

Wellesley wegweiser

Issue Eighteen

Spring 2011

The Year in Review

The German Department looks back on a productive and heartening year. We enjoyed strong enrollments across our curriculum, especially in our language classes. We know of German programs in some high schools and colleges that have trouble attracting students, but I'm happy to say that is not the case at Wellesley.

We have tried hard to support and promote our students. Thanks to the generosity of our departmental Falk Fund, we are able to send students abroad to summer school in Germany where they can take courses for credit toward our minor or major in order to accelerate in our program. Last summer, for example, we sent four students to Berlin and this coming summer of 2011 we shall again send the same number. They will take language, literature, and culture courses at the summer institute of the Freie Universität (FUBiS) and return to us in the fall and enrich our courses at the intermediate level. This has been a great program for the department that has helped students for three years now by strengthening their skill through study for a summer in Germany.

The greatest change we have witnessed this year concerns our study

abroad program. After running an exchange with the University of Vienna for ten years, we have decided to end that relationship and set our sights on a different opportunity. Alumnae of the Vienna program may wonder what prompted this decision, and while the answer is a complicated one, the decision was not made in haste. We

are a small department whose small faculty has invested huge amounts of time into our study abroad efforts. We know we will be served better in the future by a partnership with an established program that already has an administrative structure in place. That ideal partnership has presented itself in Middlebury College, which runs programs both in Mainz and Berlin. Next year we shall be sending eleven students to study at the FU under the auspices of Middlebury. We fully expect this arrangement to blossom into a full-fledged partnership.

I wish to thank all of our devoted alumnae who read this newsletter and who remember both the German Department and their alma mater



Class of 2010 German and German Studies majors Marit Schroeder, Enid Li, and Ashley Muller, enjoyed the senior breakfast.

fondly. Please let us hear from you. If you write to us we'll mention you in the next Wegweiser. Our special thanks to Dr. Irene von Estorff who very kindly surprised us with a gift that showed up on our budget sheet a few months ago. No matter what the amount, your generosity is profoundly appreciated. I know that alumnae are constantly invited to support Wellesley, so I don't need to repeat such a plea here. Suffice it to say that I hope you can get a sense of how we would put any gift to use: you are investing in our students.

Thomas Hansen
Head of the Department

Alumnae Aktuell

*All alumnae are invited to drop by the German Department, Founders 407
for our annual Open House at Reunion on Saturday, June 4th at 10:00-11:00 am
We look forward to welcoming you back.*

Enid Li '10 is doing well in Cambridge, and though the lectures are difficult, she is happy to have passed exams. Recently she attended a performance by the Bueno Vista Social Club. The music was outstanding and made her remember the seminar she took with Professor Ward, in which they watched a film by Wim Wenders. Though she is doing well, she does miss German classes at Wellesley and the opportunity to always have interesting works to read.

Vanessa Troiano '08 is studying art history in England this year at the Courtauld Institute of Art. The MA program there is very intense, but she is enjoying being back in school and is glad to be learning so much. There are two other Wellesley alumnae in her eight-person special options course, several other Wellesley women at the Institute and many more in London, representing the W-network in the UK, which is very strong, a nice comfort when far away from home.



Vanessa Troiano in Salzburg celebrating Silvester (New Year).

Veronika Caslavsky '80 started her career by being a German editor of textbooks at Houghton Mifflin. Like many others, she was intrigued by computers and moved to an international word processor software company where she worked on manuals in German and French. There she met her husband, who insisted that they must live in a country where French is spoken (the French do not easily take to speaking English or any other language); hence their current location in Montreal, a compromise between her home and his. She still works in the software world, as a manager of quality assurance for an international company that builds websites. Her

German has come in handy, helping test the German versions of various client sites. Though at Wellesley her passion was soccer, she has learned to love hockey in Montreal and is currently avidly follow the Stanley Cup series. She still keeps in touch with friends in Germany, writing snail mail to exchange news with the two very good friends that she made while on a DAAD scholarship in Bonn after her senior year at Wellesley. In addition to being a soccer coach these days, she has tried her hand at painting and finds that it is a very relaxing pastime after an intense week of testing software.



Veronika Caslavsky '80 with her husband.

