



The Year in Review

This has been a year of transition. On her way back to her office after teaching her last class in December 2009, Margaret E. Ward was greeted by colleagues from around the campus with flowers and champagne. The festive lunch that followed – complete with toasts and anecdotes – was just a small part of the celebratory spirit that we have all felt at her retirement, which becomes official this June. However, we have also had the pleasure of greeting Prof. Ward's replacement, Anjeana Hans, who received her Ph.D. from Harvard University in 2005. Anjeana



Prof. Ward always welcomes news of former students. Please stay in touch.

came to us from Tulane where she taught for two years. She has settled in quickly and taught popular courses both in the language curriculum and the intermediate level this year.

We welcomed very interesting speakers to campus this year. In October Ursula Mahlendorf presented her autobiography, *The Shame of Survival: Working through a Nazi Childhood* (Penn State Press, 2009). She read aloud and discussed her account of what growing up in Nazi Germany was like for people who were reared to think of Adolf Hitler as the savior of his country. Mahlendorf, the daughter of an SS officer, was for part of her childhood a true believer in Nazism. Her account of her indoctrination and of her gradual awakening to the truth, fascinated those who heard her speak.

In April we were entertained by the thoughtful and engaging young Bosnian writer Saša Stanišić who is currently the Max Kade Writer in Residence at MIT this spring. Stanišić, who fled his homeland at the age of fourteen in 1992, lives in Germany and writes in German. He read from his first novel, *How The Soldier Repairs the Gramophone* (English paperback: Grove Press, 2009), which has already been translated into 30 languages! The work is a veiled self-portrait of a creative boy who negotiates the ethnic violence and political destabilization



Class of 2009 German and German Studies majors Colleen Corcoran, Erica Schramma, Kathryn Guynn, Anna Thieret, Jessamyn Randall.

of the Balkans during the collapse of the former Yugoslav state. Despite the grim political truths behind this serious narrative, Stanišić's very readable literary style is most engaging and humorous. He discussed with Wellesley students and faculty his creative relationship with his adopted literary language, which makes it possible to explore the boundaries of the German language and invent playful neologisms.

I hope that alumnae who receive the *Wegweiser* will consider these titles reading tips. Please let us know what you thought of the books.

Thanks to the income from our endowed Elizabeth Vogel Falk Fund, we were able to offer stipends last year to students who applied to study German during the summer. This program is proving quite successful by supporting study at Middlebury College, the Som-

The Year in Review (continued)

merschule am Pazifik, and programs in Vienna, Munich, Heidelberg, and Berlin. We have awarded several stipends again this year, which will help students earn Wellesley credit and accelerate in our language program.

Several of our German students also attended a sold-out concert by Wolf Biermann in October at the Goethe Institute entitled, "Berlin, du deutsche, deutsche Frau." Biermann's popular

songs pay poetic homage to the history and culture of Berlin, the city of which he has been made an honorary citizen. In November 2009 we commemorated the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Students and faculty from around the College attended to watch a video of the historic event. Souvenir chunks of the wall were passed around as people talked about the events leading up to Nov. 9 and recollections of that day.

We are proud of the success of our Vienna program. Six students are studying there this year, while one more is in Berlin and another in Munich. The foreign experience they are enjoying at German-speaking universities cannot be matched, but we miss our juniors in our mid- and upper-level courses!

Thomas S. 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 5th at 11:00-12:00. We look forward to welcoming you back.

Davina Vora '95 writes "This is my third year teaching international business at SUNY New Paltz (I was at the University of Texas at Dallas before). I love being back in the Northeast. I'm up for tenure next year, so keep your fingers crossed. I got married in September to another faculty member who is in psychology. We met at the new faculty orientation! Our wedding was a combination German-Indian-American ceremony, with a bit of Rumi in there too for



Davina Vora and her husband.

good measure. Over the winter break, we went to Costa Rica for our "real" honeymoon.

Rebecca Irving '98 writes "The last *Wegweiser* reminded me I owe the German Dept. an update on happenings in my life... Last time I wrote, I was in France, married to a Frenchman and working for Lawyers without Borders. A lot has changed since. In 2007, my husband and I split up, and I went to work in the Democratic Republic of Congo for a year and a half. First, I worked with a Belgian NGO called RCN Justice & Démocratie as Project Manager, later with Doctors without Borders (Spanish section) as the Coordinator of our base in Lubumbashi. While in the Congo, I met and started a new, wonderful life together with Marcel Bickert, a German national. Since December last year, we've been getting resettled in Aschaffenburg (near Frankfurt). AND in March, our daughter Madeleine arrived! After 10 years of living in France and wondering why I did my degree in German

Studies, I now know: I am living in Germany, have a whole new German family-in-law and am the mother of a beautiful little German-American girl! Funny how life catches up with you. So, thank you, German Department, for preparing me for this unexpected and wonderful turn in my life's path."

