Dear Friends of German Studies

We are pleased to present our annual academic newsletter, showcasing the vibrant activities and achievements within the German Studies Department. The summer of 2023 was very special to us as we had the occasion to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of our Vienna Summer Abroad Program – the longest-standing summer abroad program at Emory. Read more on page 2 about the eventful celebration dedicated to the memory of our esteemed colleague, Professor Maximilian Aue (1942-2012), who founded the program in 1973. We are grateful for the funding of travel grants from Mr. Ferdinand Seefried and the Max Kade Foundation as well as generous funding from the City of Vienna to support the celebration. Additional support from the Halle Foundation, the Max Kade Foundation, the Viola Westbrook Fund, and the Ferdinand Seefried Fund all helped our majors and minors to take advantage of summer study and internship opportunities abroad.

We are excited to welcome a number of new colleagues to the Department this coming year: Julia Ruck will join the Department as Assistant Teaching Professor. Dr. Ruck comes to us with vast expertise in Second Language Acquisition and a wealth of teaching experience in the United States and Austria. Richmond Embeywa will join us as a Provost Postdoctoral Fellow to teach courses in German Studies and pursue his research in multilingualism, multiliteracy, and language ideologies. Anna Kofler joins the Department as Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant, arriving from Innsbruck University. Their expertise and passion for German Studies will enrich our department and inspire students and colleagues alike, and we look forward to the valuable contributions they make to our academic community.

Pages 6-7 highlight the diverse range of research and teaching projects undertaken by our faculty this past year. We are particularly proud to share the following recent book publications: Arthur Rundt’s novel *Marylin: A Novel of Passing*, co-edited and co-translated by Professors Peter Höyng and Jeff Mello, and *Psycholinguistic Approaches to Instructed Language Acquisition: Linking Theory, Findings and Practice*, Professor Dan Walter’s first monograph.

Looking ahead, I happily announce some of our upcoming events this fall semester: Associate Professor Miriam Udel and Assistant Professor Didem Uca have been busy organizing a conference on literary translation “Making the Canon, Breaking the Canon: The Task of the Translator” September 6-8, bringing a group of international German and Yiddish Studies scholar-translators to the Emory Conference Center including Susan Bernofsky as keynote speaker and an open mic night at which our students will read their own translated pieces. On November 1, we are hosting a guest lecture “Mining Movies in the Age of Cinematic (Post-)Humanism” by Professor Christian Quendler (University of Innsbruck) co-sponsored by the Hightower Speaker Fund, the Departments of Anthropology, Film & Media, Environmental Science, Russian and East Asian Languages and Cultures, and Emory Climate Talks and the East Asian Studies Program.

In closing, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to our graduating students who have successfully completed their major or minor in German Studies and will now embark on exciting new chapters in their academic and professional journeys. We are immensely proud of their accomplishments and wish them continued success in all their future endeavors.

Ich hoffe, Sie bleiben in Kontakt und wünsche viel Spaß beim Lesen!

Herzlich,

Caroline Schaumann
Professor and Chairperson of German Studies

Help sustain our Vienna Program by giving to the Westbrook Scholarship Fund
Celebrating Our 50th Anniversary in Vienna

In 1973, our late colleague Maximilian Aue took a small group of Emory undergraduate students to his hometown Vienna, Austria; little did he know that he would instigate Emory’s longest-standing summer study abroad program. Since then, hundreds of Emory students have spent part of their summer studying German in Austria’s beautiful capital and exploring its rich, fraught, and complex cultural history.

To mark the 50th anniversary of our departmental program, over thirty alumni arrived in Vienna, celebrating a reunion over two and a half days with a full program from June 15-17. It all began with a toast in the fully blossoming rose garden adjacent to the Ringstrasse Boulevard before we continued to a Heuriger—a wine tavern on the hilly outskirts of Vienna. We were greeted and welcomed by a representative of Vienna’s City Council, our generous cosponsors of the first evening. Sitting outside, students of this year’s summer program, some host families, and alumni mingled on a wonderful summer evening.