Focus on Faculty

This year, **Anjeana Hans** had the opportunity to teach a new course, on literature, film, and culture of the Weimar Republic. The course was taught in English with an additional meeting in German, allowing both beginning and more advanced German students to enroll. This was an especially exciting course for her, as Weimar Germany is the focus of her current research project, and the group had some great discussions of the texts they read and

films they watched. She also designed two new courses for next year: a first-year seminar focused on fairy tales, and a course on German short stories.

Her work on her own research continues: she is currently completing a project in which she examines uncanny films of the Weimar era in order to reveal the ways in which they engage with cultural anxieties coalescing around changing gender roles

and simultaneously contribute to developing tropes of cinematic representation. This project grew out of research she has done over the past several years at the film archives in Berlin, and where she will be again this summer, collecting both final details for the current manuscript and preliminary material for her next project.

Focus on Faculty (continued)

This was also her first year of serving on the Board of Admissions, and it was fascinating for her to read the applications from such a range of bright, unusual women. The German Club has continued to thrive, planning a number of activities, notably an Oktoberfest for which the members designed and sold mugs printed with their logo. Professor Hans always enjoys getting to hear about their plans and activities at the weekly Kaffeeklatsch.

During the past year **Thomas Hansen** finished translating two recent works of Austrian fiction. The first is a collection by the Viennese Robert Menasse *Ich kann jeder sagen. Erzählungen vom Ende der Nachkriegsordnung* (Suhrkamp Verlag, 2009), in which all the short stories use a slippery fictitious "I," that distinguishes each by a remarkably different personality and narrative strategy. The cumulative effect of this collection is an impression that one has witnessed and almost participated in the history of the post-Wall era. The second work is a piece of creative non-fiction by Josef Haslinger, *Phi Phi Island* (S. Fischer, 2007). This gripping account by one of Austria's most socially critical literary voices tells of the catastrophic tsunami that struck Indonesia over the Christmas holiday in 2004, which Haslinger survived with his wife and two children -- though not without lingering traumatic effects.

In the fall semester of 2010-11 **Jens Kruse** taught German 101: Beginning German and German 329: Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Century German Literature.

During the spring semester of 2011, he was on sabbatical and continued working on his project with the working title "*Goethe*": *Biography of a Fiction*. The projected book will trace the development of the image of Goethe in German culture from 1832 to the present by analyzing novels and novellas in which "Goethe" is the protagonist. An article connected to that work, "Walsers Trilogie der Leidenschaft: Eine Analyse seines Goethe-Romans Ein liebender Mann im Kontext der Tradition der Ulrike-Romane" appeared in *Goethe Yearbook* in the spring of 2011.

He has also been working on an annotated edition of Kafka's *The Metamorphosis* specially designed for electronic book readers. It will be published soon by eNotated Classics.

Thomas Nolden has been working on the transition of our Junior-year abroad program from Vienna to Berlin. In January, he taught another wintersession course in Vienna, and in May, he led the Berlin excursion for our students studying in Austria. For his German classes, he arranged the visits of Berlin authors Thomas Pletzinger (whose novel "Funeral for a Dog" received a very positive review in the New York Times) and Saša Stanišić (whose novel "How the Soldier Repairs the Gramophone" has been translated into more than 25 languages). Together with Brandeis' Center for German and European Studies, he invited Professor Vivian Liska from Antwerp University to present her new book on Franz Kafka. As a visiting professor, Professor Nolden taught a course on Europe and Germany at M.I.T., and was also involved in an Olin College capstone project. Here at Wellesley, he taught a new course on the impact of film makers from Berlin and Vienna on American cinema and Hollywood, and directed Wellesley's comparative literature program in which he taught a new course on the European novel. Among his many service activities, he enjoyed his work as a member of the Honor Code Council and of the Faculty Selection Committee of the Albright Institute.

Since her June 2010 retirement, **Margaret Ward** has divided her time between New Hampshire and Florida, and has traveled in Europe and the United States. Last November she spent a week with friends in Upper Bavaria. Among many retirement activities, she began this winter to teach ESL to a small group of Hispanic women. She finds this rewarding but challenging as her students have differing levels of literacy. They are eager to learn, however, and one is on the path to becoming a U.S. citizen.

March 24, 2011 marked the 200th anniversary of Fanny Lewald's birth,

and Professor Ward has added some new publications to her previous work on this nineteenth-century novelist and essayist, an early German advocate of women's education. Ward's bio-bibliographical entry on Lewald was the March feature in *Berühmte Frauen Kalender* 2011 (Suhrkamp 2010), and longer versions in both German and English can be found at <http://www.fembio.org/biographie.php/frau/biographie/fanny-lewald> and <http://www.fembio.org/english/biography.php/woman/biography/fanny-lewald>.

