

German Studies

Fall 2017, Volume 11, Number 1



Message from the Chair

We in German Studies at Emory

are happy to bring you our 11th annual departmental newsletter. The 2016–2017 academic year was another busy one for the department. The faculty remains extremely productive and continues to make significant contributions to their respective

fields. Miriam Udel's monograph, *Never Better!*, received the prestigious National Jewish Book Award. Caroline Schaumann's co-edited volume on ecocriticism appeared in print as did Peter Höyng's translation of Hugo Bettauer's novel, *Das blaue Mal*. Paul Buchholz's monograph is now under contract with Northwestern University Press, and Hiram Maxim is co-editing a volume on language teaching in the linguistic landscape.

The department continues to attract outstanding students who distinguish themselves in many ways. The German Club under Mindi Leit's leadership organized a weeklong series of events supported by the German Embassy to examine US-German relations. Sarah Hesse received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to Germany for 2017–2018, marking the 11th year in a row a German Studies student will serve as a teaching assistant in Germany or Austria.

The department was also delighted to be able to support its students with two different scholarships. For the 10th year in a row, the

Max Kade Foundation granted the department four scholarships to support students participating in the Vienna summer program. Last year also marked the second year of the Viola Westbrook Endowed Scholarship, and two German Studies majors, Elliot Hicks and Paul Greenstein, were this year's recipients.

In addition to sending its own students to serve as Fulbright teaching assistants, the department is also fortunate to host its own Fulbright teaching assistant each year. This year, Patrick Ernst, a native of Bremen, Germany, taught the one-credit conversation courses and lived in the German House, where he organized a range of exciting extracurricular events. Assisting him and the rest of the faculty and the students was the indispensable Terez Whatley-White, who completed his fifth year as departmental administrator this year.

Beyond these individual contributions, the department also hosted various programs and events, which are described in more detail in the following pages: a series of guest lectures by scholars, authors, and professionals and the continuation of the German Studies Roundtable.

In closing, we encourage you to read more about the department in the following pages, visit our website for additional information, contact us with any questions or news, or, best of all, stop by the department to visit with us. Thank you for your continued support of the department.

Hiram Maxim
Chair and Professor

**Newsletter of the
Department of
German Studies at
Emory University**

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**Help sustain our
Vienna Program by
giving to the Westbrook
Scholarship Fund**

Faculty News



Paul Buchholz In Paul Buchholz's first year as faculty in the German Studies department, his book *Private Anarchy: Impossible Community and the Outsider's Monologue in German Experimental*

Fiction was accepted for publication by Northwestern University Press and is forthcoming in spring 2018. The book has been selected for support by the Modern Language Initiative, a project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation that supports outstanding first books. During the last stages of the editorial process, Buchholz remained busy researching his next book. At the conferences of the Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages Association in Pasadena, California, and the Austrian Studies Association in Chicago, he presented research for his next book, *The Relations of Desolation*, which focuses on how the literature of environmental crisis, or "eco-fiction," has reimagined traditional social relations since the 1970s. In conjunction with this project, Buchholz also participated in a seminar on Franz Kafka at the German Studies Association conference in San Diego, California, where he presented on the themes of industrial waste and garbage in Kafka's prose. In the spring, he invited professor Carrie Smith-Prei to deliver the fourth-annual Maximilian Aue Memorial Lecture as part of a new senior seminar on German Protest Culture.



Peter Höyng Thanks to a sabbatical during spring semester 2017, Peter Höyng was able to wrap up a number of research projects and start his next

book manuscript. Happily, his previous works were finally published. Even as both essays emerged from his expertise in the area of German theater and performance, they differ vastly in that one is a close reading of Goethe's Hellenist play *Iphigenie auf Tauris* (1786), arguing how Goethe sacrifices his Iphigenie as a victim, and his other essay uncovers the scandal of Thomas Bernhard's play *Der Ignorant und der Wahnsinnige* (1972). In addition, Höyng completed two more articles on German theater. For one, he explored the dilemmas in interpreting Nobel laureate Elfriede Jelinek's deconstruction

of Franz Schubert's famous song-cycle, *Die Winterreise*. In another article, he returned to his work on the Jewish playwright George Tabori (1914–2007) and his most popular play, *Mein Kampf* (1987). Höyng argues how Tabori's black and grotesque humor helped him to break taboos when addressing the darkest and most painful chapter of German history, the Holocaust. Last but not least, Höyng was able to complete his editorial work on Hugo Bettauer's *The Blue Stain: A Novel of a Racial Outcast* (see page 7) and began working on his next book project, tentatively titled *Reading Beethoven's Readings in the Age of Censorship*.



