



Wellesley Wegweiser

Issue Eleven

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Spring 2004

The Year in Review

Because of a highly unusual confluence of parental and sabbatical leaves, the academic year 2003-04 was, and 2004-05 will be, a challenging year for the German Department. With an excellent leave replacement hire (please see Focus on Faculty) we have been able to cushion the curricular impact of these leaves; in order to address the necessary administrative tasks, Margaret Ward and Jens Kruse have returned to the roles of Director of Study Abroad and Chair, and Thomas Hansen will serve in both these roles next year. Thomas Nolden, meanwhile, has had a well-deserved leave from these tasks to focus on the pleasures of parenting the Nolden's second daughter, Anna, and continuing with his research agenda.

Often such challenges also provide opportunities. We certainly feel that this has been the case for us, because we were able to hire Isabelle Geiger to teach three courses in 2003-04, and full time in 2004-05. As some of you know, Isabelle Geiger was one of the last – but certainly not the least! – of our exchange students from Konstanz in 1998-99. Since she returned to Germany, she has completed a Magister (M.A.) in German Literature with a thesis on the problem of time in Thomas Mann's *Zauberberg*. She has also earned a diploma in Public



Class of 2003 German & German Studies majors enjoy the senior breakfast. Nicole Hatch, Sonya Jacobs, Laura Puttlitz, Zlata Hajro, Liz Renner, Fay Galbavy, Amanda Zoellner, and Caroline Gei-

Relations at the Bavarian Academy for Marketing in Munich. As we had hoped, Isabelle has become an important colleague in our language program and has been an active and enlivening presence in the student life of the department.

Our current exchange student from Vienna, Petra Schiller, has also been an excellent member of the Wellesley College and German Department community: she has been an active native speaker on the German Corridor, has assisted upper-level students with their German papers, and tutored and advised countless students on all levels. Her Studies of English and American Language and Literature, and of German as a Second Language, at the University of Vienna, have made her an ideal assistant to Isabelle during Wintersession 101 on campus this January, and to all of us throughout both semesters.

Thus, Isabelle and Petra, each in her own way, are excellent illustrations of the individual and

institutional benefits of programs promoting cross-cultural exchange. We are confident that the same will be true of the considerable number of students we will – again – be sending to Germany and Austria on Fulbright and other programs. To date we know that Andrea Spiker '03, and Emma Sydenham, Sarah Barron, Emily Randall, and Elizabeth Castagna all class of 2004 will go to Austria and Germany with Fulbright and DAAD programs next year. Congratulations and good luck to them all. Wellesley College in general, and the German Department in particular, have had remarkable success with such postgraduate scholarships. We are proud of our graduates who have made that success possible.

Jens Kruse
Chair

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Alumnae Aktuell

It was an enthusiastic bunch of Alumnae who showed up last June for our annual Open House during Reunion. It was really enjoyable to talk to this animated group about the current German Department and to find out from them what they are doing now and how their study of German/or lack thereof (!) has impacted their lives since graduation. We look forward to seeing more of you this year. Take note! Open House in the German Department, Founders 405-407 11:30-12:30, Saturday, June 5, 2004.

A number of former German majors came to say hello, as expected, but we also attracted some alumnae who had learned German only after leaving Wellesley. One, Anne Mark '68, later had a DAAD fellowship and is now a freelance copy editor in linguistics. Louise McAllen '68 is a multi-lingual tour operator and guide and Eva (Tsao) Warendorf '88 now lives in Herrenberg near Stuttgart.

The following alumnae majors known to some of you also dropped by:

Christine Pierpont von Klencke '73 is still mistress of Hämelschenburg castle, outside of Hameln, Germany. She brought us a new book entitled *Herrenhäuser in Niedersachsen*, in which this beautiful "Schloss im Idyll des Emmerthals" is featured in pictures and text. Christine hosted the Wellesley-in-Vienna group there in June 2003, and in the fall, an alumnae gathering there also included our Resident Director, Christiane Hartnack, and study abroad student, Meghan Moreland '05. This coming summer Jennifer Shaver, '05 who has been living on the German Corridor, will be working in the café.