An article entitled "Ich bin jetzt Ihr treues Tagebuch [...] Lewald as Mentee and Mentor," has been published by Aisthesis Verlag in a *Sammelband* to honor the 200th birthday.

At this writing Professor Ward is in the process of reviewing the page proofs and creating the index for her memoir, *Missing Mila, Finding Family: An International Adoption in the Shadow of the Salvadoran Civil War*. The book will appear next fall in the Louann Atkins Temple Women & Culture Series of the University of Texas Press. For those who can't wait, you can pre-order by looking for the title in the Fall-Winter 2011 catalogue that will be posted on-line this summer at the press's website <http://www.utexas.edu/utpress>. On-line orders made directly with the press will be \$16.72 plus S + H, a 33% discount from the list price. The book has about 250 pages of text and contains some black & white photographs, as well as endnotes and a bibliography. And well yes, an index!



Margaret Ward in the quad.

Grant Recipients

Life in X-berg Hannah Allen '12

This summer, with the aid of a stipend from the German Department, I was fortunate enough to embark upon a nearly two-month study abroad program in Berlin, Germany. Duke and Rutgers University ran the program and their students constituted the majority of those participating, excepting myself and two other Wellesley students, Joanna Xu and Lauren Steinman. The professors teaching the courses were also professors from these two institutions and with



Hannah Allen '12 and Lauren Steinman '13 enjoying the Duke & Rutgers in Berlin program on a day trip to Dresden, Germany.

their guidance we chose two courses each, either in German or English, each with a topic having to do with the city of Berlin. Just as in the Wellesley-in-Vienna Wintersession program I had been on the past academic year, the program was not only heavily centered upon building our language ability, but was also devoted to getting us well acquainted with the city around us. One of the main differences

in this program, however, was, first and foremost the beautiful summer weather of Berlin, but also that for the most part we were completely left on our own – though we were all living in the same apartment complex we were left to cook and clean for ourselves. Our apartment complex was located in Kreuzberg, the ‘up-and-coming’ district of Berlin known for its Turkish immigrants and hipster scene and the buildings themselves were renovated apartments that used to be the quarters of border guards. We were literally just meters away from where the former wall stood. In its place is an oddly narrow and long garden, lush with Berlin’s summer foliage, but that seems ultimately nonsensical unless you are privy to the history behind it.

Just like this garden, Berlin as a city is replete with secrets, encryptions of this city’s painful past – some are hidden, as secrets should be, while others are so apparent they veritably strike you down with their powerful brazenness. Such are the iconic symbols of Berlin,

which our group of American students first encountered on our bike tour of the city. However, this relatively brief encounter with the city that is thankfully relatively flat was only a taste of the city that, in the next six weeks we were going to become fairly familiar with.

The city we came to learn is very student friendly, being one of the most affordable

places to travel to in Europe. It is also a hub for stereotypical European nightlife, something we found out very quickly upon seeing a less-than-appealing crowd stumbling out from all-night bars while we were walking to the subway at eight AM in the morning on our way to the classes held at the Technische Universität. Though by the end of the trip we were convinced that most of the city of Berlin must not hold regular day jobs, based on the way they lounge at restaurants and cafes in the afternoon and evening, the city held its own amount of fun for us as well. Though we were busy with school work, the program afforded us plenty of time to not only explore the nightlife of the city, but more importantly the cultural activities, which are, for the most part, highly subsidized for students. We were also led on many day trips to close-by cities such as Potsdam and Dresden as well as a weekend-long stay in Weimar and our midterm break in Munich.

If you cannot tell, my experience in Berlin was over-the-top amazing. I could gush about it for hours and will do so if you let me. If you have any other questions about the program I was on, the city itself or even getting a stipend from the department, feel free to contact me at any time.