Marianne K. Lancaster

As senior lecturer, Marianne K. Lancaster continued her devotion to teaching, enjoyed high enrollment in her classes, and received numerous accolades from students. She hosted dinners in

her home for Business German classes, so that students could meet and interact with Atlanta business representatives. She also mentored German Studies major Sarah Hesse in her successful application for Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Award to Germany, supervised Hesse's production of a video advertising German Studies to incoming first-year students, and served as the outside reader on another student's senior honors thesis. Lancaster continued as coordinator of first-year German (five sections per semester) and of student peer tutors, and took the lead in the ongoing integration of LearnSmart, an online instructional component, into first-year German. In addition, as she has for many years, Lancaster supervised the department's Fulbright Teaching Assistant and, along with Terez Whatley, helped Patrick Ernst, this year's TA, settle into his role in the department. She represented German Studies as its PACE liaison, as its voice in the Emory College Language Center, and as a delegate to the two-day state German Convention. Furthermore, she assisted Emory College's Office of Admission and taught a reading comprehension course to graduate students this summer.

Hiram Maxim Hiram Maxim continued his research into two different areas in applied linguistics. During the fall and spring semesters, he worked with a colleague at University of California–Irvine to conduct a case study into the experiences of international students studying German. Together they presented their very early findings at the annual conference for



applied linguists in March. For his other project, he continues to explore the pedagogical opportunities for language learning and teaching in the linguistic landscape. He completed an article on his work with Emory

students in exploring the linguistic landscape of Vienna, and he is working with two other colleagues on an edited volume that examines language teaching opportunities in public spaces. He also is leading a working group of language studies faculty at Emory with interest in linguistic landscape research to begin exploring the multilingualism of Atlanta through its public use of language. In addition to these research projects, he led a directed study in the spring semester with 18 undergraduates to document the first hundred days of National Socialism. He also served as chair of the university committee on the environment. At this year's Commencement, he received the Emory Williams Distinguished Teaching Award.



Caroline Schaumann

Caroline Schaumann's co-edited anthology, *German Ecocriticism in the Anthropocene*, introduces environmental issues in German literature to a broader audience and appeared in print

in May 2017. She again served as director of undergraduate studies in spring 2017, while teaching the department's core GER 301 literature class and GER 340/FILM 373, Green Screen, a course analyzing depictions of nature in both North American and German films. Last summer, Schaumann co-directed the department's summer abroad program in Vienna. In fall 2016 she received a DAAD and a Humboldt Foundation fellowship to work on her monograph on the cultural history of mountaineering. At the University of Potsdam, Schaumann gave two invited lectures while collaborating with local colleagues. In the spring, she gave a presentation on early glaciologists to faculty at Emory's Emeritus College. Schaumann also published an article on environmental challenges in contemporary literature and has two forthcoming articles on the naturalist Alexander von Humboldt: one on Humboldt as ecologist and one on Humboldt's mountain pursuits for *Alpinist Magazine*.



Miriam Udel This was the second year of Miriam Udel's three-year Interdisciplinary Faculty Fellowship (see below), shared with professors Marshall Duke (Psychology) and Melvin Konner (Anthropology).

Udel and Duke team taught a fully enrolled senior seminar about Yiddish literature and the world of the Jewish child in the 20th century. Udel continued to progress on her annotated anthology of Yiddish children's literature, *Honey on the Page* (under contract with NYU Press). She was invited to speak about her research on this emerging subfield at YIVO Institute's inaugural Children's Day as well as at the New York Public Library and the Paradigm Project conference for progressive early childhood education. In December, she co-organized the Community of Scholars Showcase, an event highlighting 40 years of Jewish studies at Emory.