Peggy Dolan Escobar '78 is now working as a website manager for IBM. She told how IBM gave her a job because she was the only applicant who knew German at the time. The corporation promptly sent her to Germany for about four months. She was thrilled at the way her facility in the language quickly returned. She said that it might be an example to our students that 20 years after graduating from Wellesley, her German major suddenly gave her that extra edge in the job market!



Alumnae from the classes of 1948, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983 and 1988 attended the German Department reception at Reunion in June 2003.

Lynne Jordal Martin '83 our very first German Studies major (it was an individual major at that time) is now working for Fox News Channel in NYC having moved over from NBC News.

Bonnie Parker McEwen '83 graduated in '84 because she stayed an extra year in Germany, but for reunion purposes she always turns up with her classmates from the Class of 1983. Bonnie is a reading specialist in Winchester MA. She shared with us how important her knowledge of German had been recently in working with Russian immigrant children. She also said that her family's love of rock climbing has brought them in touch with a lot of German climbers over the years, especially when they lived in California.

Rebecca Johnson Hogenhuis '88 is at home with her kids and has fond memories of her time living in Germany.

Anne Tornow Akbay '88 is working for Daimler-Chrysler in Detroit and is able to use her German occasionally.

Margaret Rusk, '48 last visited us in 1991 along with her friend, the late Eunice Stunkard Latham '44, as they were both attending the Alumnae Symposium that year. Margaret brought us a text she wrote for the "scrapbook" that was a part of this year's symposium on WW II. Her piece is entitled "From Occupied Germany" and it tells a story about Eunice and former professor of German Barbara Salditt in the early postwar days. Margaret has given us permission to adapt this for the Wegweiser.

All present expressed great pleasure that we could once again boast of a large contingent of majors and

minors in 2003, and that we had multiple Fulbrights awarded to our students.

Evangeline Frey '00 writes that her "Fulbright year in Trier Gymnasium was great. I really enjoyed working in the classroom. Now I am working at EF Education in Luzern, Switzerland." She's even acquiring some Swiss German in the process. She visits Konstanz often where she has seen former exchange student, Alex Meder (1997-98). Alex reports that she has returned to the Bodensee to be a schoolteacher. Alex was also in attendance at Isabelle Geiger's wedding last summer, along with Emily Wishneusky '99 and her husband and Brooke Luetgert '99 and her boyfriend. They are all studying at the Uni Konstanz now, as is Evangeline's boyfriend, so it has become a focal point for mini reunions, as have the traditional Thanksgiving dinners still hosted by our Resident Director emerita, Ursula Dreher.

Zlata Hajro '03 currently works for Morgan Stanley International in London. After another year of work, she plans to earn a Ph.D. in Economics and hopes to pursue an academic career. She recently visited Wellesley and had planned to give a talk for current students on studying and working in the UK. Unfortunately, a Boston driver crashed into her car and prevented her from speaking to our students. We are glad to report that Zlata emerged from a badly damaged car with "only" a sprained wrist.

Nicole Hatch '03 writes that she is enjoying her year as a Fulbright TA in Hamburg. She splits her time between two schools and her students

Alumnae Aktuell (continued)

range in age from eight to nineteen years. She has done everything from playing Simon Says and singing Old MacDonald to debating capital punishment and discussing the U.S. primaries. In her free time, she has been taking advantage of all the entertainment and recreational activities that Hamburg has to offer. She hosted Diane Morgan '02 who is teaching in Berlin. She recently took up sailing because it seems to be what North Germans like to do most in the summertime.

Theresa Lund '00 is currently living in Boston and working as a research assistant for the Women and Public Policy Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. Concurrently, she is returning to graduate school to earn a Master's Degree in the Program in International Education Policy (IEP) at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

We've also heard that Sarah Strunk '99 is pursuing a graduate degree in

landscape architecture in Washington, D.C. and that A. J. (Aiyana) Maleki '01 is still studying economics at the Humboldt University in Berlin.

Megan Tabak, '02 who graduated with a minor in German and a major in history has been at the MIT Plasma Science and Fusion Center since August as Project Administrator for the Alcator C-Mod project, a magnetic field tokamak plasma confinement experiment. She is primarily involved with the financial administration of the project. She is hoping to go back to school in the field of education.

