The Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures received the 2004 Departmental Excellence Award.
Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first issue of our newly designed Newsletter. I am delighted to share with you the news of our Department’s accomplishments at the end of my first year as Chair, which has been both a pleasure and a challenge.

The pleasure comes from experiencing first hand our extraordinary strengths in teaching, scholarship, and general service to the University; the challenge concerns the protection and furtherance of those strengths in a time of severe budgetary shortages and other extraneous pressures. I am proud to report that everyone has risen splendidly to the tasks concerned. The success of our undergraduate program continues to buck the national trend of declining modern language enrollments. Our national reputation as the trailblazer for a new interdisciplinary model of German Studies goes from strength to strength. The foundations of our graduate program are stronger than ever. The scholarly excellence of our faculty is as impressive as ever. The quality of collegiality and level of general intellectual engagement in the life of our Department remain the envy of colleagues elsewhere.

Among the many highlights of the year, the major conference on “The Ruins of Modernity” organized in March 2005 by Professor Julia Hell together with Professor Andreas Schöne of Slavic certainly stands out. Co-sponsored by the Institute for the Humanities, this event brought outstanding scholars from around the nation and a variety of academic disciplines to the University of Michigan for a weekend of intensive discussions and associated events. Likewise, under the auspices of our weekly Colloquium, organized this past year by Professor Johannes von Moltke, we hosted a number of distinguished speakers including Professors Andrew Hewitt of UCLA, Anson Rabinbach of Princeton University, and Pascal Grosse of the Humboldt University of Berlin. The crowning event of the lecturing calendar was the February visit of Professors Marianne Hirsch and Leo Spitzer from Columbia University, who together delivered our Annual Werner Grulk Lecture in German Studies on the topic of “What’s Wrong With This Picture? Documentary Photographs in Contemporary Narratives.”

The academic year was dominated to a great extent by two major administrative tasks, each of which had extremely important intellectual and pedagogical content and implications. First, having successfully made the case to the College for a senior appointment in Aesthetics and Literary Theory, we ran a high profile national search which resulted in our making an offer to Professor Lutz Koepnick of Washington University in St. Louis. Professor Koepnick is currently weighing his decision, and we remain optimistic that he will be joining us as our colleague in 2006-07. Second, we have now completed our Long-Range Plan, which we expect the College Executive Committee to approve when it reconvenes in the coming fall. The discussions involved in producing the Plan gave us an excellent opportunity to take stock of everything we have managed to achieve during the past decade, while laying the foundations for further advancement. Though both time-consuming and at times extremely exhausting, this process brought us together wonderfully as a Department. It could never have been accomplished without that sustained collective effort on the part of the faculty and our splendid staff.

There were various administrative changes during the year, the most important of which was the creation of the office of Associate Chair. Professor Scott Spector has been performing those duties in 2004-05, and he will now be succeeded by Professor Johannes von Moltke. I also appointed Professor Fred Amrine as Department Development Officer, and he will be succeeded for the coming year by Professor Andrei Markovits.

So we are closing the year in a mood of confidence and satisfaction. We are proud of the excellence of the education we can offer to our varied constituencies of undergraduates, and we are proud of the scholarly excellence of our faculty. Of course, the two have always gone together.
Organized by Julia Hell (German Studies) and Andreas Schönle (Slavic Department), Ruins of Modernity brought together scholars from a variety of disciplines including architecture, cultural studies, film, history, history of art, literature, and music. They discussed the meaning and function of ruins in modern culture, from post-industrial urban landscapes in Europe and the U.S. to Soviet architectural modernism, from urban design in India to the link between democracy and destruction in Iraq.

Following the organizers invitation, the speakers explored modernity’s philosophical, political and aesthetic discourses on ruins. From the creation of artificial ruins in eighteenth-century gardens to the ruin fantasies of Albert Speer, from the Soviet practice of destroying buildings representing the pre-revolutionary order to Andrei Tarkovsky’s haunting ruin movies, the history of modernity is littered with aesthetic theories that glamorize ruins and, in the process, often appropriate them for political projects. At the same time, by signifying a loss of meaning ruins provoke the imagination opening up the possibility of other stories about both the past and the future. The presentations were followed by lively discussions centering on issues like the link between ruins and “regime changes,” the supposed “eurocentric” nature of the conference, and the impossibility of “authentic ruins” under post-modern, post-industrial conditions. Ruins are visual objects and the genuine interdisciplinary composition of the conference produced a fascinating mixture of texts and images around the suggestive spectacle of decay. The organizers will publish a collection of essays based on the conference (with Duke University Press) and their challenge will be to reproduce this dense visual text.

