

# German Studies

Fall 2013, Volume 8, Number 1

## Message from the Chair



Hiram Maxim

With my colleague Peter Höyng ending his exemplary seven-year term as chairperson, I have some big shoes to fill, but it is reassuring to know the department rests on a firm founda-

tion upon which we can continue to grow. As the contents of the following pages highlight, there has been much activity in the past year. Perhaps most noteworthy, the department is delighted to welcome Nick Block as its newest member of the faculty. He comes to us from the University of Michigan, where he completed his PhD in 2013. He joins an already active faculty that continues to distinguish itself nationally and internationally with its scholarship: Caroline Schaumann is currently completing the third semester of her Humboldt Foundation Fellowship, Peter Höyng is recently back from his semester in Vienna as a Fulbright Fellow, Miriam Udel just completed her monograph on the modern Jewish picaresque novel, and Marianne Lancaster remains an important presence in national discussions on business German.

The department is equally proud of its students. Recently graduated German majors Robert Cooper, Ari Frankel, and Callie Jordan are currently serving as Fulbright English Teaching Assistants in either Germany or Austria, marking the eighth year in a row that German majors have received this prestigious award. That only tells part of the story, however. As the alumni news in this newsletter and on our website attests, our students represent an impressive range of academic interests and are making contributions in fields as diverse

as medicine, technology, law, business, and education.

Two other individuals who deserve recognition are our 2012–2013 Fulbright Teaching Assistant from Austria, Belona Berchtaler, and our new Program Coordinator, Terez Whatley-White. Berchtaler taught the one-credit conversation courses, lived in the German House, where she masterfully organized the active calendar of extracurricular events, assisted in organizing our conference, and returned to her native Austria this past summer to teach in the Vienna summer program. Whatley-White is not a stranger to many who know the department, but he returned to it after teaching English in South Korea to serve as the chief departmental administrator, a position that involves far too many duties to list here and that is indispensable to the success of the department.

In addition to individual accomplishments, the department had several noteworthy events that are described more in the following pages: a successful national conference on education abroad in the German-speaking world; a joyful celebration of the first 40 years of the Vienna summer program; and an award-winning article written by the full-time German language faculty on the department's revised curriculum.

In closing, I encourage you to read more about the program 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.

Hiram Maxim

Professor and Chairperson  
Department of German Studies

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

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Dear Friends of German
- Faculty News
- 40th Anniversary of Vienna: Conference
- Lectures by Detlev von Platen and Wladimir Kaminer
- American Chamber of Commerce Internships Update

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

# Dear Friends of German



Ending seven years of service as chairperson of the department, I have reasons to be proud looking back: whether it is the establishment

of the departmental Advisory Council, rejuvenating our Summer Study Abroad Program in Vienna, initiating an overhaul of our curriculum, securing funds from the Max Kade Foundation, establishing the Viola Westbrook Endowed Scholarship Fund, or supporting the nationally and internationally recognized research efforts of my colleagues, the German Studies Department has come a long way. Needless to say, it was most gratifying to see these concerted endeavors recognized nationally with

the department's designation as a Center of Excellence by the American Association of Teachers in German in 2012. I am thankful to my colleagues for their support, and I am happy to pass the baton to my dear colleague, Hiram Maxim.

Peter Höyng

Associate Professor  
Department of German Studies

## Faculty News



**Nick Block** joined the German Studies Department as a visiting assistant professor, after receiving a PhD in German studies and PhD certificate in Judaic

studies from the University of Michigan this past summer. He also is an affiliated faculty member in the Tam Institute for Jewish Studies. Block was a doctoral fellow at the Freie Universität in Berlin for the 2010–2011 academic year and previously worked as an archivist at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem. He has received two awards for excellence in teaching and most recently had an award-winning essay published in *The German Quarterly*. Block's research engages with German-Jewish intellectual history, Yiddish literature, the Turkish-German-Jewish triangle in contemporary German literature, Orientalism, and the quest for a new language in German literature since 1945. His dissertation focused on the half century between the 1880s and 1930s, when the mass westward migration of Eastern European Jews radically reconfigured the way in which

Western and Eastern Jews related to each other. Exploring the topography of modernism across literature and the visual arts, he demonstrates how the German and Yiddish modernist projects were co-constitutive partners in a dynamic process of Jewish identity formation. Block places texts from German authors such as Alfred Döblin and Franz Kafka into conversation with those by Yiddish authors such as Sholem Aleichem and Y. L. Peretz. He is currently expanding this work in a manuscript that details the transnational influences on early 20th-century German modernism, focusing on the cultural exchange between German-Jewish and East European Jewish artists and authors across the literary, artistic, musical, and theatrical spheres.