Kreuzworträtsel

Deutsche Künstler und Architekten

by Ali Crank '11

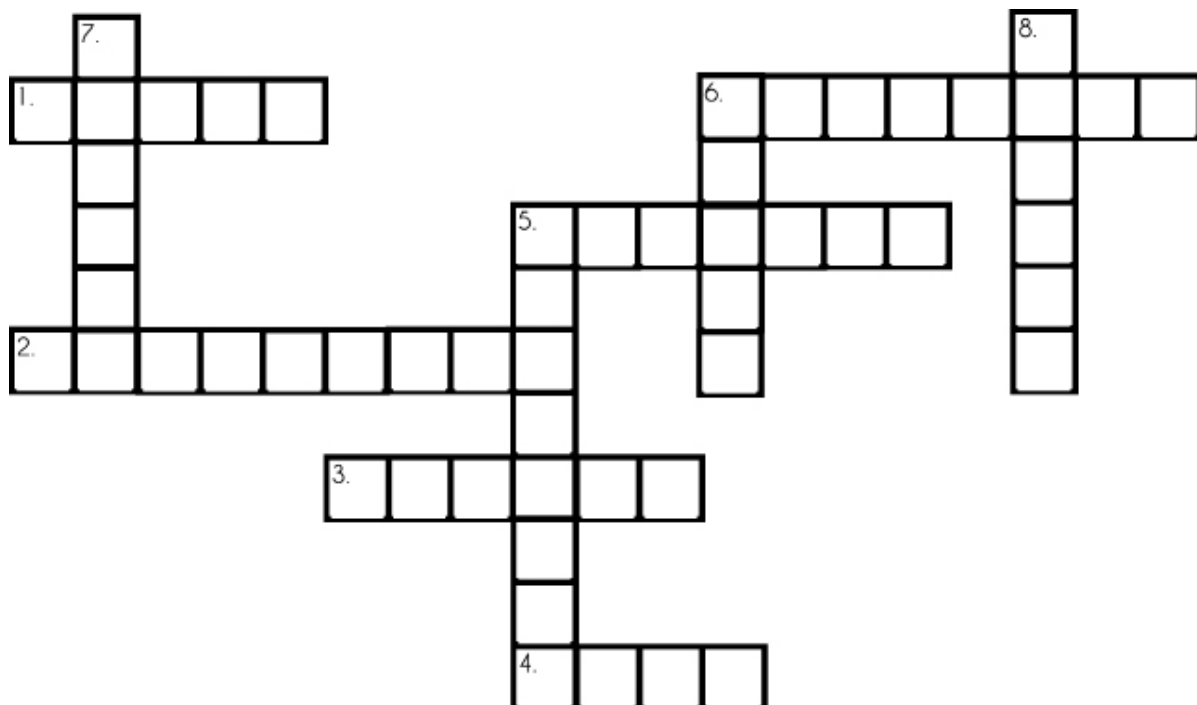
Alle Antworten sind ein Wort.

Waagerecht:

1. Der größte Grafiker und Maler der nordeuropäischen Renaissance.
2. Landschaftsmaler der Deutschen Romantik, der für sein Gemälde *Der Wanderer über dem Nebelmeer* berühmt ist.
3. Österreichischer Architekt, der für die Gestaltung der Wiener Stadtbahn am besten bekannt ist.
4. Österreichischer Architekt der europäischen Moderne, dessen berühmtestes Gebäude am Wiener Michaelerplatz steht.
5. Österreichischer Figurenmaler, der für seine grotesken und ausdrucksstarken Linien und erotischen Posen bekannt ist.
6. Deutsche Malerin und Grafikerin, deren Arbeit die Opfer von Armut, Hunger und Krieg in der ersten Hälfte des 20. Jahrhunderts darstellt.

Senkrecht:

5. Preußischer Architekt klassizistischer und neugotischer Bauten; Architekt des Alten Museums in Berlin.
6. Österreichischer Maler des Symbolismus der Wiener Secession, der für sein Gemälde *Der Kuss* weltberühmt ist.
7. Deutsche expressionistische Malerin der Münchner Avantgarde-Bewegung, die Formen abgeflacht gemalt hatte.
8. Deutscher Maler des "Neuen Symbolismus" dessen Werk von Materialien wie Stroh, Asche, Lehm und Blei gebrauch macht und Themen wie deutsche Geschichte, Tabus und Nazi-Herrschaft thematisiert.



January-in-Vienna

Overall, the trip was an amazing and life changing experience. Vienna is a beautiful and vibrant city, full of music, culture and a rich history. My German speaking really improved by having to use the language regularly to do basic things like exchange money, and buy tickets for museums and food.

From the dazzling ball, to the incredible art of Klimt, to the awe-inspiring Stephansdom, to the delicious coffee and pastries, everything about Vienna was delightful and breathtaking. I hope that I can return there sometime soon!