Following a long-standing tradition, the alumni group visited on Friday the Abbey of Melk, a UNESCO world heritage site with its stunning Baroque splendor overlooking the Danube. After a delicious lunch break, luckily the weather cooperated when taking a boat trip on the river through the Wachau, a region known for its castles and vineyards, before returning to Vienna by train from Krems.

Next morning, we offered three tours for exploring Vienna’s history: Prof. Höyng shared some insights on the city’s musical heritage; Prof. Hiram Maxim—this year’s director of the summer program in Vienna—showed today’s multicultural Vienna; and an official tour guide shared his knowledge on the architectural history of the city. Whereas these tours and the excursion on Friday entice one to bathe in plenty of nostalgia, the Rainbow Parade on the Ring on Saturday afternoon showed a healthy antidote. It provided a reminder of the city’s contemporary diverse, and overall liberal-minded environment. The program ended festively with a dinner at the newly renovated Parliament building, one of the many magnificent edifices on the Ring Boulevard. Prior to it, Dr. Christian Hütterer—Deputy Head of the Parliament’s unit Global Development & Information Processing since 2020—provided an
Introducing New Faculty in Their Own Voices

Julia Ruck
I am incredibly excited to be joining the Emory German Studies Department as an Assistant Teaching Professor! I have learned about the program’s curricular approach during my PhD studies and, ever since, I have been curious about what Emory’s German coursework looks like in practice.

I initially studied Spanish at the University of Vienna. Looking back, it was probably my admiration for my own language teachers that motivated me to start teaching German. I obtained an MA in German as a Foreign/Second Language, but, while teaching in Austria, Russia, and Uruguay, I kept coming across so many more questions about language learning & teaching. I realized that I needed to turn to research, so I re-located to the U.S. and completed a PhD in German Applied Linguistics & Second Language Acquisition at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I have since worked as an Assistant Professor at Webster Vienna Private University in Austria and as a Lecturer at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

In my research, I aim to better understand how to learn and teach German as a foreign/second language at the university level. For example, I have investigated how individual learner differences were connected with how learners engaged with a movie in German. I have developed models on teaching German dialects. And, most recently, I have started a new research project that explores European and American students’ and instructors’ beliefs on diversity in collegiate German language education. I love teaching all levels of German and applied linguistics courses on multilingualism and identity, language politics, and language and power.

I look forward to my courses at Emory and finding many more questions for future research projects!

Richmond Embeywa
After receiving his Ph.D. in Transcultural German Studies at the University of Arizona in the Spring of 2023, Richmond Embeywa was ecstatic to join the German Studies Department at Emory University as a Provost Postdoctoral Fellow for the 2023-2024 academic year. Originally from Kenya, Richmond attended Kenyatta University in Nairobi, where he graduated with a degree in German and History in 2016 before completing his Master of Arts in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL) at West Virginia University in May 2018. His dissertation critically examines ideologies of culture learning as they manifest in the German integration course, a language/culture program established for arriving refugees, asylum seekers, and certain third-country nationals. Other research interests include multilingualism, student identities and language ideologies in study abroad, Black German literature, and pedagogies of multiliteracies. An avid language learner and teacher, Richmond speaks German, English, Swahili, Luhya, and a little Portuguese. In the summer, Richmond participated in the Intention Foundry organized by the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS): a forum for advancing equity, justice, and anti-racism for emerging scholars, ACLS leaders, and university interlocutors at Emory University. Beginning Fall of 2023, Richmond is looking forward to teaching German courses, and pursuing research collaborations with colleagues at Emory and the broader academic community in Atlanta.
Fulbright Foreign Language TA: Past, Present, Future

The Department is excited to welcome Anna Kofler as our next Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant and sad to say goodbye to Berit Hein, our previous Fulbright FLTA. In addition, we have updates from a few of our former Fulbright FLTAs.