Drawing on the fruits of his research, Block is teaching an advanced German-language course titled "Race, Religion, and Citizenship in Germany." Students compare the minority experiences of German Jews and Turkish Germans from periods before and after the Holocaust and examine the interactions between Muslim and Jewish communities in present-day Germany.

**Peter Höyng** was honored to have been awarded a Fulbright Senior Research Fellowship at the Institut für Kulturwissenschaften (IfK) in Vienna, Austria, during spring 2013. This grant allowed him to continue his ongoing study of Beethoven's intellectual pursuits. As part of his stay in the Austrian capital, he not only gave a public lecture on Beethoven's conversation notebooks but also participated in a feature on Beethoven's intellectual life on Austrian national public radio. As part of this larger project, he completed two more essays, one of which traces Beethoven's transformation of Schiller's "An die Freude" into what Höyng terms "world music literature." This essay was published in an issue on "What Counts as World Literature?" in the *Modern Language Quarterly*. Furthering his transdisciplinary interest in the intersection between text and music, Höyng published two essays in which he contextualized musical productions as wide ranging as Richard Strauss's *Alpensinfonie* and Georg Kreisler (1922–2011), the Viennese-born, American-Jewish songwriter who provoked—through his lyrical, musical, and performative qualities—in an often funny but nevertheless unconventional nonconformist stance.



### **Marianne Lancaster**

continued as senior lecturer to coordinate all sections of Beginning German and worked closely with the annual Fulbright teaching

assistant. With her specialization in language pedagogy, she contributed to the joint publication of a departmental article under the leadership of Hiram Maxim in *Die Unterrichtspraxis*. Having taught for many years the sequence of Business German at the advanced level, Lancaster cooperated with the Goethe Institute Chicago to offer this past spring the “German for the Profession” exam in the Southeast at Emory and successfully tested a number of students. Recently, she also participated in the workshop Arbeitstagung DEUTSCH und MINT, organized by the Goethe Institute Chicago which aims to make German more attractive for students with special interests in math, computer sciences, natural sciences, and technology. Next summer she will again co-direct the Vienna Summer Study Abroad program. Last but not least, together with Terez Whatley-White she organized “Team German Studies” for the Emory Relay for Life walkathon last April.



### **Hiram Maxim**

continued his research into the language acquisitional and pedagogical implications of the department’s full-scale curricular reform. He

and his colleagues in the department saw their jointly written article on the reform appear in spring 2013 in *Die Unterrichtspraxis*, the leading journal in North America on German language

pedagogy. He also submitted an article on the collaboration between linguistics and literary studies faculty that resulted from the curricular reform. As part of an ongoing analysis of student writing in the curriculum, two undergraduate students worked with Maxim to investigate the development in syntactic complexity across the curriculum, the results of which were presented at the Emory Undergraduate Research Symposium. Due to the growing interest in the department’s curriculum, Maxim was invited to give four lectures this past year at different institutions on curriculum construction. In his role as director of the Emory College Language Center, he completed a jointly written article on the role of language centers in facilitating useful language assessment practices across campus. For his research, teaching, and service, Maxim was promoted to full professor in June 2013.



### **Caroline Schaumann**

completed the second part of her Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship in Berlin in fall 2012, where

she continued the work on her book manuscript on 19th-century representations of mountaineering and completed two research articles, both of which were published in 2013: “Memories of Cold in the Heat of the Tropics: Hans Ertl’s *Meine wilden dreißiger Jahre*” and “Andorra: The Balancing Act between Pattern and Particular,” the latter co-written with her father who also holds a doctorate in German studies. As a participant in the Environmental Humanities Network, Schaumann was invited to give presentations at the University of Washington in Seattle in September 2012 and the Rachel Carson Center in Munich in June 2013. She continued

to serve as director of undergraduate studies in spring 2013 and taught the course 370A in Vienna in summer 2013. In fall 2013 she is completing the third and last portion of the Humboldt Research Fellowship.