German Ecocriticism in the Anthropocene

In May 2017 the anthology *German Ecocriticism in the Anthropocene*, coedited by Caroline Schaumann and Heather I. Sullivan, was published by Palgrave Press in the series Literatures, Cultures, and the Environment under Ursula K. Heise. Addressing the growing need for environmental awareness in an international humanities curriculum, the book complements ecocritical analyses emerging from North American and British studies with a specifically German studies perspective, opening the door to a transnational understanding of how the environment plays an integral role in cultural, political, and economic issues. It offers 17 essays on both canonical and noncanonical German-language texts and films (including authors such as Goethe, Kafka, W. G. Sebald, Thomas Bernhard, and directors such as Werner Herzog), advancing ecocritical models for German studies, and introducing environmental issues in German literature and film to a broader audience. Beginning with Goethe and the Romantics and extending into 21st-century literature and film, the volume contextualizes the broad-ranging topics and authors in terms of the Anthropocene.



Schaumann's essay in the volume, "Speaking Stones: Material Agency and Interaction in Christian Enzensberger's *Geschichte der Natur*," grew out of discussions in her senior seminar *Natur-Kultur* and several conference presentations interpreting Enzensberger's experimental, multilingual, and imaginative narrative about sensual encounters with the nonhuman world in juxtaposition with Martin Heidegger's essay, "Der Feldweg."

An Interdisciplinary Look at Jewish Childhood and Literature

Miriam Udel and professors Marshall Duke (Psychology) and Melvin Konner (Anthropology) are among the inaugural cohort of Interdisciplinary Faculty Fellows pursuing a research project across their respective disciplines. During the first year of the project in academic year 2015–2016, they convened a faculty-graduate seminar to examine Yiddish children's literature in comparative perspective through the prisms of literary studies, psychology, and anthropology. In 2016–2017, Duke and Udel built on their findings to offer a senior seminar about Yiddish children's

literature and the world of the Jewish child. Students read work in translation (mostly drawing on Udel's translated anthology in process) and paired with readings in child psychology and translation studies. As final projects, several students wrote new children's stories and poems or adapted course material into contemporary settings or new formats such as the graphic novel. Especially popular were the Chelm stories featuring a town of wise fools and the tale of Labzik, the socialist puppy. Next year the course will be adapted as a first-year seminar, and the fellows plan a conference on Jewish childhood in fall 2018.



The First Hundred Days, Nights of National Socialism



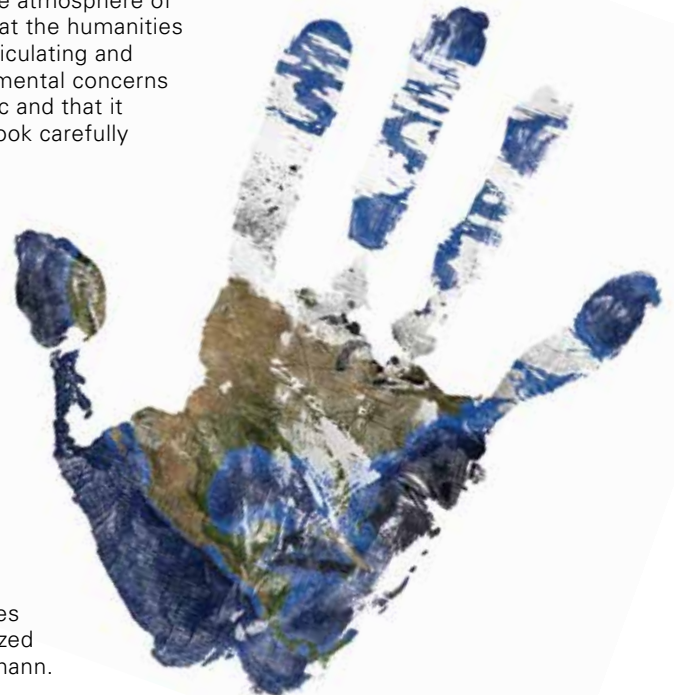
The "100 Days" project on display in the Dobbs University Center Commons