The conference was linked to several events during the academic year: the organizers taught a Rackham Interdisciplinary Seminar on the same topic in the Fall of 2004 which resulted in a well-attended graduate workshop that preceded the conference (for more information, see www.lsa.umich.edu/UofM/Content/german/document/RuinsofModernity.pdf); the Institute for the Humanities, one of the main sponsors and chief organizer of the conference, organized brown-bag lunches on Piranesi and Detroit; the Institute also invited the Ukrainian photographer Boris Mikhailov whose photographs depict the dehumanizing experience of urban decay in the former Soviet Union (on the exhibit, see www.lsa.umich.edu/humin/events/art/archive/). At the conference itself, the premiere of a documentary film on Detroit by Michael Chanan and George Steinmetz generated a controversial debate in the Detroit area media. The directors of Detroit: Ruin of a City appeared live on several news shows on the day before the conference and more than 1,000 people showed up for the conference forcing the organizers to quickly arrange additional screenings on the following weekends. At the conference the audience included both Michigan senators as well as the people interviewed in the film. The filmmakers are still screening the film in Detroit and overseas, including a screening at the Institute for Contemporary Arts in London. For more information on the film and screenings, see humanities.uwe.ac.uk/bristoldocs/Detroit.htm.
Award-Winning Faculty

**GERMAN**

- **Vanessa Agnew:** Music, Travel Writing, Historical Reenactment, Colonialism
- **Frederick Amrine:** Goethe, Novalis, and German Idealism
- **Kerstin Barndt:** Musealization of Industrial Ruins in East- and West-Germany
- **Kathleen Canning:** Modern German History, Transnational and Comparative Gender History
- **Geoff Eley:** Modern German History; Comparative Political Development; Historiography; Cultural Studies

- **Karl-Georg Federhofer:** Undergraduate Concentration Advisor
- **Julia Hell:** 19th- and 20th- Century German Studies; Literature, Visual Arts, and Politics
- **Kader Konuk:** Comparatist in German, Turkish, British and American studies
- **Robert L. Kyes:** Historical and Comparative Germanic Linguistics
- **Andrei S. Markovits:** German and European Politics; and Comparative Sports Cultures

- **Helmut Puff:** Early Modern Literature, Culture, and History
- **Robin Queen:** Turkish-German Bilingualism
- **Hartmut Rastalsky:** Language Program Director
- **Scott Spector:** Modern Cent. Euro. Cultural History, German-Jewish Identity & Culture, Modern Sexuality
- **George Steinmetz:** Social Theory, Analysis of State and Culture

- **Janet VanValkenburg:** Business German and German Day Coordinator
- **Johannes von Moltke:** Film Studies, 20th Century Literature and Cultural Studies
- **Silke-Maria Weineck:** 18th and 19th Century Philosophy and Literature
- **Johanna Eriksson:** Director, Scandinavian Studies

- **Ton Broos:** Director, Dutch & Flemish Studies
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Andrei Steven Markovits

Born in October 1948 in the west Romanian town of Timisoara. He was raised as the single child of a middle class Jewish family, speaking German and Hungarian at home. He attended a German elementary school, and from his early childhood he was tutored in English—later in French as well. Thus, his multilingual identity dates back to his childhood as well as the polyglot part of the world where he grew up. At the age of nine, he and his father emigrated from Romania, first to Vienna and then to New York, the two cities that would play the most important roles in his upbringing. Between 1959 and 1967, he spent the school year in Vienna and the summer months in New York. After graduating from Vienna’s prestigious Theresianische Akademie, he enrolled at Columbia University in New York where he completed all of his post-secondary education, acquiring five degrees in the process. He studied political science, history, economics, sociology, and business administration. After receiving his doctorate in political science in 1976, he went to the Center for European Studies at Harvard University of which he would remain an active member and a Research Associate until 1999.