### **Miriam Udel**

completed her first book, *Never Better!: The Modern Jewish Picaresque*, thanks to a year-long fellowship from the University Research

Council. The manuscript is currently under publisher’s review. An extract about a novella by Yisroel Rabon will appear in a special volume of the journal *Polin* devoted to interwar Poland. She has presented material from the book at Johns Hopkins University, the Association for Jewish Studies, and twice at Emory as part of the Slavic Studies Colloquium and the German Studies Roundtable. During the summer, she began a new project focused on Yiddish children’s literature. In connection with that project, she is one of the inaugural Translation Fellows at the National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts. She also gave an ELI Talk (modeled on the TED Talks) about the importance of Yiddish literature for the American Jewish community. It can be viewed on the Yiddish page of the departmental website, along with media coverage of Emory’s Yiddish program.



# Automaker and Author Give Public Lectures



Shortly after its inception in 2007, the department Advisory Council initiated its lecture series. Its goal is to provide our students and the general public with a general glimpse into today's Germany. In the past six years the Advisory Council sponsored German speakers from the domains of

politics, business, and journalism. Last fall the council invited one of its own members, Detlev von Platen (above), who serves as CEO of Porsche North America to speak to the Emory community. With such brand recognition, von Platen filled the room with a captivated audience for his lecture on the

history of Porsche and its investment in Atlanta as well as some "secrets" on how the company approaches and guards its exclusive brand.

If von Platen represents one of Germany's most recognized brands, Wladimir Kaminer (below) is himself one of the country's most recognized modern authors. Ever since his best-selling collection of stories, *Russendisko*, appeared to popular and critical acclaim in 2000, Kaminer, a native of Russia, has made short stories set in contemporary Berlin and Germany his trademark. His stories share an understated humor and irony in their observations of his fellow Germans. Kaminer has a gift for making common societal practices seem not only silly but questionable. That he does so without moralizing, but instead with humor and wit, was amply demonstrated in his well-attended and lively lecture and in his discussion with students in our third-year course.



# Celebrating a Milestone

## 40th Anniversary of Our Summer Study Abroad Program in Vienna

This past summer the Department of German Studies proudly celebrated the 40th anniversary of its Summer Study Abroad Program in Vienna, Emory's longest-stand-

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ive aspects in his keynote speech on how study abroad in undergraduate education has been transformed from the outmoded model of a grand tour to active learning. The conference finished with a festive dinner at which the Austrian writer Andrea Grill gave a wonderfully witty account of her experiencing the States as a curious and compassionate stranger.

The German Studies Department was very grateful for the generous support of Emory's Center of Faculty Development and Excellence, the Halle Institute for Global Learning, and the Hightower Fund as well as the Emory College Language Center and the Center for International Programs Abroad. Furthermore, we were proud of the sponsorship by the Max Kade Foundation, the Austrian Cultural Forum in New York City, and German Academic Exchange Services.



German Faculty: Viola Westbrook (retired), Erdmann Waniek (retired), Peter Höyng, Marianne Lancaster, Miriam Udel, Caroline Schaumann, and Hiram Maxim

ing one. In order to celebrate this milestone, the department organized two signature events, a scholarly conference in March, and a reunion of our Viennese alumni in June; the latter had to, of course, take place in Vienna. Both of these events were dedicated to the memory of our dear Professor Maximilian Aue (1942–2012), who founded the program in 1973.

### Conference

With an eye towards our own study abroad program in Vienna, we chose as our conference theme "Education Abroad Programs in German-Speaking Europe in an Age of Globalization and Virtuality." From March 21–23, 2013, it brought together more than 30 international experts from the US, Germany, and Austria in the field of education abroad programs, a first of its kind. Held at the Emory Conference Center Hotel on campus, it allowed colleagues to present and discuss challenges for education abroad programs addressing economic, political, administrative, educational, or curricular issues. Beyond the emphasis

smaller colleges, ranging from educational experiences in smaller university towns to the ever-popular Berlin and Munich.



Peter Höyng, Belona Berchtaler, Terez Whatley-White

These new avenues included offering internships or research venues for undergraduates, presenting a yearlong program attractive for a variety of majors, and developing a joint MA program between a Canadian and German university. Russell Berman, professor of comparative literature and German studies at Stanford University, and past president of the Modern Language Association (MLA), underlined these posi-



Author Andrea Grill, Russell Berman, Hannah Liko, and Fulbright Austria Director Lonnie Johnson

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## Ah, Vienna!

