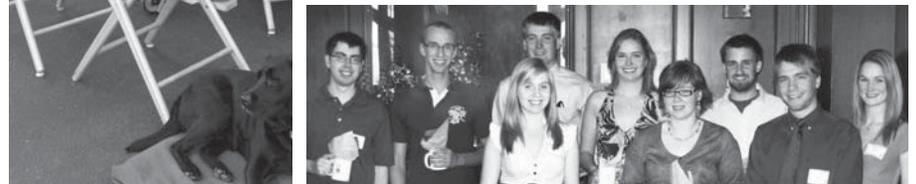


# gods

## Newsletter

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# Letter from the Chair

## Dear Friends,



On April 30 we celebrated seventy German major and minor graduates. Among these were seven students who had written Honors Theses with topics ranging from medieval historiography to the comparison of German to American TV-newscasts. It turns out that 80% of our graduating majors and minors have spent time in German-speaking countries. Many of this year's graduates will now return to Europe for a summer or even an entire year, as interns or English teachers. We hope to hear from them soon!

Over the summer, the Max Kade House will be moving from north campus to the new residential building, North Quad. "International studies" will be one of North Quad's themes and we are pleased that the Max Kade House will be part of this new community.

2009-2010 was an exciting academic year. Our colleague, Kader Konuk, was promoted (pending Regent's approval) to Associate Professor of German and Comparative Literature (page 5). Another colleague, Andreas Gailus, received one of the prestigious Michigan Humanities Awards for a book-length project entitled "The Monstrous Angel: A Poetics of Ambiguity in the Age of Incest." We also had the great pleasure to award the Frank X. Braun prize to one of our graduate student teachers, Kathryn Sederberg, for her outstanding teaching. Kathryn was not the only graduate student whose teaching skills were recognized: Solveig Heinz received the Graduate Student Instructor Award from Rackham Graduate School. I should also mention that Simon Walsh received a DAAD fellowship to continue with his dissertation research in Berlin, Alan Itkin was selected as one of the graduate fellows at the Michigan Institute for the Humanities, and Seth Howes was admitted to the Mellon summer seminar.

We had the great pleasure to host Cem Özdemir, the Head of the German Green Party, who spoke about "Driving on a Dead End Road: Why Germany

Fell Behind and What it Takes to Get Back to the Forefront of Progress" at the International Institute. The lecture has been scheduled to air on the Michigan Channel on May 7, 2010 at 9:30 and May 8, 2010 at 6:00.

As always, we invited several prominent literary scholars to the German Studies Colloquium. This spring, Debjani Gunguly, Director, Humanities Research Centre at Australian National University talked to us about the concept of world literature and the Anglo-American novel after 9/11, and Devin Fore, Assistant Professor at Princeton, explored the emergence of factographic realism in the 1920s. This year's lecture in honor of one of our emeriti, Werner Grilk, was delivered by Niklas Largier, currently Chair of Berkeley's German Department. Largier's lecture, entitled "The Plasticity of the Soul: Mystical Darkness and the Invention of Aesthetic Experience," was followed by a lively discussion and an equally lively dinner. The German Studies Colloquium, convened by our colleague, Vanessa Agnew, also served as the place where graduate students prepared their own conference, "GEFÜHLSWELTEN: Affect, Culture, Community" to be held in November.

We are looking forward to the return of Sarah Jackson and Josh Hawkins, graduate students who have been researching their dissertations in Berlin, and we would like to welcome our new cohort of graduate students: Hannah McMurray, Emma Thomas, Andrés Gelabert and Sam Heidepriem. We are also eagerly awaiting the return of our colleague, Scott Spector, who will start chairing the department at the beginning of July.

It has been a pleasure to serve as the chair of this vibrant department over the last few years.