- Mariami Bekauri, Class of 2013



Enjoying a meal at Brezl Gewölb.



Main Staircase at the Hofburg, Yan An Tan, Amy Kreienkamp, Ran Wei, and Annelle Castillo.



Isabel Custodio and Maia Fitzstevens in front of the Kunsthistorisches Museum.



In front of Schöbrunn, from l. to r.: Catherine Cheng, Mariami Bekauri, Maia Fitzstevens, Rosa Hong, Jennifer MacDonald, and Sarah Niederberger.

German Club



German Club, from l. to r.: Teresa Wisner '13, Ana Ortiz '14, , Denisse Ruiz '13, Emily Bell '13, Julia Burns '13, and Isabel Custodio '13.

From Shernaz Dossabhoy '12, German Club President

The German Club has had an active, fun filled 2010-11 year, chock-full of new traditions. In October, we held an Oktoberfest celebration complete with Bratwursts, freshly baked pretzels, German mustard, and Apfelmost. At this event, we sold our first edition of German Club Bier Steins, engraved with our newly designed club crest. This fundraiser was very successful; students, parents, and even professors were eager to purchase the glasses.

In November, we invited Professor Hansen, Chair of the Department, to give a lecture entitled *Swastika: History of an*

Embattled Symbol. The enlightening talk attracted many students taking German classes but also a large number of students and professors from outside the department.

New York in the late fall is said to be beautiful, and German Club was able to experience the Big Apple first-hand during our November trip to Die Neue Galerie. The small museum showcases a collection of early twentieth-century German and Austrian art and design. We received a private tour and enjoyed the Galerie's special fall exhibit: *Postcards of the Wiener Werkstätte*. We hope to go back again next year!

This spring we invited Professor Hans to speak with us on films from the Weimar Republic (her specialty). She lectured on *The Beast on the Screen: Gender, Trauma, and Uncanny Films in the Weimar Republic*. To accompany the great talk and films, we enjoyed yummy Indian appetizers (a stark contrast to the usual blander, German dishes).

Remaining events for the semester include: a World Cup Soccer event, in which we hope many groups on campus will join us for soccer and smores, another fundraiser, in which we will sell German Club T-shirts, and an end of the year celebration hosted with the department.

This has been such a successful year for the German Club, and we look forward to the new and repeated traditions next year brings. We are so grateful to the German Department for all their help with our events, and we would especially like to thank our club advisor, Professor Anjeana Hans for her dedication to the club and for always providing delicious coffee, snacks, and conversation at the weekly Kaffeeklatsch!

Wellesley-in-Vienna

From Melissa Evans '12



Melissa Evans '12 takes in the German sun wearing traditional garb.

Nudity doesn't faze me- neither do fancy buildings, nor people who insist on bringing their dogs with them into stores. It's official: after nearly six months, I have finally gotten in sync with European life. In the beginning everything was hard, because every little thing was in German. In fact, everything was much harder than what anyone had prepared me for. I developed the necessary skill of nodding and smiling and then changing the subject to something that I could actually talk about with relative ease. The amount of times that I talked about the weather is quite astounding now that I think about it. Flying by the seat of my pants would be a perfect expression to explain how I got through the first month or two. Gradually my language abilities improved and now if there is an issue I can solve it myself, or easily and politely ask someone what in God's name is going on. My choice to study abroad for the entire year makes more sense to me as time goes on. If I had been here for only one semester all I would have gotten out of the experience was frustration: the initial frustration of being helpless, and then the frustration of having to leave as soon as everything fell into place, with a very small window of contentment in between. One by one I

have crossed the innumerable confusing things off my mental list. My personal confirmation of this all culminated in a moment when an Austrian student told me that I was practically a native. It brought me back to the moment when I made my first Austrian friend, and I was so excited that I sent my family an e-mail about it. Now that the first semester has come to a close I can very consciously feel the clock ticking. I know where everything is, I know how everything works, so what do I do now? With my list of stressful obligations gone, I have compiled my own list of things that I would like to discover. The beauty of Vienna is that even after six months packed with activity, I still have a list that's pages long.