Amanda Zoellner '03 was happy to share the news of her engagement to Bryan Fink (MIT '04) on Valentine's Day. Amanda has spent this year as an intern in the science department at the Fay School in Southborough, Mass., while she completes the Fifth Year Teacher Certification program at Wellesley. She has been able to stop by the German Department several times during the school

year and enjoyed the celebration of Christa Wolf's 75th birthday in March.



Amanda Zoellner '03 and Bryan Fink

An Alumna Remembers

from Margaret Rusk '48

When I read Eunice Stunkard Latham's memorial in the alumnae magazine a year or so ago, I realized we could never carry out our plan for me to interview her for the Wegweiser, about how it was in the German Department during World War II. Eunice, 1945, had been a "grand old senior" when I was a first year and, later, I'd heard her talk to some of us German students about her experience working with UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) in Germany. We had met up, after fifty-some years, at the 1999 Summer Symposium: the moment I read this slight, wiry woman's name tag, I told her I had an important question for her, and we got together at coffee-break.

I told her the following:

In 1988, I think the last time I saw Barbara Salditt, who had been both Eunice's and my Wellesley German teacher, Miss Salditt and I got onto one of her favorite subjects, that at war's end it had been a joyous time because separated families were reunited, and moreover,

communication between former enemies could help prevent war. She herself first got back in touch with her family in Germany (except for Red Cross messages when her parents died) when a friend of hers, with UNRRA in Germany, borrowed a military vehicle and looked up Miss Salditt's sister in Bad Soden. The friend could have been "severely punished" for taking the vehicle and fraternizing with a German civilian not related to work. I thought "severely punished" was a bit of poetic exaggeration on Miss Salditt's part, and that this visitor could well have been Eunice. I never got to ask though, as our conversation tangented off in another direction, but clearly this visit to her sister soon after V E Day had meant much to Barbara Salditt.

So, when I ran into Eunice eleven years later at Symposium, this is what I had to ask and tell her about. Indeed, Eunice had been the friend in Miss Salditt's story, and she could have gotten into big trouble because I hadn't known this--UNRRA workers had military officer commissions.

Eunice described not being very precise at the vehicle pool about what she needed the auto for. She drove to Bad Soden, found the Salditt home, and knocked hard and long at the door. I think it was evening. Finally, someone cautiously opened an upstairs shutter a crack. The sight of a U.S. military vehicle in the street below was alarming to the sister. And it took Eunice, with her good German, long moments more to convince her that this wasn't the start of an unpleasant incident. (Anyone who remembers Eunice's dramatic talents will appreciate the excitement and suspense.) Eunice shouted up to the barely open window that she brought greetings from the States from Barbara, who was her German teacher. Finally the sister came down and welcomed Eunice in. It must have been a wonderful visit! Until I told Eunice the story as I'd heard it from Barbara Salditt, I don't think she'd known how very much this reconnecting with her family had meant to our German teacher.

Focus on Faculty

Isabelle Geiger, our newest faculty member writes about her return to Wellesley: In 1998/99 I was the exchange student from the Universität Konstanz and had the pleasure of studying at Wellesley College. After a wonderful, intense and inspiring year of new experiences and new friends, the next visit was planned even before my room in Beebe was cleaned out. For a short visit in 2002 I joined “my first years” for their graduation.

Who would have thought at this point that only 15 months later I would get the chance to come back to Wellesley again – this time not as a mere visitor but as a visiting instructor.

Teaching at Wellesley of course is very different from studying, but having a firsthand experience of student life and remembering tunneling, cookie-dough-ice-cream, missing the last bus to campus or the characteristic smell of dorms is quite a valuable tool to deal with my students. Yes, I remember dorm crew early in the morning and the yawning in the 8:30 class. Today I have an 8:30 class again – and tired students.

This year I taught beginning and intermediate level. What a great pleasure to see students who never had German before exploring the language and starting to communicate. Since I am especially

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A relaxing moment for Isabelle Geiger while visiting New Orleans.

Contemporary German Society.” Observing how for example the American presidential election campaign is received will be quite fascinating.