With warm regards,

Julia Hell

hell@umich.edu

# In the Classroom

## Living and Working in Germany – Our Summer Internship Program makes it possible

By Peggy Wunderwald-Jensen

What do BMW in Munich, a children’s museum in Berlin and a castle in Upper Bavaria have in common? Not much, you might say, except they are located in Germany. But there is one other thing: All three are among the large number of companies that have hosted our students

for internships over the past eight years. 20-25 students, mostly undergraduates, take advantage of this unique opportunity every year. Unique? Yes, without any doubt, because internship programs are not necessarily standard in college language departments and many students throughout the country are on their own to find a way to combine cultural immersion abroad with practical work experience.

Based on the efforts of individual GLL faculty and Mechtild Medzihradsky, staff member, to help students find internships in Germany in the late nineties and the growing number of students who asked for help, the department under the chairmanship of Prof. Fred Amrine decided in 2002 on a new structure and established the CDS-UM German Department Summer Internship Program in Germany. The program is based on a cooperation agreement with CDS International, Inc., a New York-based nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing practical training opportunities abroad for American students and young professionals. CDS was founded in 1968 as a partner organization of the Carl Duisberg Society in Germany and successfully maintained and strengthened its status as one of the leaders in German-American exchange over the years. Today, CDS has a wide network of partners in Germany in the corporate, public, and non-profit sector.

Key to the continuing growth of our program is the division of responsibility between CDS and GLL,

### Sample Internship Placements in Germany 2002-2009

Volkswagen AG

BMW Group

KuKa Roboter GmbH

Eddie Bauer GmbH & Co KG

Berlin Adler (football team)

Bundesministerium für  
Gesundheit und Soziales

Robert-Koch-Institut

Fraunhofer Institut

Umweltforschungszentrum  
Leipzig

Naturpark Bayerischer Wald

Wacker Chemie

BASF AG

Charité Berlin

Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Auswärtige Politik

Deutsche Welthungerhilfe

Staatliche Museen Berlin

Schloss- und Gartenverwaltung  
Coburg

Kindermuseum Berlin

Musikfestspiele  
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Türkischer Bund  
Berlin-Brandenburg



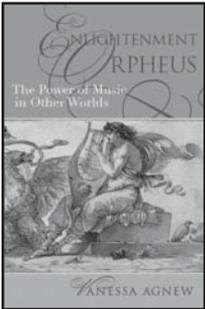
“As a participant in the MSIP Program I had the opportunity to intern with the German Council on Foreign Relations in Berlin. This was the first time I had worked abroad and it was an absolutely amazing

experience. I loved working in an international environment so much that after finishing my degree I joined the CDS International team and am now Program Officer for the USA Internship Program. My first experience working abroad gave me the requisite international experience and intercultural understanding to succeed in my current career and I would recommend this program to anyone who is interested in exploring a career with an international focus.”

– Sara DeLano, 2004 program participant

*continued on page 7*

# Faculty Highlights



**Vanessa Agnew** is the winner of the Kenshur Book Prize for 2008 for her book, *Enlightenment Orpheus: the Power of Music in Other Worlds* (Oxford University Press, 2008). In November she attended the 75th annual meeting of the American Musicological Society, where she was presented with the Lewis Lockwood Award for the same book. Agnew also edited a collection on Settler and Creole Re-Enactment.

**Fred Amrine's** article "The Unconscious of Nature: Analyzing Disenchantment in Faust I" was published in *The Goethe Yearbook*. Another article on Mahler has been accepted for inclusion in a forthcoming collection on Goethe's *Faust*.

**Kerstin Barndt** presented on Nobel Laureate in Literature, Herta Müller, at this year's Nobel Symposium, organized by the Center for the Study of Complex Systems. Her article, "Industrial Ruins and Exhibitionary Temporalities" was published in a special issue of the *PMLA* on museum studies.

**Andreas Gailus** received a Michigan Humanities Award (MHA) for his book-length project on "The Monstrous Angel: A Poetics of Ambiguity in the Age of Incest." He also edited a special issue of *Germanic Review* on Kleist.

**Pascal Grosse** presented a talk in the Science, Technology and Society Speaker Series on "The Secular Brain and Its Discontents: Neuroscience and Religion from the Seventeenth Century to the Present" in December. He also delivered a guest lecture on "Gehirn und Geschlecht: Neurobiologie, Sexualität und bürgerliche Gesellschaft, 1750-1900" at the Historisches Seminar, Universität Zuerich.