Among the many troubling issues in today's highly contentious political climate in the United States, the relatively free and at times irresponsible use of the terms "fascism" and "Nazi Germany" on both sides of the political spectrum concerned Hiram Maxim, professor and chair of the German Studies department. In response, and in an effort to provide some clarity about what fascism in Nazi Germany actually looked like, he initiated a research project with undergraduate students that aimed to document the first 100 days of National Socialism, from January 30, 1933, the day Adolf Hitler was named Reichskanzler, to May 9, 1933. The topic appeared to strike a nerve with students, because more than 20 became involved in the project. Although there were already timelines available online that touched on the major events during the early years of National Socialism, surprisingly there was not a daily chronicle. The student researchers thus had to locate primary sources from that period to discover what happened each day. Fortunately, several daily newspapers from that time have been digitized and are available online. However, to the students' chagrin, the newspapers all used an old gothic font. Challenged but not discouraged, the students got to work, making their way through the 100 days, investigating and documenting the events of each day and then posting their findings daily for public consumption (i.e., one post per day). The posts were displayed in an exhibit space in Dobbs University Center Commons as well as online via Twitter and the project's website, <http://www.first100daysfascistgermany.com>.

Ecological Disruption from a Humanities Perspective

In the spring 2017 semester, professors Paul Buchholz and Caroline Schaumann convened an Academic Learning Community, "The Environmental Humanities: Methods, Challenges, Debates." Sponsored by the Center for Faculty Development and Excellence, these campus learning communities connect Emory faculty and graduate students across schools and disciplines in collaborative work. Our group consisted of about 10 Emory scholars from religion, public health, law, environmental science, philosophy, MESAS, and English who met monthly to discuss readings on a range of topics such as "The Local, the Global, and the Planetary," "Postmodernism and Material Ecocriticism," "Crisis and Catastrophe," and "Animal Studies." The dialogue helped create a network of scholars addressing human engagement at all levels and in all fields in order to meet the current environmental crisis in our age of the Anthropocene—that is, the geological epoch in which human activity has left traces across the entire surface,

the ocean floors, and the atmosphere of the earth. We believe that the humanities have a crucial task in articulating and communicating environmental concerns to a contemporary public and that it is equally important to look carefully at depictions of local, global, and planetary environments in both past and present texts of all kinds to understand fully the narrative modes of the current crises and evaluate their rhetoric and effectiveness. Participants will continue to collaborate in a planned national conference on environmental humanities in spring 2018 co-organized by Buchholz and Schaumann.



Fulbright Teaching Assistant Plays a Big Role in 'Enriching Impact'

by Patrick Ernst

My year as a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant in Emory's German Studies department was one of the most exciting ones I have ever had. I met so many interesting people, and I learned so much during my time here. I was a little bit sad when I realized that my time at Emory was coming to an end during finals week of the spring semester.

Nevertheless, I am taking all my good memories back to Germany. In saying that, I am thinking of my colleagues who supported me from the first day on, as they always gave me advice and guidance whenever I needed it. I felt that this was very important for me, since I had just started my teaching career here at Emory. Moreover, I am thinking of my

students, who showed great interest in the German language and culture. Their learning attitude always motivated me to do my best as a teacher inside and outside the classroom, and it also made me embrace Germany and the German language even more.

The most memorable German events I hosted were the ones about German history and politics. Students showed great interest in these very informative sessions that we held here at the Modern Languages Building, and the design of these events allowed students to exchange information and learn from one another.

Seeing these German Studies students interacting with each other in my mother tongue, and knowing that some of my students want to continue learning German, study abroad in a German-speaking country, work as an au pair, or just go on a vacation there was highly rewarding for me, because it showed that our work in Emory's German Studies department has an enriching impact on our students.

I will always think back on Emory with delight, and I hope that our new German students will also enjoy learning more about my home country and its language.



Patrick Ernst at opening student orientation in August.