Many years ago a young Viennese, Maximilian Aue, found himself at Emory University in Atlanta—far away from his beloved city on the Danube, from the Burgtheater, the Staatsoper or the Musikverein, not to mention his favorite Kaffeehaus.

So he set out to find a way to build a connection, and eventually, in 1973, the Emory in Vienna Summer Program was launched. It took not only a village but a whole city to create the right experience for our students, the exciting program we have all come to respect and admire for 40 years now. Aue persuaded his own favorite gymnasium teacher and mentor to teach the cultural history course, dubbed the “Austrian

Experience,” while his old school provided classrooms, and his mother talked many of her delightful friends into inviting Emory students to live in their homes.

The Iron Curtain still divided Europe then, which made the program’s integrated trips to Budapest and Prague, although quite complicated undertakings, some of the students’ most unforgettable memories.

The world has changed a great deal in the past 40 years, and the Vienna program evolved with it. Yet it never lost its remarkably generous character, which has provided our students full access to all Viennese cultural events. It was as fundamental and important to our mission 40

years ago as it is today. And, in return, it has been this very generosity that has made the Emory program such a welcomed and impressive US ambassador in Vienna.

Dr. Aue would have been pleased with our 40th anniversary celebration and the great promise it holds for the program’s successful continuation for years to come. Most of all, he would have delighted in seeing the various familiar faces of years past, hearing the many stories about how profoundly influential—sometimes even life changing—the Vienna experience has been for its participants, and of course still is today. What a remarkable legacy indeed!

—Viola Westbrook



These few days were filled with nostalgia and further solidified the unique bond Emory has with the city. And many new memories were formed in the process! A total of 25 alumni of the program (from the years 1974 to 2010) attended the event June 21–23, experiencing new sides of Vienna through Emory faculty-led tours and enjoying a boat ride down the Danube to visit the Abbey Melk. During cocktail hours and delicious dinners, we mingled and enjoyed either seeing or hearing about how the city had changed. Exchanging stories with participants from different decades brought recent history to life and deepened alumni connections to each other and the program.

—Callie Jordan 12B



program added a new dimension to the way I experience Vienna. Those early alumni told stories of a city without a subway that was drab and war-torn, and where old women in loden coats far outnumbered old men. Stories and personal accounts like those helped me broaden my Vienna experience and contextualize the history of the city—something I do well for the Habsburg era because the palaces have been preserved—but something I am less able to do for the second half of the 20th century, because the city has been so well cleaned up. I appreciate the gift of history that these alumni gave the younger members of the group, and I look forward to being able to share my stories with future young alumni.

—Alexandra Vinson 050x 07C



to have on my life. What better way to celebrate that fact than to commemorate 40 years with a group of people from all walks of life and generations who were each in their own ways deeply impacted by the city and the program? The reunion could not have come at a more opportune time for me, as I get ready to move back to Atlanta. This epic journey started in front of Stephansdom as a freshman in 2007, so it’s only fitting to celebrate the end of this chapter in my life the same way.

Not only was the reunion the perfect way to commemorate this beautiful city that continually calls us back with its siren call, but it was also the perfect way to remember a person who impacted all our lives, whether we realized it or not. Through tear-filled eyes during the final dinner of the reunion, I looked around the room and felt comforted by the depth of emotion and love for the person who began the program 40 years ago, and finally found the perfect way to say *Aufwiedersehen*.

—Abigail Kahn 10C

Although the Vienna Program has an active alumni presence, many of the students who return frequently participated in the program in the past five to eight years. This means that we share a history together, but it doesn’t extend very far into the past. Meeting some of the alumni who participated in the early days of the

In the past three years I have spent living in one of the most enjoyable cities in the world (Vienna, Austria—it goes without saying!), not a day has gone by that I don’t think back and appreciate the momentous impact the Emory Vienna Summer Study Abroad Program had and continues

# Alumni News

News of some of the students who majored or minored with us in the past few years and what they are doing now.

**David J. Cohen 06C** is a corporate associate at the New York law firm Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, where he focuses on mergers and acquisitions as well as corporate governance matters. After completing a Fulbright Scholarship as an English Teaching Assistant in Berlin, David attended the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where he earned his JD in 2010.