**Julia Hell** will be a fellow at the Institute for the Humanities in 2010-20. Her *Ruins of Modernity* (which contains essays by Kerstin Barndt, Helmut Puff, George Steinmetz, and Johannes von Moltke) was published in March.

**Kader Konuk** will be the Department's new Associate Chair in the fall. Her book *East West Mimesis: Auerbach in Turkey* (Stanford University Press) is due out shortly. Konuk will spend July 2010 at the Research School of the Humanities at the Australian National University.

**Andy Markovits** was named an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor. In May, 2010 he will serve as The Sir Peter Ustinov Visiting Professor at the University of Vienna teaching a lecture course and a seminar on prejudice in sports.

**Helmut Puff** was awarded a six-month fellowship at Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbuettel, for his project "Geschichte der Sittengeschichte."

**Robin Queen** has been awarded an Arthur F. Thurnau Professorship. She also received a Michigan Humanities Fellowship to pursue work on language revitalization.

**Scott Spector** has been named Chair of the Department effective July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2013. He spent the past winter semester in Italy teaching UM undergrads in the Florence study abroad program.

**George Steinmetz** finished editing *Sociology and Empire*, forthcoming with Duke UP. He was awarded the Charles Tilly Collegiate Professor of Sociology and Germanic Languages and Literatures at the University of Michigan.

**Johannes von Moltke** will be stepping down from his duties as Associate Chair and is looking forward to devoting himself to his research on Siegfried Kracauer during an upcoming sabbatical. He presented work at several conferences and workshops last year – among them a large-scale project on East German Cinema at Indiana University, and a workshop on the "Berlin School."

**Silke Weineck** joined the faculty of the Comparative Literature Department in fall 2009 with a 25% appointment. Her most recent article, "Invisible Person": Carl Schmitt and the Master Trope of Power" appeared in *Germanic Review*.

**Hermann Weiss** conducted research in Polish archives as well as in the Bundesarchiv Berlin on two Upper Silesian Reichsautobahnlager (1940-1943). In addition, he inspected the sites of these camps, whose inmates were mostly Polish Jews from eastern Upper Silesia, and revisited the area in Lower Silesia which is the subject of his book, *Buschvorwerk im Riesengebirge. Eine Gemeinde in Niederschlesien von den Kriegsjahren bis zur Vertreibung* (2006).

## Kader Konuk

Trained as a comparatist in German, Turkish, and English literature, Kader Konuk widens the horizon of German Studies by highlighting the transnational context of German cultural, literary, and intellectual life. As one of the pioneers in Turkish German studies she has contributed to the understanding of postwar Turkish migration to Germany. With her new monograph *East West Mimesis: Auerbach in Turkey*, which will appear with Stanford University Press in Fall 2010, she aims at something new. In examining the role of German Jews in Turkey during the war, this is the first monograph to investigate migration in the reverse direction: *East West Mimesis* traces the plight of German-Jewish humanists who escaped Nazi persecution by seeking exile in a Muslim-dominated society.

Kader Konuk's research investigates the intersections between the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim worlds, beginning with the Ottoman Westernization reforms of the early eighteenth century and continuing on to current debates over Muslims in Europe. In examining the context for East-West relations—ambassadorial missions, military adventures, travel, migration, and exile—her work analyzes cultural practices like integration, assimilation, and ethnomasquerade (adopting the dress of another culture), practices that often shape encounters between East and West.

Teaching in two units, the Departments of Comparative Literature and German, Konuk pursues a single overarching goal—that of promoting cultural fluency and analytical thinking by exploring literature in its historical context. In the German Department, she has spent the past years developing a transnational approach to teaching German literature and culture. This involves emphasizing Germany's ethnic and religious diversity and attending to the cultural,



social, and political intersections between German literature and other national literatures. In taking such an approach, her courses occupy an important niche within the department, where students are challenged to reach beyond the canon to think about literature in a historically-informed and socially-critical way. At the same time, her courses occupy an important niche within the discipline of German Studies generally, ensuring that the cultural output of immigrants and other minority groups gains broader visibility. Exposing American students to such a multifarious picture of German culture poses decided challenges. Students typically emerge from these courses newly sensitized to minority voices—for some students such literature strikes a profoundly resonant chord—and they become capable of drawing instructive comparisons between Germany, the United States, and elsewhere.