Anna Kofler (Austria) 2023-2024
Hi, my name is Anna Kofler and I will come to Emory as Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant for German in August. I grew up in Innsbruck, a beautiful small city surrounded by mountains in Austria, where I recently finished my master’s degree in English and American Studies. Like many people in Innsbruck, in my free time I am motivated for all sorts of outdoor activities like ski touring and sledging in winter or hiking and biking and taking a dip in cold mountain lakes in summer. Spring in Innsbruck is my favorite time of the year. Though last spring was pretty rainy, we did get some of those wonderful days where you really feel that summer is coming soon. On these days, I love to cycle to the riverbank beaches at the edge of town with my friends, make a campfire, and play games sometimes until deep into the night. Next to my outdoory side, I also have a more comfortable side. I love reading, playing board games, and watching movies and series. Also, I’m always up for cultural activities like going to concerts or the theater (I’m a big musical fan, so I’m eager to see some shows in the US!). Though I am very fond of my hometown and all of my friends and family who live here, I am excited to come to Atlanta and dive into campus life at Emory. I am looking forward to getting to know many new people and make lots of friends to share all of my experiences with!

Berit Hein (Germany) 2022-2023
Hello everyone, hallo allersets! My name is Anna Kofler, and I will come to Emory as Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant for German in August. I grew up in Innsbruck, a beautiful small city surrounded by mountains in Austria, where I recently finished my master’s degree in English and American Studies. Like many people in Innsbruck, in my free time I am motivated for all sorts of outdoor activities like ski touring and sledging in winter or hiking and biking and taking a dip in cold mountain lakes in summer. Spring in Innsbruck is my favorite time of the year. Though last spring was pretty rainy, we did get some of those wonderful days where you really feel that summer is coming soon. On these days, I love to cycle to the riverbank beaches at the edge of town with my friends, make a campfire, and play games sometimes until deep into the night. Next to my outdoory side, I also have a more comfortable side. I love reading, playing board games, and watching movies and series. Also, I’m always up for cultural activities like going to concerts or the theater (I’m a big musical fan, so I’m eager to see some shows in the US!). Though I am very fond of my hometown and all of my friends and family who live here, I am excited to come to Atlanta and dive into campus life at Emory. I am looking forward to getting to know many new people and make lots of friends to share all of my experiences with!

Innsbruck, a beautiful small town near the Austrian Alps, is my home. I have always loved the mountains and the quietness of the countryside. I grew up in a family that values tradition and culture. My mother is a teacher, and I have always admired her passion for teaching. I have decided to follow in her footsteps and pursue a career in teaching.

I taught 101 & 102 sections and conversation classes with wonderful and motivated students. Every year the Department of German studies invites a student with a teaching degree from Germany, Austria or Switzerland into their house and gives them the opportunity to share their cultural knowledge by teaching German-interested students. I have tried my best to expose my students to my home culture. I hope I succeeded. The Emory environment, especially the environment in the German Department between colleagues and students, has made my experience outstanding in all possible ways. I have learned so much about life in the USA and hope that students feel the same about Germany and the German culture. I wish I had another year with the amazing group of students and colleagues.

Maximilian Schweigl (Austria) Spring 2022
Max Schweigl joined our department as a Foreign Language Teaching Assistant during the pandemic on short notice. He is now enthusiastically educating middle school aged Austrians in the state of Tyrol.

Katharina Aigner* (Austria) 2020-2021
I taught at the Department of German Studies during the term 2020/21. As this was in the middle of the apocovidalytic times, the classes took place in my apartment in Vienna - virtually:) The fact that I lived miles apart didn’t dim my enthusiasm. Quite the contrary - while people in Vienna suffered from the lack of social contact due to lockdown I got the chance to frequently talk to folks over at Atlanta. The team at the German Department is a very special crowd of the most welcoming, supporting, warmest and funniest people - they became my virtual family. It was such a great collaboration - especially with my 101/102 gang. I also really enjoyed working with the motivated students at Emory: talking passionately about the wide varieties of Viennese coffee and Mehlspeisen, the „gentle“ genitive and shock them with the morbid tales of „Struwwelpeter“. Only nice m-Emory-s!

Now I work as a singing and Yoga teacher, give workshops in creative writing and meditation. In artistic addition, I play concerts with my band „betont aignartig“, write aignartige stories and present them at poetry slams every now and then.

