As we wrap up the 2017-2018 academic year, we are pleased to share our first newsletter for the Kalamazoo College Department of German Studies. This has been another outstanding year for our program with exciting new courses, innovative undergraduate research, student success on the Goethe Institut proficiency exams, and a great sense of community among our students and faculty.

This year Dr. Kathryn Sederberg joined the department faculty as the most recent tenure-track hire. She joins Dr. Simona Moti and Angela Erdman as regular teaching faculty. In 2017-18 we offered 4 to 5 German courses a term, from Beginning German 101 to our advanced seminars such as “Minority Cultures in Germany” and “Contemporary German Culture: Mutbürger und Wutbürger.” Dr. Moti also taught a sophomore seminar on “Reading European Cities: Berlin, Vienna, Istanbul” and her ever-popular film course “Myth of a Nation: German Film.”

Our German program would not be what it is without the support of our fantastic TAs from Germany. This year we welcomed Bianca Peipp and David Coldwell from Erlangen, who brought some of their local Bavarian and fränkisch culture to the labs, and Tim Jeske from Berlin, who also played on the K Men’s Soccer team.

Beyond the classroom, our department continues to host a variety of fun co-curricular events, which creates a great sense of community among students, faculty, and TAs in German. This year’s highlights included an election-watch party, Bayernabend, film screenings, info sessions, and Maifest with German food on the quad.

In this newsletter, you will read more about our program, alumni accomplishments, events on campus, and the experiences of students abroad. In future newsletters we will continue to highlight new courses, current students, recent graduates and alumni, experiences from Bonn and Erlangen, offering you a glimpse into the world of German at Kalamazoo College.

Call for Alumni: Are you a K College German alumni? Please be sure to contact us. We would love to tell our community what you have been up to since graduation!

Angela Erdman, Kathryn Sederberg, Simona Moti
German Department Faculty
Majoring or Minoring in German at K

Students sometimes ask: What can you do with a major or minor in German? Our answer: Anything! Our alumni profiles are evidence of the many things our graduates go on to do after graduation. Students repeatedly say that they learned so much more than German in our classes!

Our faculty have developed innovative courses and materials that challenge students to do cultural studies work starting in the beginning levels. German 101 students read the children’s book *Akim rennt* (Claude Dubois) and talk about the experience of a refugee child. In 102 we read *Heidi* and learn more about Switzerland. In German 201, students read two longer books, including *Oya*, about a Turkish-German girl who moves with her family back to Turkey and experiences a new kind of culture shock. In the Senior Seminar (the capstone course for the German major) entitled “The Demons of Modernism,” students explore the “demons” that haunted the beginning of 20th century, from the vampire to the femme fatale, but also our own culture—its deepest anxieties and greatest triumphs—as it is reflected in the works of a bygone era.

The German Major consists of eight courses beyond the 102 level, and the German Minor requires six courses. This spring 2018 we have five majors graduating: Anuja Dandekar, Shelby Hopper, Taylor Johnson, Andrea Ramirez and Bailey Smith; and minor Maverick Hanson-Meier. Herzlichen Glückwunsch!

We also have high success rates for students receiving competitive postgraduate fellowships. Last year Riley Cook ’15 and Sapana Gupta ’17 received a Fulbright Fellowship to Germany and Blanca Moreno ’17 received a fellowship from the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals. Emily Walsh ’16 will be a Teaching Assistant in Austria 2018-2019. We can’t wait to hear more updates about their experiences abroad.

Our students are also involved in undergraduate research, whether through an Integrative Cultural Research Project (ICRP) during study abroad, or through their Senior Individualized Project (SIP). At our SIP Symposium this May, students presented on topics such as social media usage by German automotive companies (Shelby Hopper), the German response to the refugee crisis (Taylor Johnson), controversies in West German historiography (Bailey Smith), and translation of Walter Benjamin (Liam Tait). Thanks to everyone who came to hear these great talks!

We are also proud that our majors and minors attain a high level of German proficiency through their coursework and study abroad. All majors take the internationally recognized Goethe Institut Exam, and this year all passed the B2 level, demonstrating advanced German language skills! In 2018, Emma Eisenbeis, Madeline Lauver, Bailey Smith, and Annarosa Whitman received the B2-Zertifikat.

President Jorge Gonzalez with Blanca Moreno ’17
Alumni Notes

This year we have been reaching out to alumni for updates, which we are sharing on our website. This allows us to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates and to show current students that a major or minor in German can lead you to success in many different fields or careers! Here are just a few stories:

**Sapana Gupta ‘17**, German, Computer Science, and Math triple major, is currently in Germany as a Fulbright ETA at a Gymnasium near Mainz. She studied in Erlangen and took on her ICRP at the university’s Gender and Diversity office.

**Stuart Murch ’17**, German and Psychology major, is currently on a year-long postgrad fellowship in Erlangen. “I began in German 101 at K out of pure interest; I had no previous exposure to the language. I went on [to major] in German studies and studied abroad in Erlangen for six months. To be able to go from a complete beginner to living in Germany on my own in just a few short years has been a simply amazing experience.”

**Annie Nielsen ’17**, German and IAS major, is now in Bonn on a year-long postgrad fellowship in Bonn. We also heard from Annie’s mother, **Susie Nielsen ’88**, who also studied German at K and shares a passion for international exchange. Susie went on to a career at General Motors in Saginaw—using her German skills to talk to the Rüsselsheim office!

