestern and participant in the Berlin 2019 program! Ben graduated from Northwestern with a degree in statistics in 2021, works in New York, and is currently traveling along the Rhine and visiting Köln, Koblenz, Heidelberg, and Bonn!



Ben Povman '21

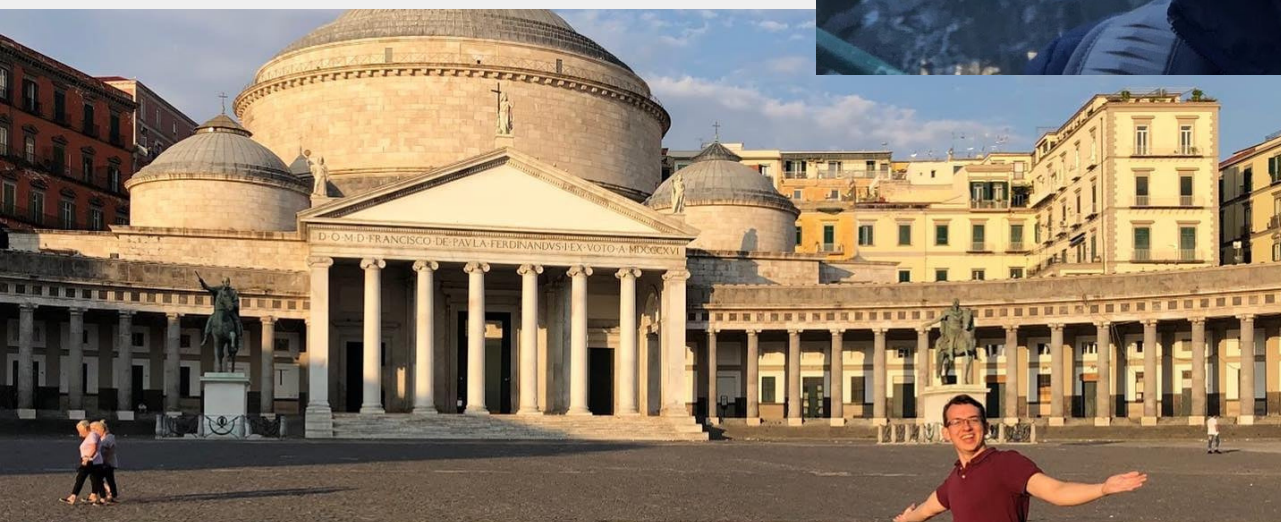


Alumni in the Wild

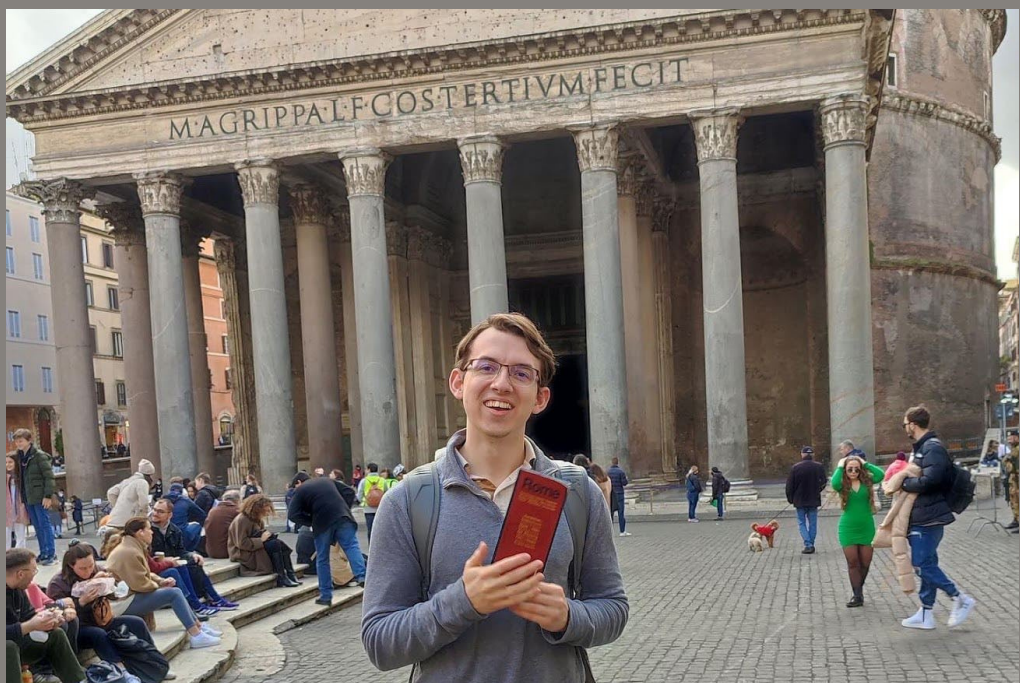
Orion Forowycz is currently studying for a master's degree at the Vienna University of Technology, in Austria, with support from Erasmus Mundus. After Orion graduated, he traveled to Italy to begin the InterMaths program at the University of L'Aquila. The interdisciplinary nature of the program builds upon Orion's majors in integrated science and physics during his time at Northwestern.