From Catherine Cheng '12

Of the many aspects of Vienna that I have come to adore, perhaps what draws me most to this historic city is the art and architecture that surround me. In fact, one of the reasons why I wanted to spend a semester abroad in Vienna was to be able to have access to original works of art. Every day when I walk through the streets, I feel as if I am walking through an open-air museum. Each building is constructed in a particular style and each has a story. The façades of the monumental buildings on and close to the grand horseshoe-shaped boulevard known as the *Ringstraße*, offer an enormous display of historic architectural styles: the Neo-Renaissance style; the democratic Neo-gothic style and the antique Classical style, just to name a few. However, these magnificent, antique-looking buildings are actually not as old as they seem. Essentially all of the most prominent *Ringstraße* buildings are not built out of traditional materials, but rather of concrete and steel. As of today, I have been in Vienna for over two months, and have become familiar with the *Innere Stadt*. I have visited almost all of the 23 districts, but there is much that I have not experienced, and much that I do not yet know. In order to truly understand

Vienna, it is important to step away from the beautiful *Ringstraße*, to look beyond the exquisitely decorated exteriors of many important buildings, and instead, to walk through Vienna's suburbs and observe the way of life of ordinary people.

When many of the *Ringstraße* buildings were built, Vienna was a city with a struggling middle class looking to enjoy the same luxuries as the aristocrats. Walking through some of the "rougher" areas of Vienna today, I can better understand why the preservation of the "old" *Ringstraße* buildings was so important to most of the Viennese.

Studying in the city of Vienna has allowed me to see and experience in person what I learn about Vienna's history, art and architecture in literature and in class.



Catherine Cheng '12 inside the Museum für angewandte Kunst (Neo-Renaissance style).

Wellesley-in-Vienna (continued)

From Lucy Bergin '12

Blossoms are sneaking into parks and along streets, lighting up the heart of Austria with the promise of spring. To me, the natural adornment has an effect more beautiful than the Christmas lights, which sparkled from November until the middle of January. In the past seven months, I have experienced Vienna in every aspect of its personality and culture, from the high society Ball scene, to the open-air and crowded Saturday flea markets. I have immersed myself not only in the Austrian culture and German language, but also in the way of life in this unique city. With every new experience, this city has worked its way deep into my heart, and become a place I could call home.

I arrived in September and spent the first few weeks sight-seeing and hiking, enjoying the beautiful fresh air easily accessed from the city. Ride any subway line to the last station, and you'll find yourself surrounded by trees and little mountains. My favorite memories from autumn, after the beautiful foliage, are culinary experiences. There are many good restaurants in Vienna, not to mention the cafes. As my program director once told us, after five minutes talking to any Austrian, you'll end up talking only about food for the rest of the conversation, and everyone has their favorite place you have to try. Food has become as important way I experience a new culture.

The language likewise reveals a lot about the culture of Austria. Linguistically, I consider the Austrian dialect to be a sweeter form of German. It is a little less harsh and little more loving and tender. What I find fascinating is to hear the differences between the various regions of Austria. After spending a weekend with my roommate's family and neighbors in October, I could understand the Upper Austria dialect much better.

The most significant moments of my time abroad have been affirmations of my decision to pursue a career and life in music. This was the central reason to come to Vienna: to be in a city historically central to the development of classical western music, and to soak in the rich culture and continued appreciation that is inherent in the culture still today. The musicology department at the University of Vienna is incredibly strong, with many interesting courses and passionate students, and the University has several musical ensembles, which I joined. My involvement led to being asked by the conductor to sing the solos and duets in Benjamin Britton's "A Ceremony of Carols" with the University of Vienna women's choir in December in St. Stephen's Cathedral, the very central point of the city. This is an experience I will never forget. It also taught me how cold old Catholic churches are! Attending performances is just as important as performing, and living ten minutes from three

main venues has made it easy to take advantage of the city's wealth of concerts. The most incredible concerts were with Nicholas Harnoncourt conducting his ensemble Concentus Musikus.



Lucy Bergin '12 and her brother in Vienna.

There are still three months left for me to savor every day in this city, but I already know that I will surely return to Wellesley in the fall with my goals altered, a taste for perfectly cooked meat, and a nasty coffee addiction.

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Congratulations!

The 2010 Elizabeth Vogel Falk Prize was awarded to:

Ran Wei '13

Ljubica Ristovska '13

The 2010 Ethel Folger Williams
Sophomore Prize was awarded to:

Catherine Cheng '12

Shernaz Dossabhoy '12

The 2010 Natalie Wipplinger Prize
was awarded to:

Enid Li '10