*Pending the Regent's approval, Konuk will be promoted to Associate Professor with tenure effective September 1.*

Kader may  
be reached at  
konuk@umich.edu

## Honors Workshop Travels to Detroit Opera House

Solveig Heinz, doctoral student in our department, has served this past school year as an Honors Fellow for the LS&A Honors Program. As such, she reviewed applications that the program received and was in charge of organizing a special event for the Honors students. She decided to share her interest in early 20th century German opera with the group. Thus she embarked on a trip to the Detroit Opera House with twenty interested opera novices. The students were first given a tour of the



Opera House, which included its costume shop, archive, and rehearsal rooms. After an insightful lecture on the opera of the night, Verdi's *Nabucco*, the Michigan student group enjoyed the opus with its famous and touching Slaves Chorus. For the majority of the group, this visit was the first exposure to a live opera leaving students in awe of the beauty of Detroit's Opera House, the quality of the performance, and the unique atmosphere that the operatic genre creates.

## Predoctoral Fellowship Awarded to Ela Gezen



Ela Gezen is a PhD candidate in her fifth year of graduate studies in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. Her dissertation, *Writing and Sounding the City: Turkish-German Representations of Berlin*, conducts a

comparative analysis of Turkish-German literature and music, focusing on representations of Berlin.

Upon nomination by the department, she has been selected by the Rackham Graduate School as one of the 72 (out of approximately 240 nominated students) Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship recipients for the academic year 2010-2011. The fellowship includes a stipend, tuition waiver, and health insurance coverage for 12 months, allowing her to focus on the completion of her dissertation by the end of the coming academic year. She is very excited about being selected and would like to thank the department, especially her advisors Kader Konuk and Vanessa Agnew, for their continued support.

## Codrescu Discusses Dada with AGIG

The University of Michigan hosted retired professor, NPR commentator, and writer Andrei Codrescu in December, 2009. Codrescu was featured in several events during his 4 day visit, including an interview on "Living Writers" aired on WCBN-FM; a signing of his recent book *The Posthuman Dada Guide: tzara and lenin play chess at Borders*; and a question and answer session with members of the MFA Writing Program.

The Avant Garde Interest Group (AGIG) was one of Codrescu's sponsors. AGIG is a Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop founded by graduate students and currently housed in the German Department. The AGIG met with Codrescu to discuss *The Posthuman Dada Guide*. Conversation ranged from the writer's perspective on the avant-garde, the relevance of the legacy of Dada for the 21st century, and the usefulness of formal experiment in the arts, to politics and spectacle, and the humanities and virtual technology.

## Living and Working in Germany – Our Summer Internship Program makes it possible

*continued from page 3*

optimizing each partner's expertise and strengths: While CDS places our students in customized internships based on their background and arranges the necessary logistics including the processing of work permits, GLL developed classes to frame the students' experience overseas. Thus students have the opportunity to prepare in the classroom for the linguistic and cultural challenges before they leave, and to reflect on their internship experience in an academic context when they return. The fact that they can earn credit by taking these classes contributes to the attractiveness of the program, as well as GLL's ability to support students financially in their endeavors. Thanks to the Sturm Endowment, we have been able to provide partial funding to over 100 students, mainly to those who work in unpaid internships in museums, nature reserves, government institutions, or research institutes.

We are glad to be in a position to provide our students with the necessary tools to integrate an internship into their German studies and thus help them prepare for their future careers. Intercultural awareness and global expertise have become almost indispensable to a young professional's resume and smooths their path into a successful career after college graduation.

Peggy Wunderwald-Jensen  
Lecturer, Germanic Languages and Literatures  
Midwest Representative, CDS International, Inc.