Marlies Terzer (Austria) 2015-2016

Anna Berger (Austria) 2014-2015
My name is Anna Maria Berger and I was German Department’s TA in 2014-15. After coming back from Atlanta, I started working as a teacher in secondary school in the southern state of Styria (the hidden gem of Austria). Over the last years, I also started working in Professional Development educating fellow teachers on the subject of ICT Tools. I am also happy to announce that I have been selected to join the Apple Distinguished Educator Class of 2023.

I decided to take a break from teaching for this year and have been doing a further master degree in Educational Science at the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen in the Netherlands where I’m currently residing.

After the summer I will be back in Austria, moving to Vienna to work as a teacher in a secondary school.

Max Trapp (Germany) 2010-2011
Max Trapp, who was a Fulbright Teaching Assistant in 2010/11, finished his teaching degree at Freiburg University in 2014, and, after his 18-months teacher’s training („Referendariat“) in Tübingen, Swabia — “enemy territory” for someone who grew up in the Baden part of Baden-Württemberg — became a teacher at a Gymnasium in Lörrach,
On October 24, 2022, the Department of German Studies hosted a hybrid roundtable discussion about how artistic communities and cultural institutions in Germany and Austria have responded to the Russian invasion of the Ukraine and the ensuing humanitarian crisis. The Vienna-based Ukrainian artists Olena Newkryta and Anastasiya Yarovenko participated via Zoom, and the Berlin-based German writer Tanja Dückers was present in person, with Prof. Paul Buchholz moderating.

On April 7, 2023, Frank Voigt’s German 202-class went on an excursion to the Steffen Thomas Museum of Art in Buckhead (near Madison, GA) exploring and discussing the theme of love in the exceptionally rich body of work by Steffen Thomas (1906–1990). Museum director Alyson Vuley also opened the doors to the archive and the library of the artist, who came to the US from Bavaria in 1928.

Frank Voigt’s course “The Jewish Return to Germany” was visited by Bev Saltzman Lewyn, author of the memoir of her father-in-law’s wartime experience, On the Run in Nazi Berlin. Lewyn, a former producer for CNN, discussed Bert Lewyn’s survival as a U-boat, or Jew living underground in midst of the capital city.

Profs. Uca and Udel co-taught a new course, “Literary Translation Workshop”, which was cross-listed with Comparative Literature, Jewish Studies, and Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies. Students learned about translation theory and history, interviewed professional translators, and translated literary texts for children and youth from their respective languages: German, Hebrew, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Urdu. On April 24, students presented their capstone projects. Those still in residence in Atlanta will read from their polished translations at an open mic night at September’s conference on literary translation.

On April 28, 2023, Consul General Melanie Moltmann invited all German Studies graduating seniors to a celebration and reception at her residence, along with students and faculty from other institutions in the Atlanta area. We hope this will become a new Department tradition!

In and Out of The Classroom

Benjamin Becker (Germany) 2007-2008
Since his time as a Fulbright Teaching Assistant from Germany (2007/2008), a lot has happened in Benjamin Becker’s life. Upon his return, Benjamin finished his teaching degree, decided against becoming a teacher, did a PhD on Intercultural Learning, founded a family (with now two boys), and for the next ten years worked in German-American relations – first in Berlin, then back in Cologne. The thought of becoming a teacher, however, never left him entirely. So in November 2022, Benjamin instead left his job as Managing Director of a transatlantic NGO to literally go “back to school” and start his 18-months teacher’s training („Referendariat”). He hasn’t regretted this decision a single day, and still thinks back fondly to his time in the Clairmont Tower – where it all started!
Sources on Underground and Alternative Publishing of the 1970s from the Austrian National Library and the Literaturhaus. This new research on the connections between counterculture and environmentalism fed into several presentations and projects over the course of the academic year. In September, Prof. Buchholz traveled to the German Studies Association conference in Houston to present his new findings on the West German and Austrian back-to-the-land communal farming movement. In November, he gave an invited lecture at Duke University, “Energy Crisis, Environmental Politics, and the New Left in 1970s West Germany and Austria,” an event sponsored by the Nicholas Institute for Energy, Environment & Sustainability and the German Studies Department. Then, in the spring semester, Prof. Buchholz brought this work into the classroom with a senior seminar on countercultural publishing in Germany and Austria, which gave students hands-on opportunities to research countercultural movements of the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, through the lens of alternative publishing. With these activities underway, Prof. Buchholz continues to expand and revise his current book about how environmental crisis led to the creation of new social visions in the wake of the 1960s, in both the German-speaking and English-speaking worlds on both sides of the Atlantic.