At the Harvard Center, Markovits chaired for many years the study group on German Politics as well as one entitled “The Jews in Modern Europe”. He founded the quarterly journal German Politics and Society which has become the foremost scholarly journal on modern German politics in the U.S. The Center’s uniquely rich intellectual atmosphere and immensely creative interdisciplinary have had a major hand in forming Markovits’s scholarly life.

Between 1977 and 1983, Markovits was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Government at Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT. Thereafter, he joined the faculty at Boston University where he was Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science from 1983 until 1992. He then became Professor in and Chair of the Department of Politics at the University of California, Santa Cruz where he remained until joining U-M in 1999. This year Markovits will assume the responsibilities of Development Officer for the Germanic Department.

Markovits’s topics of interest and areas of publication include: German and European labor; German and European social democracy, as well as social movements; German-Jewish relations; Germany’s role in the new Europe; Anti-Americanism in Europe; and the comparative sociology of modern sports cultures. Markovits has won a number of teaching awards. He has advised doctoral dissertations at many major American universities, as well as universities in Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria, Holland and Israel.

Markovits loves all sports with a clear preference for the team sports of basketball, baseball, football as well as soccer. He also enjoys all kinds of music with a preference for Mozart, Beethoven and the Grateful Dead whom—in his youth and on rare occasions—he would follow on tour. In addition to being a DEADHEAD, Markovits greatly enjoys the company of golden retrievers who have been his constant companions for three decades. He lives with his wife Kiki and their golden retriever Stormy in Ann Arbor.

Publications by Andrei S. Markovits

- Amerika dich hasst sich's besser. Antiamerikanismus und Antisemitismus in Europa
- Offside: Die Fratze Der Eigenen Geschichte
- The Political Economy of West Germany
- The Politics of West German Trade Unions
- The Politics of Scandal
- Nationbuilding and the Politics of Nationalism
- The German Predicament Memory and Power in the New Europe
- The German Left Red, Green And Beyond
- From Bundesrepublik to Deutschland
- Advances in the Social Sciences, 1900–1980
- Fear of Science-Trust in Science
- Problems of World Modeling
News From the First and Second Year Language Program

Roughly 400 students enroll in first and second year German language courses each Fall and Winter, and the Language Program Director, Dr. Hartmut Rastalsky, and the GSIs and faculty teaching first and second year German work hard to keep these courses fresh and interesting.

The newest addition to our German 101 and 102 curriculum are a series of transparencies based on the off-the-wall cartoons at www.nichtlustig.de, many of which include language that can be used even in the first days of instruction, such as a police lineup in which one of the suspects has had his number stolen and yells “Meine Vier! Er hat meine Vier! Haltet ihn!”

In German 102, we have replaced some of the drier passages from the end of our first year textbook with the popular children’s book Oh, wie schön ist Panama by Janosch, which tells the story of “der kleine Bär” and “der kleine Tiger,” who live together happily until one day they discover a delicious-smelling box of bananas from Panama and decide that wherever that is, they want to go.

In addition to Lola rennt, Nach fünf im Urwald and Europa, Europa!, the feature film component of German 221 and 231 now includes the popular 2003 movie Good Bye Lenin! about a boy who tries to reconstruct the former East Germany in his mother’s room to protect her from shock when she awakens from a long coma after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

This Winter’s Kothe-Hildner prize for the best role play in German 102 and 103 went to a musical reenactment of the adventures of Anna Adler, heroine of the textbook Vorsprung, for which students wrote and performed their own songs in German. The prize for the best student video in German 231 was won by Dude, wo ist mein Trabbi? In this video, a young East German who has dreamed of a Trabbi all his life finally receives it just after the fall of the Wall, only to have it disappear the first time he parks it. For lack of an actual Trabbi, students used a cardboard box to represent the car. The German 232 essay contest was won by the fictional autobiography of mad scientist Eleonore Metzgerstein, who has plans to fit herself with a third eye capable of seeing infrared light to go with her bionic arm, and to eventually colonize Alpha Centauri.

We continue to offer weekly German dinner tables in the South Quad and Bursley dining halls, where students can speak German informally while eating all they can. Students interested in using their German outside the classroom can also come to conversation hours and bi-weekly movie nights at the Max Kade Residence, at which we now also occasionally screen popular movies such as The Matrix or Raiders of the Lost Ark that have been dubbed in German. In addition, students can come to the German Lab in the Fall and Winter for help with any kind of German question, or just to practice speaking.