Besides teaching I like walking, the painter Edward Hopper, collecting sand, pancakes with applesauce, swimming in Lake Constance, road trips, Basle, cats, Art Deco, Brad Pitt, raspberries, castles (mansions, plantation houses, ...), the writers Thomas Mann, & Paul Auster, lavender tea, Italy, my nephews, and sleeping. I am looking forward to a great second year in 2004/05.

Thomas Hansen has been on leave during the spring semester of 2004, a time he has been putting to good use for research and translating. He is finishing up a book about the German book designer, calligrapher, and illustrator, George Salter (1897-1967). He has produced a biography and complete catalogue of Salter’s designs. The volume, which will appear next winter, will be illustrated with color reproductions of Salter’s finest book jackets. Prof. Hansen has also translated (together with his wife) two tales by the 19th century writer Wilhelm Hauff (“Der kleine Mook” and “Zwerg Nase”). These have appeared with his scholarly introduction and fine illustrations by the Russian artist Boris Pak (Boston: David R. Godine, 2004).

Jens Kruse had the fascinating experience of teaching at the opposite points in the curriculum in 2003-04. Beginning German and German 325: Goethe in the fall and Beginning German and German 389: Seminar: Poetry in the spring. Among other things, the experience was illustrative of students’ impressive achievement: several students who had begun German at Wellesley were among those taking the advanced courses. In German 325, Mr. Kruse experimented with a new type of final assignment. Instead of a final paper, Mr. Kruse asked students to write four shorter essays in different forms and voices about Goethe. He then edited the resulting work into an anthology called *Unser Goethe*, which can be examined in the German Department library.



Petra Schiller, our exchange student from Vienna with Isabelle Geiger at the Goethe Institute *Oktoberfest*.

Because of his renewed administrative duties as chair and on college wide committees, Mr. Kruse’s research program slowed somewhat. But an article on Goethe reception during the Nazi period will soon appear in a conference volume, and other work on Goethe reception and on Kafka will resume more actively again when Mr. Kruse is on leave in the fall of 2004.

Thomas Nolden was on parental leave in the fall of 2003 and on sabbatical leave in the spring of 2004. All of us look forward to his return to the department at the beginning of the new academic year.

“This has been a busy and fruitful year for me,” Margaret Ward, told the *Wegweiser*, “both in my teaching and in planning for the future. In the fall I had the opportunity to teach *Postwar German Culture*. I totally revamped the syllabus in order to take advantage of the exciting exhibit at the Davis Museum, *Two and One: Printmaking in Germany 1945-1990*. Several sessions were held at the museum, and I designed a written assignment specifically based on the exhibit. It has also been a great privilege this year to work with Seila Selimovic, ’04, who has written an outstanding honors thesis entitled, “National-ismus in der Geschichtsballade des 19. Jahrhunderts.”

As Director of Wellesley-in-Vienna this year, Prof. Ward remarks on how much she has “enjoyed working with Petra Schiller,” and how she looks forward to “a brief site visit in May to check on how our six Wellesley students are doing.” For instance, she’ll get a chance to learn more

Focus on Faculty (continued)

about the work of Laura Lindermann '05, who holds a Knafel stipend in support of her internship. Laura reports: "All is going well. I am also going to my internship twice a week at the Naturhistorisches Museum. I am working with Frau Doktor Karin Wilschke and I am doing data entry on skeletons, as well as cataloging, displaying, washing, and description of the ancient human remains, which are primarily from the Awarenzeit. This is related to my Anthropology major, I even got to go to Linz and help with a museum display of a skeleton. I am really enjoying the internship and learning a lot."

This year a portrait on Therese von Bacheracht by Margaret Ward appeared in the *Berühmte Frauenkalender* 2004, and one in English on the Puerto Rican poet, Julia de Burgos, was published on-line at <http://www.fembio.org/women/julia-de-burgos.shtml>. Another in German on Geraldine Ferraro will be

published in September. Prof. Ward has continued to enjoy writing in this genre, and the research involved has helped broaden and deepen her appreciation of women's contributions to a variety of fields in several different cultural contexts.