"Right after my sophomore year, I had an internship at the European Academy Berlin. I was always interested in international relations and the internship gave me a confidence boost that this was the right career choice. Not only did I



learn about the EU and European integration, I met incredible people with whom I still keep in touch. Even though I was in Germany for only 3 months that time, my German really improved and after I was more motivated to keep studying the language. The internship had a positive and lasting impact: I am currently in Germany with the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals Program and completing an internship at the German Marshall Fund in Berlin. It was easier to find this internship as I already had experience working in Germany."

– Anna Lembryk, 2007 program participant



"My internship at the Berlin Institute for European Policy provided valuable and marketable experience for further employment in Germany and as I applied to graduate school. The experience also gave an extensive network of

professional contacts, who I am still in touch with today. The internship program is a great way to take the first steps of launching a global career."

– William Metzger, 2006 program participant

## Welcoming Kader Abdolah, Dutch-Iranian Writer

By Ton Broos

For a few weeks in March, the imposing picture of a head with characteristic moustache graced the walls of the department. The posters announced the residence of Kader Abdolah, famous Dutch-Iranian writer from March 17-22. After fighting both the shah and the ayatollahs with his writings, he fled to the Netherlands in 1988, where he started to write in Dutch. He made a name for himself with acclaimed novels and a weekly column in one of the leading newspapers. A translation of his novel *My Father's Notebook*, was followed recently by *The House of the Mosque*, a bestseller in Holland. A new and friendlier translation of the Koran was one of his latest projects and he is working on a novel about Iran. The students in Dutch 112 had the greatest fun when Kader Abdolah, speaking from his own experience of learning Dutch, kept encouraging them in class to speak in their best Dutch. For the students in Dutch 232 it was the culmination of their translation efforts to discuss with the author some of the snags that they hit when struggling

with his texts, which they had begun to read earlier in the semester. All of them were proud to have translated five of his weekly columns, with only a few untranslatable 'Dutchisms,' like 'poldermodel.' The intention is to have them published at the end of his tour of America.

Kader Abdolah also gave a most inspiring presentation called "Writer on the Run" in the department of Comparative Literature and joined the students in Kader Konuk's class *Islam and the West*, after which he joined Anton Shammas' colloquium, "Arabesque."

It was fitting that during those sunny days he found in our Germanic Department inspiration for his column in the Dutch newspaper *De Volkskrant*, celebrating the first day of spring, by quoting from the medieval poet Heynric van Veldeke, a true Germanic poet, shared by Germans and Dutch.

Kader Abdolah with students from Dutch 232 and 112.



# Scandinavian Studies

## The Exchange of a Lifetime

By Marcus Berger

For seven years in a row, the Scandinavian 234 class has participated in a sort of exchange program with Campeon Frigymnasium, an independent high school in the coastal city of Helsingborg, in the south of Sweden. This unique annual opportunity provides a chance for students to immerse themselves in the language.

Throughout the academic year the two schools communicated in various ways, ranging from a blog to video telephone calls using Skype. This helped the students prepare for living in a different culture. Many of the students remain friends with their international counterparts on "facebook."

University of Michigan students spent one week in Sweden, hosted by families of the Swedish students. In doing so they were able to observe family life in Sweden, as well as sample some local, home-cooked cuisine. This combined with the time spent with the Swedish students offered a view of Swedish youth culture as well as Swedish domestic culture.

While in Sweden, University of Michigan students stayed busy with a variety of activities. Students attended English classes for Swedish students, visited Lund University, and spent a day in Copenhagen. At the end of the week, the Swedish students threw a crayfish party, complete with snaps and songs. The beady eyes of the whole crayfish seemed to be a little much for some of the American students, but the overall experience was enjoyable.

After only a week break, the Swedish students came to spend a week in Ann Arbor. They stayed in houses and apartments with University students and really got to experience student life at an American university. The Swedes shadowed



American and Swedish students pose in front of a Copenhagen fountain.

University students to classes, shopped at both Twelve Oaks and Great Lakes Crossing malls, attended a Detroit Pistons game, and experienced their first ever St. Patrick's Day!