Finally, we continue to update and expand the German 101-326 website with interesting and amusing links, examples and exercises, and if you are looking for some fun ways to keep up your German, we invite you to browse the link list at www.lsa.umich.edu/german/hmr/links/ or the grammar explanations and exercises accessible via www.lsa.umich.edu/german/hmr/Grammatik/index.html.
Congratulations Graduates!

We are proud of our Graduates and wish them great success as they move into a new chapter of their lives. Thank you to families and friends for supporting our students during their studies at the University of Michigan. We enjoyed getting to know each student and look forward to hearing of your new discoveries and endeavors. Good luck!

Recognizing German, Dutch, and Scandinavian Majors and Minors were Department Chair Geoff Eley and Undergraduate Advisor Kalli Federhofer. Assistant Professor Kerstin Barndt recognized the Honors Students, and Language Program Director Hartmut Rastalsky presented the Braun Award to Helga Rom.

To view award recipients, please visit our website, www.lsa.umich.edu/german/german/ug/prizes

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* Honors Program Student
The Martijn Zwart Endowment

We are deeply saddened that Professor Zwart passed away in 2004. His lifelong contributions and support of the Dutch community live on through this very special endowment. This scholarship provides funds for students who seek to work and/or study in The Netherlands in any capacity, but with the clear goal to immerse themselves in the language and the culture of The Netherlands.

Martijn Zwart was born in Rotterdam in the Netherlands, studied as an undergraduate at the Univ. of Leiden, then took a Doctorate in Law at the Univ. of Amsterdam. He worked initially for the Dutch government and then for a private company in international trade. During WWII he was sent on assignment to the U.S. and stayed when Holland was invaded and occupied by Germany. During the war he worked for the Office of War Information, broadcasting to Holland as the “Voice of America”, while pursuing language studies at the State Univ. of New York. When the war ended he worked for a Dutch press agency, covering the U.N. Martijn then began his career as Professor of Languages at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois.

In addition to ‘Kaleidoscope’, his publications include a monograph Landbouwcrisiswet (The Law of Agriculture in Crisis), contributions to two volumes of English translations from The German Anthology of German Poetry and A Treasury of German Ballads, and translations of Dutch and French poetry in various periodicals.

Ton Broos—Director of Dutch and Flemish Studies

Learning a language means of course familiarizing yourself with new words and structures, but also getting to know the culture in its broadest sense. For Dutch it means that we look at the beauty of Dutch visual arts, compare American with Dutch society, discuss our differences and laugh at our peculiarities. In spite of our Dutch American friends in Holland Michigan, not many Dutch wear wooden shoes, or sweep the streets with coarse brooms. Still, the Dutch do love their tulips, and orange is still a favorite color for monarch watchers and soccer fans. Because Dutch is also spoken in Belgium, we include this country wholeheartedly and study Flemish culture in all its rich traditions as well.

Students have a unique opportunity to learn more about an aspect of Dutch culture in historical perspective as we look at colonialism and its aftermath. Reliving a darker side of the past is the topic of our most profound Dutch class: Anne Frank in Past and Present. The popularity of Anne’s diary is discussed, as well as the function of remembrance for future generations.

Being in charge of ‘everything Dutch’ means that one has to answer many questions, respond to different requests and is regarded as an authority on the strangest of subjects. Do I have all the answers? No. Do I like being asked? Yes! Dutch and Flemish Studies at the University of Michigan is very much alive and kicking!
About Our Program

For nearly 50 years the Scandinavian Studies program has been introducing and expanding students’ knowledge of the Nordic Countries; Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway and Iceland. In addition to the typical language courses we offer a variety of cultural courses.

Maria Gull will continue to teach the language and conversation courses while Johanna Eriksson, Director, is on leave this year. This fall, we welcome Lecturers Britt-Marie Martinsson-Ventura and Björn Anderson. They will teach Scandinavian Civilization and Celtic and Nordic Mythology respectively. We bid a fond farewell and thank you to Astrid Beck who retired from teaching in December, 2004. We will certainly miss her contributions to the program.