This past academic year, Peter Höyng was happy seeing Arthur Rundt’s 1928 novel Marylin: A Novel of Passing out in print. He co-edited and co-translated this forgotten anti-racist novel with his friend and former colleague Jeff Mellor; Priscilla Layne, an internationally recognized scholar on Black German studies, provided the Afterword. The research surrounding this novel and the previous translation of Hugo Bettauer’s 1922 novel The Blue Stain: A Novel of a Racial Outcast, sparked Höyng’s interest in teaching a new First-Year Seminar, entitled Transnational Intersections: Views on African American Culture from Austria and Germany. Besides students reading these two novels, they explored, e.g., Josephine Baker’s reception in Vienna in the 1920s or Martin Luther King Jr.’s visit to a divided Berlin in 1964. At this year’s Austrian Studies conference, Höyng returned to his interest in Austrian writer Elfriede Jelinek, the 2004 recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature, and recognized as one of Europe’s leading creative voices in post-dramatic theater. Höyng carved out the structural differences between theaters in German-speaking Europe and the US as the main reason why Jelinek’s texts for the stage have remained unknown in the US.

In her second year as chairperson of the Department of German Studies, Caroline Schaumann co-published an essay “Disease, Extinction, and Emergences in T.C. Boyle’s Friend of the Earth and Margaret Atwood’s Orys and Crake” in the volume Mensch & Mitwelt, using as an entry point research and teaching experiences during the pandemic. As co-editor of a forthcoming anthology on global mountain cinema, she wrote a chapter “Skiing at the End of Nature: Ruben Östlund’s Force Majeure” and edited other chapters. Schaumann was invited to present her research on mountain cinema at a virtual lecture at George Mason University, and on “Historical Perspectives of the Anthropocene: Alexander von Humboldt and John Muir” at the spring seminar series by the Department of Environmental Sciences at Emory. She continued to serve as co-Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Sustainability Minor and taught the core course for the minor, “Foundations of Sustainability,” in Spring 23. Schaumann was invited to serve as general editor of the series Nature, Culture, and Literature at Brill, helped coordinate panels for the environmental studies network at the German Studies Association Annual Meeting in October 2023, and is currently co-editing the Forum section for a special issue of German Quarterly by the American Association of Teachers of German.
**Didem Uca**

Her third year at Emory was productive and fulfilling! She published two peer-reviewed articles: “In/Visible: The Perception of Physical Alterity in Yoko Tawada’s ‘Fersenlos’ through an Intersectional Lens” in Gegenwartsliteratur: A German Studies Yearbook and “Hip-Hop Pedagogies, Social Justice, and Transnational Area Studies: Eko Fresh’s ‘Aber’ and Joyner Lucas’ ‘I’m not Racist’ in Dialogue” in Die Unterrichtspraxis / Teaching German, co-authored with Maria Stehle and Kate Zambon, which will also appear in a revised version in the forthcoming volume Social Justice Pedagogies. She presented her ongoing research on various topics at the German Studies Association, the College Language Association, UNC Greensboro, and UW-Madison. After a busy fall semester teaching a first-year seminar on German migration cultures and German 301, which looked at depictions of love in literature from the medieval era through the late-19th century, Prof. Uca co-taught a new literary translation seminar with Prof. Udel, inspiring her to submit additional translation projects for publication. She was excited to be appointed to the Advisory Board of the German Life and Civilization book series and the Editorial Board of the journal Die Unterrichtspraxis / Teaching German. For fall 2023, she has received a grant that will allow her to focus on her book project, Coming of Age on the Move: The Contemporary Transnational Bildungsroman in German.