The program is a wonderful experience for students on both sides of the Atlantic. Many students maintain contact with their new friends and plan to visit again in the future.



# Congratulations Graduates



## Concentrators

Elisabeth Alber*	Nina Collins	Marie Louise Greenman*	Sean Maxwell	Jessica Roossien
Nicholas Baier	Mary Christine Craddock	Alison Harley	Allison Miller*	Eleanor Schwartz
Kelsey Bensch*	Kyle Egerer	Daniel Hefflebower*	Michelle Morath*	Mary Catherine Steiner
Bryan Benson	Alexander Erikson	Paul Kaser	Thomas Murphey	Samantha Sundberg
Tabitha Berry	William Fink	Eric Levine	Andrew Nicholson	James Tobias
Maraia Bonsignore	Marisa Gies	Alyssa Long	Gabriel Pompilius*	Breanne Vaclavik
John Burnett	Mackenzie Grattan	Jonathan Martin*	Shane Redman	Brian Veber
Randi Clarke	Kevin Green	Amelia Maturo	Alyssa Roehmer*	Daniel Zenn

*\*Honors Program Student*



## Minors

Amanda Badger	Maximilian Florka	Julie Huth	Eoghan McGreevy	Jacob Roberson
Alex Bajcz	Lauren Garleff	Andrew Krupar	Christopher Meszaros	Peter Schmitke
Harun Buljina	Nika George	Mark Lapansie	Rosa Moore	Bella Shah
Melody Campbell	Stephanie Gonzales	In Sun Lee	Monica Muzzin	Rebecca Shay
Louis Carrio	Matt Hampel	Rebecca Ludwig	Kelly Ozog	Danielle Smit
Amber Clark	Andrew Hill	Katharina Maisel	Susan Palazzo	Paul Smith
Sarah Collins	Ramsey Hilton	Darcy Malin	Ellen Press	John Trumble
Adam Cook	Jacob Hoernschemeyer	Alyssa Mastic	Matthew Quirk	Jeeyoung Tyler
Jonathan Farrugia	Kathleen Hou	James McClenathen	Dane Reggia	

# Staying Connected

## My Hollywood Debut

By Kristin Long

I always knew that I wanted to study German in college. I had taken four years of it in high school and enjoyed the challenge of it. While I never considered it then, I am now a television writer with a degree in German, and what surprises many is just how useful that's come to be.

For one thing, mastering a foreign language has given me a better understanding of English. Each German course I took reiterated the fundamentals of verb conjugation, proper sentence structure and other basic grammar principles, which I use on a daily basis.

My German studies also shaped my storytelling sensibilities. One summer, I took an independent study course with Janet VanValkenburg, where the focus was German novellas—some were familiar, some were not, but all were traditional folk tales with themes that have transcended time. In Hubert Rast's *Twentieth Century German Fiction*, we studied iconic German artists like filmmaker Fritz Lange and author Franz Kafka, in their original native language. Many of the best modern stories are rooted in these classics, and, for me, they serve as constant inspiration and guidance.

Once a week, Kalli Federhofer's Conversational German's course would meet and we'd freely converse *auf Deutsch*. The colloquialisms I picked up helped prepare me for when I went abroad and also for the more recent times when I've encountered a character who speaks German. Thankfully, Kalli continues to be a close friend, and is always there when *meine Wortshatz* fails me and I need some translation help.

Writers are plentiful in Los Angeles. Most of them fresh out of film school with their degrees in screenwriting or directing. I like that my degrees are in German and Political Science because it's different and outside the norm. When I tell people what I majored in, they usually laugh and say something about my education being money well spent. But it was. It was incredibly well spent, and I wouldn't have done it any other way.

Kristin Long ('99) on the set of the television series '90210,' overseeing "Games People Play," an episode that she authored.



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Laurence B. Deitch	S. Martin Taylor
Denise Ilitch	Katherine E. White
Olivia P. Maynard	Mary Sue Coleman
Andrea Fischer Newman	(ex officio)