During her sabbatical in 2004-05, Prof. Ward will work on several projects. First she plans to develop a new course that will explore the myriad ways that the German imagination has been captivated over more than two centuries by Latin America and the Caribbean, from Alexander von Humboldt's scientific explorations of South America in the 18th century to recent films by Werner Herzog. In addition, she will begin a book project on the personal story of her son's adoption and rediscovery, set against the Salvadoran Civil War. She expects to spend time in Germany in November and then part of the spring semester in Central America, first in intensive total-immersion

Spanish language training in Costa Rica, followed by a research trip to El Salvador and Honduras. As of Fall 2005 she'll return to teach half-time on the early retirement plan.



Jens Kruse and Margaret Ward celebrate at the end of the year.

Kreuzworträtsel

WAAGERECHT

Waagerecht

1. Diese beiden Brüder haben viele Märchen gesammelt. (2 Wörter)
2. Sie schlief 100 Jahre (1 Wort)
3. Hänsel und Gretel naschen davon. (1 Wort)
4. Er läuft mit seinen "neuen Kleidern" durch die Stadt. (2 Wörter)
5. Die vier Tiere, die als Musikanten durch die Welt Zogen, kamen aus dieser Stadt. (1 Wort)
6. Der Kater trägt diese. (1 Wort)
7. Sie musste die Haare herunterlassen. (1 Wort -rückwärts)

Senkrecht

1. Die Königstochter hat dieses Spielzeug im Brunnen verloren. (1 Wort)
2. Sie lebt mit sieben Zwergen. (1 Wort)
3. Spieglein, Spieglein an der Wand, wer ist die Schönste im ganzen Land? (1 Wort)
4. Der Name des treuen Dieners im "Froschkönig." (1 Wort)
5. Sie mag Aschenputtel überhaupt nicht. (1 Wort)

by Sarah Teetor, Petra Schiller and the German Club

Wintersession in Vienna



Lacey Bubnash, Kate Morgan and Brittany Smith at the gravestone of Klimt in the Hietzing Cemetery.

Mr. Hansen and Mr. Kruse took a group of 14 students to Vienna for another successful intensive pro-gram. Among the texts read in German 202 were Hänsel und Gretel and Kafka's *Die Verwandlung*. The group attended a Burg Theater production of the fairy tale and a one-man production of *Die Verwandlung* at the small Theater Pygmalion. A group visit to a Volksoper production of *Die Fledermaus* with the obligatory post theater visit to Café Weimar was another highlight of the program. Naturally, our students made full and enthusiastic use of all the cultural opportunities that Vienna has to offer.

Our Study Abroad Resident Director, Frau Christiane Hartnack took all of us on her legendary hike through the snow covered Vienna hills complete with a restorative visit to a Grinzing Heuriger.



Prof. Hansen enjoying dinner with Maria Banica, Paige Shevlin and Naomi Shin.



Brittany Smith, Lily Rogals, Audrey Henderson, Maria Banica and Jerilyn Libby in the Oberes Belvedere.



Karin Mathiesen, Prof. Kruse and Elizabeth Mela at the airport.



Karlskirche

Wintersession in Vienna (continued)

Paige Shevlin '06 shares her journal entry from Saturday, January 10th, 2004:

I was alone for most of the day today and as a result, feel I learned more about the city. I began shopping with other students, but after I had bought some shoe polish in one store, I was done. I went to Café Westend, a marvelous Kaffeehaus with so many wonderful desserts to try. I would like to visit as many of these Kaffeehäuser as possible while I'm here, but I think I would visit this one again. I ate Schoko-Nusspalatschinken mit Schlag. The dessert was crêpes with hot chocolate and nuts on top. Every bite was absolutely amazing. The soup with a large meatball in the center was good as well. The atmosphere was nice. I was able to speak only German, and the waiter never gave any indication that he knew I was a foreigner. I studied there for about two hours.

Eventually I wanted to venture out again. I walked down the main street in the shopping district of Mariahilfer Strasse but then decided to wander down the side streets and ended up walking along small alleyways. I found a small record store. At first I was just

looking for music, but then I saw the DVD selection, so I bought two movies. I liked being in a small store, where the owner or other customers do not expect tourists. It was easier to blend in with the Austrians.