**Grady Schneider ’16**, Economics and German, studied abroad in Erlangen. Grady has moved to Los Angeles where he works on policy issues at the Los Angeles Business Council.

**Liz Tyburski ’16** is currently working as a substitute teacher and in the fall will begin a Master’s program to become certified to teach high school Spanish and German in Michigan.

**Connect with us!**

German alumnus Blake Peters ’96 reached out to us through emeriti faculty Joe Fugate and Hardy Fuchs to propose a possible internship at the German International School in Portland, OR, where he is the Head of School. The mission of the German International School is to educate well-rounded, global citizens from Preschool through fifth grade, and develop language fluency in both English and German. This summer K German major Emma Eisenbeis ’19 will be the first summer intern in the school’s *Kindersommer* program. We can’t wait to hear about her experience!

We would love to connect with alumni about similar opportunities—whether they are related to German or not! Let us know if you have an idea!

**Colin Cepuran ’15** is currently a Ph.D. student at Cornell University in Political Science studying American Politics—specifically, the institutions, policies, and heuristics which allow American citizens to participate in politics.

**Riley Cook ’15**, German and Philosophy double-major, deferred her law school admission to return to Germany on a Fulbright this year. “I am currently teamed up with a professor and PhD candidates in order to form a ‘task force’ that determines how and where refugee integration policies are organized in nearby municipalities, how civil society organizations are involved, and which methods are the most effective for integration.”

**Mallory Zink ’15** is a graduate student in Museum Studies at the UW Milwaukee, and the Assistant Educator at the Wisconsin Historical Museum. Her interest in museum work developed from her ICRP in Erlangen.
Events on Campus

We started this Fall quarter with an Election Watch Party to tune into the German Bundestagswahl results live and discuss the outcomes. This event brought together students, faculty, and community members over breakfast on September 24th. In October, the TAs had an Info-Abend presenting information about their universities, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Uni Potsdam, and our study abroad programs. Bayernabend was a highlight of winter term, as the TAs planned a fun night of Bavarian-themed food, music, a quiz testing our dialect skills, and even turned out in their Tracht. In winter we also hosted an event at Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership, screening the Swiss documentary film Neuland (Dir. Anna Thommen, 2013) with a roundtable discussion about refugees and programs to ease the transition to a new language and culture.

As the weather gets nicer in Kalamazoo, and graduation gets closer, we have Spring events to celebrate our students and say thanks to those leaving us. In May we celebrated four students’ undergraduate research at the SIP Symposium, which was standing-room-only! Shelby Hopper wrote her SIP in German under the guidance of Dr. Simona Moti. We also celebrated Maifest out on the quad, on a beautiful sunny Michigan day. Students enjoyed Currywurst, Spätzle, Kartoffelsalat and Strudel, and we gave awards of excellence to outstanding students at every level: Emily Eringaard (1st year), Liam Tait (2nd/3rd year), Shelby Hopper (senior).

As part of our regular co-curricular offerings, the TAs host a weekly Spielstunde and Stammtisch in the Book Club Café for students to get extra German practice outside of class. They’ve had fun playing games like Tabu, Äpfel zu Äpfeln and Werwolf and talking about topics like soccer and travel abroad.

We also host a regular film series. This fall, in honor of the 500-year anniversary of Martin Luther’s 95 Theses, students saw three films on the topic “Rebellion! Rebels of German History.” In winter we showed films set in Switzerland, the new Heidi film being a highlight, and in spring, for the WM Jahr 2018, the theme was “Deutschland: Sportland.”

Delta Phi Alpha: National German Honor Society

The National German Honor Society, Delta Phi Alpha, seeks to recognize excellence in the study of German and to provide an incentive for higher scholarship. This spring at our Maifest celebration we held the first induction of the K College chapter of Delta Phi Alpha, inducting seven juniors and seniors who have shown academic excellence in German. Students read quotes about language and performed the spoken-word poem “Die Macht der Sprache” (Bas Böttcher).

„Die Grenzen meiner Sprache bedeuten die Grenzen meiner Welt“.  
-Ludwig von Wittgenstein

New inductees to the National German Honor Society
Students of German have the wonderful opportunity to develop their German language skills and experience German culture by participating in either the Erlangen or Bonn program for Study Abroad, depending on their level of proficiency. Our students take university courses with German students on topics such as philosophy, history, and economics and work on an Integrative Cultural Research Project (ICRP). Students often travel during their year abroad, seeing more of Germany and Europe.

This spread features photographs from students who studied abroad during the fall and winter quarters in Erlangen including some photos from students who remained in Germany for the summer semester.

“This is the sign for the Waldorf School in Erlangen, which was the site of my ICRP. Every day that I worked there, I walked along a path in the woods of Tennenlohe (a neighborhood adjacent to Erlangen) to get to class.” —Madeline Lauver ’19.

If you are a current student interested in study abroad in Bonn or Erlangen, be sure to reach out to the CIP and/or your faculty!
Contact

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Stay in touch!
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Students celebrating Bayernabend with the TAs, SIP Symposium, Bianca invites the German 101 students to learn to bake Apfelkuchen, our 3 great TAs, and our SIP Symposium presenters