**Robert Cooper 13C** is in Nürnberg, Germany, working as an Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in two high schools. He is happy there because he feels appreciated by the students and is learning new methods from the teachers he observes and works with at both schools.

**Sarah Corrigan 13C** is a first-year student at Candler School of Theology at Emory, pursuing a master's of divinity. Sarah is currently employed as a German Sunday School teacher at the German Church in Atlanta, and she also works at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church in East Atlanta with individuals who have a history of substance abuse and mental illness.

**Michael Cover 09C** is attending the University of Michigan in his first year of an emergency medicine residency.

**Zach Craft 06C** is living in Houston, Texas, with his wife, Saba Ebrahim 06C. He works as an environmental lawyer at the law firm Baker Botts LLP.

**Ari Frankel 13C** is working as a Fulbright Teaching Assistant in Krems, Austria.

**Matthew A. Goldman 030x 05C** moved to New York City to become a territory manager for four years. He served one combat deployment in Afghanistan subsequent to joining the United States Marine Corps to learn modern standard Arabic and study at the Defense Language Institute to become an intelligence analyst.

**Joshua Guggenheim 13C** is working for Deutsche Bank within the Fixed Income Prime Brokerage group. He is currently working out of the Mumbai office in an emerging markets assignment.

**Callie Jordan 12B** is currently starting her second year as a English teaching assistant in Vienna through Fulbright Austria and is continuing her master of science in marketing at the Vienna University of Business and Economics (Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien).

**Abigail Kahn 10C** joined the Department of German Studies as an instructor of German this fall after finishing her master's degree in applied linguistics at the University of Vienna. She also is a teaching fellow in the Linguistics program.

**Caroline Maness 11C** is currently in her first year of study at Emory School of Medicine after two years of teaching biology, anatomy, and forensic science at Benjamin E. Mays High School in Southwest Atlanta for Teach for America.

**Susannah McCormick 07C** graduated from University of California, Berkeley in 2012 with a master's in public health, and she is now working at the University of California's Office of the President as a data analyst. She still keeps in touch with several wonderful people she met in Germany and Austria while studying abroad as an Emory undergraduate.

**Daniel Moody 13C** is currently pursuing a master's degree at Candler School of Theology.

**David Opp 09C** is social media manager at the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management in Frankfurt, Germany.

**John Reinhold 06C** has relocated to Zürich after finishing his studies at Lausanne's Institute for Management Development (IMD).

**Sarah Richards 09C** is finishing her MA in film and media studies at Emory, after she spent a year as a Bobby Jones Scholar at the University of St Andrews. She is writing her thesis on three recent Austrian films based on crime novels by Wolf Haas.

**David Trac 13C** graduated last spring and is now in his first year as an MD/PhD student at the Emory School of Medicine.

**Alex Vidor 12C** is president and co-founder of Social Pathway Solutions, a software development firm that has created an app that allows educators help students discover useful mobile applications.

**Alexandra Vinson 050x 07C** is pursuing her PhD in sociology and science studies at the University of California, San Diego.

**Terez M. Whatley-White 040x 06C** started working as lead staff for the Department of German Studies after spending a year in the Ilsan district of Goyang, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea, teaching English.

**Chris Whitman 07C** took his German-language abilities abroad as a student, working for Raiffeisen Bank at its headquarters in St. Gallen, Switzerland. After graduation, he moved to New York City, where he works in advertising. He is currently director of East Coast sales for an LA-based online video start-up, Giant Media.

## AmCham Internship Update

Thanks to the support and guidance of the department's Advisory Council, the department was once again able to offer internships to qualified undergraduates through the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany. Now in its fourth year, the "AmCham" Internship Program continues to grow in popularity and now is made available to 12 colleges and universities in the

Southeast. This past summer seven undergraduates from Emory were selected to participate in the program and were offered paid, three-month internships in a range of industries such as transportation, banking, insurance, law, food services, and pharmaceuticals. In addition to the internship, the American Chamber of Commerce invited the participants to weekend excursions

to Berlin and Munich. The German Studies Department is extremely grateful for the efforts of the Advisory Council, particularly the work of Council President Christoph Rückel, to make this wonderful opportunity available to Emory undergraduates.



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