After having one good Kaffeehaus experience, I wanted to find another. I roamed on the streets surrounding Stephansplatz for a while until I finally found Café Hawelka. This Kaffeehaus is an old bohemian one that, according to the guide book, is a must-see. I would agree with that view only if one were planning on drinking alcohol or perhaps coffee. Neither the tea nor the dessert menu was very large, and the Kaffeehaus was so small that the smoke assaulted me. I think I could easily get lung cancer if I sat in there every day. Luckily, I only sat there for about twenty minutes—perhaps the equivalent of only one cigarette?

My day ended going to a movie with Jerilyn. We called theaters and found the one with the largest screens in Austria. Knowing that information, I thought the theater would be in a nice part of Vienna, as all parts have seemed to be, but instead I finally found the lower class area of the city. The U-Bahn station that we got

off at—Gumpendorfer Strasse—was abso-lutely disgusting. Trash lay everywhere. We must have seen at least fifteen young men and women with green, pink, or blue hair and numerous piercings interlaced with scary tattoos. As we waited for the bus to the theater, I noticed that all those waiting wore light jackets and tattered clothing. The area was run down with a shop in only every other building.

Surprisingly, the movie theater was packed. Apparently, these demoralized people can think of nothing better to do than—or can afford nothing other than—going to a movie. For Jerilyn and me this movie was a cultural experience. How else could I have found out that the theater has a bar? Europe never ceases to amaze me.

I was excited to be in a—“bad” area of town. I want to see Vienna for all the positives and the negatives. I don't want to be a naïve traveler who wonders why Americans have so many problems while Vienna is full of only shopping and theater. The trip out tonight put me back into the real world where universal problems exist

New Department Funds

After several years of conversations with the Office of the Dean of the College it has become possible to convert

an inactive endowed professorship fund, the Carla Wenckebach Professorship, into a programmatic fund. This fund will remain under the Dean's Office's control but will be accessible to the German Department upon application for such projects as special symposia or distinguished visiting scholars or writers. Moreover, the Dean's Office's work on converting this fund also resulted in locating an additional fund for the use of the German Department that was inactive for many decades. The Elizabeth Vogel Falk, 1900, Fund has been given to the German Department and will allow us to engage in programming that was previously out of our financial reach. We are currently designing short, medium, and long-term plans to make productive use of this fund. Cultural trips, symposia, special lectures, support for student thesis research, and many other activities and programs are being considered.

Our information is still somewhat limited, but Elizabeth Vogel seems to have been a very active student

at Wellesley. She was a member of many organizations including the Wagner Club; she was also a member of the basketball team. She took a great number of courses in the German Department, including Carla Wenckebach's course on Goethe's Faust I and II. After graduation, she married Otto H. Falk, an industrialist and business leader in Wisconsin. For most of her life she lived in Milwaukee where she was very active in charitable work: she was one of the founders of Children's Hospital, and actively supported many causes throughout her life. In her later years she and her husband traveled extensively in the U.S. and in Europe; after her husband's death she made her home in Switzerland where she died at age 82. We will certainly try to make use of her generosity in ways that memorialize this remarkable woman.

Wellesley-in-Vienna

The Wellesley-In-Vienna program 2003/2004 started off with a highlight. Shortly after her arrival in September, Meghan Moreland, the only full-year student, visited the exciting city of Berlin and then travelled to Schloss Hämelschenburg. There, she and Resident Director Dr. Christiane Hartnack attended the memorable Wellesley alumnae weekend, hosted by Christine von Klencke.

At Vienna University, Meg studies economics, art history and German. In December, she also played the role of Tiny Tim in Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol", a highly successful production at Vienna International Theater. After the winter break, she began her internship with C&G Consulting, an international headhunting firm.

The six other exchange students - Vera Hannush, Laura Linder-man, Jennifer Losaw, Daiva Nevidomskyte, Emily Vardell, and Amy Y. Wong - arrived on February 1; just on time to attend the German language class, the Hochschulkurs, at Vienna University.