Providing insight into one of the most creative and globally competitive societies on the globe, it is no wonder enrollment in Scandinavian courses has nearly doubled in the last 10 years. Opportunities to study abroad for a complete academic year are made available to junior and senior level students through the Michigan-Uppsala University Exchange Program. Students may also choose to participate in 8-week internships as well. Students have the opportunity to increase their language skills through coffee hours and social events. In past years fourth-term Swedish students have had the opportunity to travel as a group to Sweden.

Welcome back to Eric Moberg and Alissa Prater from their student exchange at Uppsala University. We would also like to congratulate Shari Hannapel, 2005 recipient of the Scandinavian Studies Scholarship funded by The Detroit Swedish Foundation.

The annual Signe Karlström Memorial Event, funded through an endowment established by Olivia Maynard and Olof Karlström, provides an opportunity for the U-M community and general public to enhance their understanding and appreciation of Scandinavian Culture. For more information about the Event see our website at www.lsa.umich.edu/german/scand/karlstrom/.

The program would not be able to provide such opportunities and could not have achieved such success without the support of our extremely generous benefactors. In addition to those listed above we would like to thank Consul General Lennart Johansson, SWEA Michigan, The Jenny Lind Club of Michigan and the Highland Foundation for their recent gifts.

We are pleased to provide our students with first-rate courses and opportunities that provide meaningful insight into a unique region of the world.

The Maynard-Karlstrom Challenge Grant

Olivia Maynard and Olof Karlström have generously challenged the Department and its Scandinavian supporters to provide a gift of up to $50,000 to the Scandinavian Studies Endowment for each contribution made to the Swedish Language Studies Fund or Endowment. The matching gift challenge is for gifts received between March 1, 2004 and December 31, 2008. The fund is used to support all aspects of the Scandinavian program including public events, books and other material for the program, as well as scholarships for student exchanges, internships and the spring study tour. Be a part of the Scandinavian legacy and designate the Swedish Language Fund on your donor envelope included in this newsletter. Every dollar you donate will be doubled through the challenge grant and if your employer provides matching donations it could be tripled! If you would like additional information on donating to the program please contact Sheri Sytsema-Geiger at sytsema@umich.edu.
Dear Friends and Alums

After having communicated with you all so regularly for years, first as Chair, and then since last July as the departmental Development Officer, the time has now come for me to hand on these important duties, and return to full-time teaching and scholarship.

It has been a deep pleasure to get to know so many of you, and very gratifying to have experienced your warm interest and generous support for all our initiatives. With your help, we have built one of the very finest German Studies programs in the country—indeed, one that many feel has, to some degree, redefined the field. The range and quality of our faculty is unparalleled. And we have also worked hard to provide a rich array of opportunities to our students. But no need to repeat a story you all have heard now many times!

As a former Chair, I know intimately what a difference your support has meant during this phase of remarkable transitions. I also can see clearly why, given the array of forces exerting themselves on the University and the Department, your support will be even more crucial in the future. I sincerely believe that in the future the excellence of all our programs will depend more on the support of alums and friends than any other external factor.

For one last time, I thank from the bottom of my heart all of you who have donated so generously to our work.

I am eager for you all to meet my delightful colleague Andy Markovits, who will be our next Development Officer and is, among many other things, a passionate sports fan, a Deadhead, a dog-lover, and arguably the greatest authority on German politics in the world. You can read all about him on the Faculty page of our website, or on page 5 of this newsletter!

Please do stay in touch with GLL—and with me. We are always eager to hear from you.

With all the very best wishes, and cordial regards,
as ever,
Frederick Amrine
Associate Professor

Giving to the Department has increased ten-fold over the last five years, we are extremely grateful to our many supporters and benefactors for their trust and gifts of support. The quality and diversity of the programs and opportunities we provide for graduate and undergraduate students would not be possible without this support. Please join the Michigan Difference Campaign with your donation and designate one of the following funds on the envelope found in the center of this edition of the GDS newsletter.