Culture Club Hits Many High Notes



German Club officers Mindi Leit, Tico Han, Birk Evavold, Amy Tang, and an unexpected guest at a Wonderful Wednesday trivia event

Emory's German Culture Club had a great second year. It started off on an exceptionally high note, thanks to a generous donation from the German Embassy, which allowed the club to host a week of events celebrating the German-US relationship. They included the activity Paint Like a German

Expressionist, a screening of *Good Bye, Lenin!*, and a panel of Emory professors discussing the *Energiewende*. The fun didn't stop there. The club hosted its first game night at Kaldi's coffee house—the *Kaffeekultur und Brettspiel* event mixed German board games with a Viennese

coffeehouse vibe, while allowing students to bond over an interest in German culture.

For those interested in German politics, the Culture Club partnered with the German House to host an event titled "Das Politische System der BRD" and to celebrate both German and Austrian culture with a *Wiener Ballsaison und Fasching* event. The club also brought back some classic events such as the Student Study Abroad Panel, Love Your Major, and the International Festival to encourage more students to participate in activities held by the German department.

The German Culture Club is excited to continue to celebrate German culture for years to come and hopes to expand its relationship with Georgia's German community. *Bis bald!* Photos of our events can be found on the German Culture Club's Facebook page.

Student News

On April 19 the department held its annual awards ceremony and recognized a range of accomplishments by the many talented students studying German at Emory. Following the ceremony, students and faculty moved outside to celebrate the end of the academic year at the annual spring Grillfest, which was once again locally sourced and generated zero waste.

Robert Wilson (Haworth, N.J.) received the award for outstanding achievement by a first-year German student, while **Angie Chermanz Monroy** (Duluth, Ga.) received the Sprachpreis for second-year German.

Vienna Summer Program participants **Albert Li** (Qingdao, China), **Haley Gast** (Frederick, Md.), **Arden Godfrey** (Vestavia, Ala.), and **Ben Fertig** (Buffalo, N.Y.) were recognized as this year's recipients of the Max Kade Scholarship. This is the 10th year in a row the Max Kade Foundation has supported these generous scholarships for the Vienna summer program.



2017 Max Kade Scholars atop the Schneeberg in Austria

The US-Germany Internship program, which awards paid three-month summer internships to German Studies majors and minors, is in its seventh year. This summer **Tico Han** (Shanghai, China) interned with ARAG

Insurance in Düsseldorf. More than 40 Emory students have received internships since the department's Advisory Council started the program in 2011.

Each year the department also inducts qualified students into Delta Phi Epsilon, the national German Honor Society. This year **Josh Gale** (Merrick, N.Y.), **Tico Han** (Shanghai, China), and **Amy Tang** (Shanghai, China) were the latest round of inductees.

Two students were singled out for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the department. Graduating senior **Mindi Leit** (Boca Raton, Fla.) received the Emory College Language Center Award for Excellence in German for her superior departmental citizenship and her leadership role as president of the German Club. Graduating senior **Sarah Hesse** (Atlanta) received the department's Award for Excellence for her outstanding class work, peer tutoring, and continued engagement with the department, its faculty, and its students.



German Club President Mindi Leit with her Language Center Award (pictured with Marianne Lancaster and Hiram Maxim)

Alumni News

We are always delighted to hear from our graduates.

Lizzie Howell 15C completed her second year as a US Teaching Assistant in Austria and will enroll in the PhD program in history at Stanford University in the fall.

Derek Quindry 15C completed his first year of Emory law school.

Sarah Yue 15C is working for Ernst & Young (EY) in Boston.

Justin Groot 14C is writing for the entertainment industry in Southern California.

Robert Cooper 13C is living in Los Angeles and working in the recording industry.

Sarah Corrigan 13C completed her first year in the PhD program in comparative literature at Harvard University, and **Abby Weisberger** 14C completed her third year in the PhD program in German Studies at the University of Michigan.

Caroline Maness 09C graduated from Emory medical school.

Sarah Richards 09C completed her second year teaching German at Shiloh High School in Snellville, Ga. Joining her this coming year in the Atlanta-area teaching ranks will be **Chloe Kipka** 17C, who begins work as a German teacher at the Marist School.