**Miriam Udel**

Miriam Udel progressed toward the completion of Umbrella Sky: Children’s Literature And Modern Jewish Worldmaking, which is under contract for publication with Princeton University Press in late 2024. In August 2022, she also became Judith London Evans Director of the Tam Institute for Jewish Studies, where she has led several new initiatives designed to foster undergraduate engagement beyond the classroom and public-facing scholarship for the wider Atlanta community. In that role, she has been able to foster meaningful collaborations with German Studies, including the arrangement of a one-credit course in Yiddish for Speakers of German. She collaborated on a several events that focused on the Jewish experience in relation to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, such as a public conversation with the award-winning culinary historian Michael Twitty and a session co-hosted with the James Weldon Johnson Institute on Race and Antisemitism. She cherished co-teaching a path-breaking seminar on literary translation with Prof. Didem Uca and planning the translation conference to take place in September 2023, “Making the Canon, Breaking the Canon: The Task of the Translator”. An unexpected highlight of the year was giving an invitation at the Georgia Legislature and so becoming the first female Orthodox rabbi to address an American legislative body.

**Frank Voigt**

During his 3rd year at Emory, Voigt worked on a chapter of his book on Walter Benjamin, focusing on Benjamin’s critical engagement with J.W. Goethe and the concept of Bildung in the German Enlightenment. In September, he joined the German Studies Association conference in Houston, where he presented on Anna Seghers’ novel Die Rettung (1937) and Seghers’ account of the socio-psychological effects of unemployment. During the spring, Frank enjoyed teaching German 202 for the first time and taught a new class on Jewish returnees to Germany, West and East, after 1945. The 202 class enjoyed a visit at the Steffen Thomas Museum of Art, an inspiring museum that displays sculptures, drawings, paintings, and mosaics by the prolific expressionist artist Steffen Thomas (his art and life were featured in a film by director Jesse Freeman; Rock & Chisel premiered on the Emory campus on Feb. 7, 2023). Two other events Voigt will never forget: a public conversation and discussion with actor, director, writer, puppeteer, Yiddishist, and colleague Jake Krakovsky on February 28th about his grandfather and holocaust survivor in Berlin Bert Lewyn (1923-2016), who came to Atlanta in 1949. Together with his daughter-in-law, Bev Lewyn, Bert wrote a memoir (On the Run in Nazi Berlin) about his time in Berlin, and Bev visited Frank’s class on Jewish Returnees in April, where she gave a fascinating talk of her “detective work” which preceded the writing of the book: eliciting fragmented memories from Bert in hundreds of conversations and bringing them into a coherent timeline. What an incredible work!

**Daniel Walter**

(Oxford College) He published his first book, Psycholinguistic Approaches to Instructed Language Acquisition: Linking Theory, Findings and Practice with Multilingual Matters. In addition, he published a chapter entitled “Boundary Crossing from the Start: 55 Years of Second Language Grammatical Gender Research in Review” in a Festschrift for G. Richard Tucker, a former professor of his at Carnegie Mellon University, called Crossing Boundaries in Researching, Understanding, and Improving Language Education, as well as an article about language teaching experiences during the pandemic (“Surviving or Thriving? Experiences and job satisfaction of language instructors in the USA during the COVID-19 pandemic”) in the Journal of Language Teaching. He currently has a number of ongoing research projects in linguistics and German studies, including work on Syrian and Ukrainian refugees in Germany and their experience learning German as a second language, trans and non-binary student experiences in the second language German classroom, the physiological and cognitive causes of metathesis (w/ Dr. Kim from Linguistics), and the effects of alcohol on second language speech production errors (w/ Dr. McGee from Psychology). Interested students should feel free to contact Dr. Walter if they are interested in these or other potential research projects. As with the previous summer, Dr. Walter was excited to co-direct the second half of the German summer program, where students in his 370B class explored the various dialects and languages that collide in Southwestern Germany.
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