- Katharina and Kurt Bettsteller, Sr. (German-American history)
- Frank X. Braun (grad teaching prize)
- Bronson-Thomas (ugrad prizes)
- Alan P. Cottrell (grad support)
- Dutch Studies Fund
- Anne Frank Fund (Dutch course support)
- Marilyn Sibley Fries (study in Berlin)
- Otto Graf Endowment (grad support)
- Martin Haller (ugrad thesis prize)
- Werner and Elizabeth Hartmann (department library)
- V.C. Hubbs (study abroad in Freiburg)
- Max Kade (German language residence)
- Kothe-Hildner (ugrad prizes)
- Mechthild Medzihradsky (internships)
- Mun-Kyes (Germanic linguistics)
- Mildred N. Nelson (grad support)
- Arati Sharangpani (junior year abroad)
- Strategic Fund (unrestricted)
- Sturm Family Endowment (study, work abroad)
- Scandinavian Studies Fund
- George Valenta Endowment (Kade program)
- Hermann Weiss/Charles Parton (internships)
- Martijn Zwart Endowment (Dutch study abroad)
The Joy Is In The Giving

Speaking with Lynn Gendleman — U-M Class of 1967 — I was uplifted by her generosity, charity, and energy. As Head of her employer, the Chicago Tribune’s volunteer organization, ‘TribUnity,’ Lynn coordinates volunteers to select, lead, and implement charitable projects. Projects are varied and range from serving meals to tutoring first-graders online. We are fortunate to have such an outstanding friend and alumna. Managing TribUnity, her profession, and her family, Lynn truly finds joy in the giving. Her enthusiasm was encouraged at an early age by an opportunity that opened her to language and cultural study, and by the dedication and support of a University professor and community who applauded her inquisitiveness and channeled her zest for knowledge.

For residents of Gary, Indiana, in the 1960s, international foreign travel was uncommon. Through a foreign-exchange initiative, Lynn was awarded the chance to spend the summer between her high school sophomore and junior years with a German family in Trier. Arriving at her ‘new’ home, she found herself with a family that spoke no English. Characteristically, Lynn rose to the challenge, immersing herself in the language, culture, and history.

In addition to learning about and living in a culture different than her own, Lynn recalls the wonder of her summer spent in Germany’s oldest city—walking through ancient Roman ruins on the way to class, the beauty of the Rhineland Province and the nearby Mosel River. Moreover, she acquired a skill that wouldn’t be realized until her placement exam and suggested she consider concentrating in German. Eight back-to-back semesters later, Lynn graduated with a double concentration in German and English.

After continuing her education with a Master’s in German and a teaching certificate, Lynn taught at the college level, as well as high school German and English. As her family and personal interests grew, Lynn fearlessly explored her other talents and interests. She has worked in the fashion design industry, been a substitute teacher, and as a CPA for 25 years.

Lynn’s years in Ann Arbor were good ones. She met her husband while attending the University of Michigan, their daughter Amy Gendleman Jones (BA ’93) is a U-M alumna, and they attend as many football games as possible. Lynn is particularly excited to see how the German Department has grown—developing a more comprehensive approach by integrating other subject areas such as film, business, and history. And most importantly, maintaining the feel of a small, connected department where students are welcome, encouraged, and supported.

We are proud to have known Lynn for so long and to have been such an integral part of her development. Through her generous spirit and commitment to her community, she has now become an integral part of our development. We thank her and her family for their generous gift of support. The joy is indeed in the giving.
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German Day 2005

Our 21st Annual German Day was a splendid success. More than 1,000 high school students and their teachers attended and participated in activities ranging from poetry reading to musical performance. This year’s theme was ‘Der Ton macht die Musik!’. To see this year’s winners and to learn more, please visit www.lsa.umich.edu/german/resources/germanday

Photos courtesy of Nancy Hanson and her German students, Rochester High School.

Join us March 17th for German Day 2006!

Sister Cities Celebrate 40 Years

Ann Arbor Mayor John Hieftje and Tübingen Lord Mayor Brigitte Russ-Scherer

2005 marks the 40th anniversary of the sister city partnership and educational exchange program between Ann Arbor and Tübingen, Germany. Since 1965 the cities have enjoyed the exchange of citizens and students alike.

The anniversary was commemorated with a gala reception and exhibit at the downtown branch of the public library, highlighting three of Tübingen’s regional photographers—Yvonne Berardi, Alexander Gonschior, and Ulrich Metz.

In June a delegation from Ann Arbor traveled to Tübingen to participate in a week of celebration of this partnership.