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German Studies

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Departmental Events, 2016–2017

German past and present on view at this year's departmental events

In addition to the teaching and research that took place during the academic year, the department was home to several events that drew audiences from across campus and Atlanta. Early in the fall semester, the German Studies Roundtable convened as a panel discussion moderated by Peter Höyng to consider the current state of refugees in Germany. Professors Roxani Margariti from Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies, Astrid Eckert from History, and our own Paul Buchholz shared their insights into the challenges and developments in the political,

historical, and cultural landscape in Germany since 1990.

On Halloween weekend, the department welcomed back one of its graduates, Robert Cooper '13C, to perform the world premiere of his original electronic music composition for the classic German vampire film, *Nosferatu*. After graduating from Emory, Cooper earned a master's degree in music composition from the Berklee School of Music and is now working in the recording industry in Los Angeles.

Later in the semester, noted musicologist Walter Frisch of Columbia University visited Peter Höyng's upper-level seminar on opera and literature and gave a public lecture on Richard Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*. In the last week of the semester, the department convened another panel discussion moderated by Hiram Maxim to discuss European perspectives on the US presidential election results. Subha Xavier (French and Italian), Tom Lancaster (Political Science), and Peter Höyng served as panelists and offered incisive analysis of the different responses to the election results.



German Studies Roundtable discussion with professors Eckert, Margariti, and Buchholz on the refugee situation in Germany

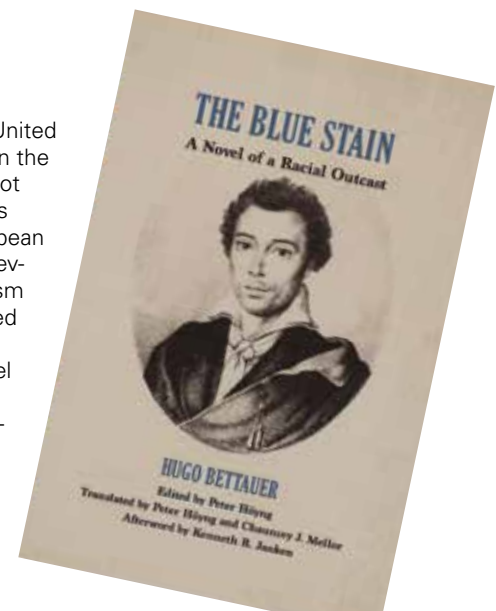
The spring semester started with two lectures by visiting Emory faculty. In light of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, Eve-Marie Becker, distinguished visiting professor of New Testament at Candler School of Theology, lectured on Luther's interpretation of the Book of Paul. Following that, Ralph Buchenhorst, visiting DAAD professor in the Department of Philosophy, presented his work analyzing the multidimensionality of Holocaust remembrance in Germany.

Later in the semester, the department welcomed Sarah Colvin, Schröder Professor of German at Cambridge University, for a public lecture about her sociological research into the narratives of right-wing extremists in Germany. The spring semester also saw Carrie Smith-Prei, associate professor of German at the University of Alberta, deliver the fourth-annual Maximilian Aue Memorial Lecture, in which she presented on creative modes of resistance in German feminist protest cultures.

Translating Hugo Bettauer

In May 2017 Peter Höyng and Jeff Mellor's (University of Tennessee-Knoxville) translation of Hugo Bettauer's *The Blue Stain* (Das blaue Mal) was released through Camden House Publishing. First published in 1922, the novel tells the story of Carletto, son of a white European academic and an African American daughter of former slaves. Having passed as white in Europe, Carletto flees to America after losing his fortune, where he resists being seen as black. Ultimately, he accepts that identity and joins the early movement for civil rights. Never before translated into English, this is the first novel in which a German-speaking European author addresses

early 20th-century racial politics in the United States—not only in the South but also in the North. Such early treatment of race is not without irony, however: while Bettauer's narrative aims to sanction a white/European egalitarianism with respect to race, it nevertheless exhibits its own brand of racism by asserting that African Americans need extensive enculturation before they are to be valued as human beings. The novel therefore serves as a unique historical account of transnational and transcultural racial attitudes of the period, which continue to reverberate in our present globalized world.



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