In the Wellesley-in-Vienna program most of the student's time is spent studying at Vienna university. Many students also use the opportunity to gain professional insight and skill while interning at various institutions throughout the city. Laura Linderman, for example, interns in the anthropological section of Vienna's Museum for Natural History. There, she cleans and sketches 1500-year old skeletons, notes which portions of the skeleton remain in the grave site or go to the museum, and enters this information in the computer. As part of her internship, she also travels to archaeological sites and to other museums in Austria.

School and work aside, all Wellesley-in-Vienna students are confronted with

the various challenges of living the daily life in a foreign culture. Some of these experiences, - like culture shock in a supermarket - are frustrating, some - like wrong steps at a formal midnight dance - are funny, and some - like alpine excursions in the snow - are just enjoyable.

from Christiane Hartnack
Resident Director of
Wellesley in Vienna

Cultural Lesson #1: Grocery Shopping

by Meghan Moreland

Shortly after my arrival, I found myself alone in a Viennese Supermarket, ready to do the obvious: grocery shop. I thought it would be an in-and-out job. How wrong I was...

Every product seemed unfamiliar, and, dare I say it—foreign. Were all the eggs brown, I wondered? Was there a difference, nutritionally, between white and brown eggs? I'd always found brown eggs quaint and charming, but did I really want to wake up to them every day? What is the difference, I asked myself, between yogurt with 3.6% fat and with 1% fat? Was their "1% fat" equivalent to our "low fat" back home?

Skippping the eggs and yogurt altogether, I decided to save my energy for the meat isle. There was, however, no meat isle—no rows of pink meat packaged in pinkish Styrofoam. Oh no. All of the meats and cheeses were behind glass, arranged splendidly, like little soldiers. I had never seen so much meat in my life. I knew that I wanted hamburger, about a half a pound of it, but I had no idea how to ask for it. I knew the words for turkey, ham, beef—the basics, but not hamburger. Should I know the word for ground hamburger, I wondered? Was I gone the day we

learned meat terminology? Did other kids studying abroad in Spain, Brazil, Japan, know how to ask for hamburger in their respective tongues? I resorted to pointing.

learned meat terminology? Did other kids studying abroad in Spain, Brazil, Japan, know how to ask for hamburger in their respective tongues? I resorted to pointing.

"Wieviel moechten Sie?" asked the lady behind the counter. How much did I want? This was a good question. A pound equals .45 Kilograms, so that means...No wait, or is it a Kilogram that equals .45 pounds? I should know this. I panicked.

"Ein Kilo, bitte," I replied, and as she heaped more hamburger on the scale than I could eat in a week, I knew that I had been foiled by the metric system again.

After what seemed like hours of looking, with only 2+ lbs. of hamburger to show for it, I decided that I needed to start making some decisions. I found five sure-fire things that would tide me over until I could come back with someone who actually knew what they were doing. I got apples, milk, bread, what I thought was Brie cheese, but turned out to be something altogether different, and, the aforementioned hamburger. I was set!

I strolled up to the check-out, greeted the cashier, and watched her scan the items with never before seen speed and agility. It all went smoothly until she reached for the bag of apples. She was examining the bag, clearly not finding whatever it was she was looking for. She said something that I didn't understand. She repeated it. I stood there, looking confused, not knowing what to do. A little old lady behind me pointed to her own bag of apples, which had a printed-out price sticker on it. Finally realizing what was going on, I reached for the apples, and was going to go try and weigh them, but the cashier, perhaps realizing that she could do it faster, begrudgingly went to do it herself, leaving me to blush and apologize to the long line behind



Christiane Hartnack with Vienna exchange students.

Wellesley-in-Vienna (continued)

me. My embarrassment grew two-fold when the transaction was complete, and I realized that you had to buy your own paper or plastic bags, which I clearly had not done. The cashier had already moved on to the next customer, so I gathered everything in my arms, and walked all the way home, feeling defeated, a bag-less bum.

Looking back, I find the whole situation humorous. It was to be the first of many situations I'd have here in which I didn't know what I was doing, and these situations have always turn out for the best, because I learn something, cliché as it may sound. The whole debacle taught me that I still had a lot to learn, but more importantly, it taught me that I should never, ever forget to weigh my apples!