**Orion
Forowycz
'21**



Orion is one of several recent Wildcats who have won funding from Erasmus Mundus to pursue joint master's degree programs across multiple EU countries. When he's not hard at work crunching numbers (that's what mathematicians do, right?), Orion's gotten to see some truly incredible sites in his two host countries.





**Aymen
Lamsahel
and Rob
Ryder**

For nearly 8 weeks between June and August 2022, Aymen Lamsahel (MEAS, class 2023) worked as a paid intern among the research teams at ARENA 2036. Located in Stuttgart, ARENA2036 stands for "**A**ctive **R**esearch **E**nvironment for the **N**ext generation of **A**utomobiles," and is dedicated to improving the production and manufacturing of automobiles and other modes of future mobility with innovative and creative projects in an open, co-working environment.

Aymen went to meetings with partners, helped them prep for their up-coming Stuttgart Conference on Automotive Production (SCAP 2022), and was able to help out and speak to experts from various fields working in heterogeneous projects on the co-working space. For Aymen, it was "the best summer [he] ever had," and he will use the network he established in Stuttgart to apply for a Masters in Germany after he graduates from Northwestern.



You

Thanks to the incredible generosity of both the Friedman-Kline Foundation and the Max Kade Foundation, the Northwestern German department is able to provide significant financial support for summer abroad programs to our German students. This year, we have awarded \$31,000 to 17 German students from freshman to seniors in various fields of study, with diverse ethnic backgrounds and at all levels of language proficiency.

We are pleased to announce that the Max Kade Foundation Travel Grants have been awarded to eight of our German 101 students, all of whom were accepted and will be participating in our eight-week summer program, “Berlin: Global City in the Center of Europe.” The names of recipients are: Eduardo Andrade, Ishika Arora, Rodrigo Carmena-Black, Ava Dahnke, Mia Gleason, Adrian Hoffer, Leo Kurland and Anna Meier. Congratulations to all of you!

We also had an incredibly strong pool of applicants for the Friedman-Kline Foundation Fellowship this Spring quarter, all of whom have taken one or more of our German courses. Of the 11 award recipients, two will be travelling to Germany on prestigious DAAD-RISE grants, one student will be in Stuttgart for 6 weeks on an internship at the research campus AREA 2036 (which stands for “Active Research Environment for the Next generation of Automobiles”), and the rest will be participating in intensive German language programs from Leipzig and Bayreuth to Hamburg and Jena. The names of our 11 outstanding recipients are: Griffin Berse, Ava Dahnke, Maddie Farr, Chloe Fisher, Jacob Garcia, Felix Garkisch, Leo Kurland, Aymen Lamsahel, Lindsey Sonnenfeldt, and Allison Spring. Congratulations to all of you!

Thank you to all of our additional donors and friends. Your support enables the department to serve the students and the university community at large to the best of our ability.