MitternachtsQuadrille

by Emily Vardell

I can trace the moment that I fell in love with Vienna to the evening of January 11, 2003. That was the night that the Wintersession-in-Vienna program went to the Wirtschafts Universität Ball at the Hofburg. It was the stuff little girl's dreams are made of. A princess fairy tale come true. How could I not fall in love with this city, waltzing around a shiny ballroom floor to the sounds of Strauss?

When I returned to Vienna for a semester abroad, I was assigned an Austrian "buddy" to show me around, and luckily this buddy really did have connections; the first day I met her, she invited me to a ball. A week later, Jen (another Wellesley student) and I were on a train, on our way to Baden, Austria. We accompanied my buddy, named Christina, and her boyfriend to the Baden Casino Ball. As Strauss filled the air, Jen and I re-learned how to waltz in a small corner. We soon found out what the one thing we forgot was – dates! Austrian men are a bit shyer than American men when it comes to inviting women to dance, and most of the people there were already in couples. Graciously Christina offered her boyfriend as a dance partner and I was able to have my fun waltzing away. I also did my best to learn the Foxtrot on the spot and had to continuously remind myself to let the man lead! Some Wellesley habits die hard! After Jen and I each had our turn dancing with our borrowed partner, we decided we were having too much fun dancing and decided to waltz together. Luckily the Austrians seemed amused by us rather than shocked or insulted. They could probably just tell that we were

having the time of lives dancing around forgetting who "the man" was and where the beat was!

At midnight there is a tradition in the "ball culture" to have a Mitternachts Quadrille, which is this announcer-led dance similar to the dances in "Pride and Prejudice" and "Emma." Left without partners, we decided Jen would be "the man" and we listened closely to the German directions on where to turn and whom to curtsy to and when to change directions. Mostly we ended up running into the other couples around us! Luckily many of the other couples were just as lost!

After the Mitternachts Quadrille, we still had four more hours of dancing left. We tried out a couple of the more "modern" dance floors, including a Latin themed one and a Disko, but the old-fashioned dance floor was definitely the most fun. I skipped some of the more challenging dances such as the Meringue and the Tango, and was able to watch experienced couples show off. It was like a free ticket to a dancing exhibition! I was so inspired by the dancing on display, I signed up for a ballroom dancing class at the university. Perhaps I will even perfect my Polka!

Traveling Tagebuch

by Amy Y. Wong,

Laura Linderman, and Vera Hannush

Snow, smiles, and serenity summarize our scenic excursion into the Alps. We, the Wellesley-in-Vienna exchange students, Vera Hannush, Laura Linderman, Jennifer Losaw, Meg Moreland, Daiva Nevidomskyte, Emily Vardell, and Amy Y. Wong, spent an idyllic weekend sampling excellent

Emily Vardell and Jennifer Losaw before attending the Baden Casino Ball.

Austrian cuisine, observing breathtaking mountain views, discussing our class options and cultural experiences, making feline friends, stomping in snow, and spending quality time with Trivial Pursuit auf Deutsch. We also discussed our class to be led by Dr. Christiane Hartnack, who kindly planned this trip and let us tell her what topics we would find most interesting to discuss and write about in her class. We had an enjoyable winter wonderland experience, separated from society and FirstClass in the peaceful atmosphere created not only by snow but also by the enchanting architecture of Adolf Loos. Snow, Wellesley sisters, sharing, and Secessionist architecture: who could ask for anything more?

Laura Linderman, Vera Hannush, Meghan Moreland, Amy Y. Wong, Daiva Nevidomskyte, Emily Vardell and Jennifer Losaw on a week-end in the Alps.

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Congratulations!

The 2003 Ethel Folger Williams
Sophomore Prize was awarded to:

- Maeve Gearing '05
- Laura Linderman '05
- Amy Yu Wong '05

The 2003 Natalie Wipplinger Prize
was awarded to:

- Zlata Hajro '03
- Liz Renner '03

Emma Sydenham '04 has received a Fulbright Grant to
study and teach in Austria for 2004-2005.

Sarah Barron '04, Emily Randall '04 and
Andrea Spiker '03 have received Fulbright Teaching As-
sistantship Grants for 2004-2005 in Germany.

Elizabeth Castagna '04 has received a DAAD grant to
study in Hannover for 2004-2005.