Sonya Jacobs Demirci '03 writes "I feel as though it has been a very long time since I was sitting in Founders' Hall learning about Bauhaus architecture and the strife of artists in Nazi Germany. I apologize for not being in contact more with the German Department. Life since graduation in 2003 seems to have flown by. I returned home to Louisiana in order to complete my teacher certification, and then taught a mix of social studies and science courses for four years. In 2004 I married my Turkish boyfriend, whom I met while studying in Vienna. We have had many opportunities to travel back to both Austria and Turkey.

This summer we moved to Rochester, MN, so that he could complete a fellowship in critical care anesthesia at the Mayo Clinic. In June he will be finished; we will be relocating to Cleveland, Ohio, where he will work at Cleveland Clinic and I will be officially starting my M.Ed. in Higher Education Administration and Student Personnel with a concentration in Internationalization at Kent State University. I also received a graduate assistantship at the Gerald H. Read Center for International and Intercultural Education."

Seila Selimovic '04 writes "I finished my Ph.D. in Physics and accepted a post-doc at Brigham & Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, where I will spend the next twelve months or longer, depending on my project. My post-doc is in the field of tissue engineering, and I will be focusing on cardiac tissue. This is quite a departure from



Congratulations to Seila!

my Physics Ph.D., but I am very excited about the project! Also, I will be getting my US citizenship, which is yet another reason for celebration! For those of you who are local, I now live in Cambridge, and would love to have you drop by. For those of you overseas, I cannot wait to visit you as a new American citizen."

Amy Y. Wong '05

My Fulbright year was incredible. My research proposal originally focused on Austria's politically neutral stance in international relations, and during the winter semester I took an introductory course on Austrian politics and the country's involvement in the EU. During the summer semester, however, I ventured outside the field of political science and took a course exploring the infiltration and proliferation of American pop culture into Austrian society. In addition, I was an English Language TA at two different high schools in Vienna. I never realized the level of creativity necessary to keep students attentive. I appreciate the independence that I was offered in the classroom, as it allowed me to think outside the box every day. I also interned with Peace in Action (PIA), a network of peace and development activists. With PIA, I traveled to Kiev, Ukraine to participate in a documentary project on street orphans with local non-profit organizations. This was an incredibly moving experience that was one of the many factors that influenced me to pursue further education.

I have been accepted to several JD/MA programs, and have decided to pursue an MA in international security at the University of Denver. I plan to have a career in either federal law enforcement (FBI, CIA, NSA, etc.) or foreign service with the State Department or the UN. I would like to be able to learn another language while in graduate school, although I know my time will be limited. I'm very excited to see how the next couple of years will prepare me for the next step.

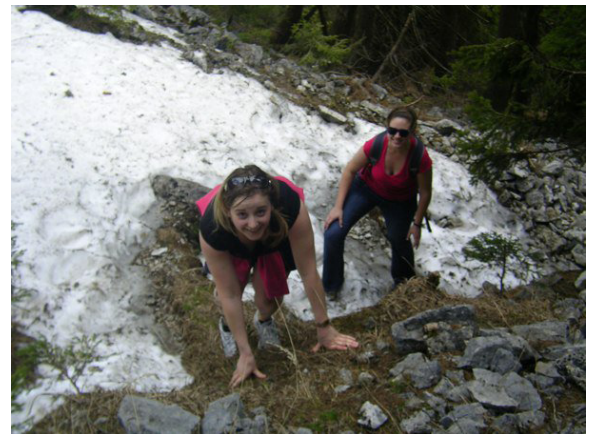
Sarah Kaczmarek '08 writes "As for an update, I am looking forward to graduating from my

master's program in German and European Studies at the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown in May. I had a couple of job offers for post graduation and decided on entering the Professional Development Program at the Government Accountability Office. I am looking forward to some vacation time before starting my new career, and to taking a road trip with my husband along the east coast in June."

Vanessa Troiano '08 writes "I returned to the States in mid July after a year of teaching English in Austria. It was great to be back in Vienna. I was able to reconnect with Kurt Freimüller, Christiane Hartnack, Alexandra Millner and Sarah Teetor, in addition to many of the friends I made during my exchange year.

Although teaching English was an enjoyable and rewarding experience, I am eager to begin a career in the arts. I applied to graduate programs that offer degrees in the history of art in the United Kingdom, my first choice being the MA program at the Courtauld Institute in London, where I will begin my studies next fall."

Colleen Corcoran '09 writes "I have been working in Kapfenberg and Kindberg, Styria since October. I have



Colleen Corcoran hiking in Tragöb, Styria.

greatly enjoyed getting to know my fellow teachers and students while talking with them about the dismal performance of the Austrian skiers at the Olympics (attempts to discuss other events proved futile), Christmas traditions, healthcare reform or even conspiracy theories. Luckily my students were able to differentiate between the last two topics. I have also had the opportunity to do lots of hiking, see "The Sound of Music" on stage at the Graz Opera House and eat enough *Wiener Schnitzel* to fill me for life. I will be headed back to the USA in June with hopes to get involved in international educational exchanges."

Katie Guynn '09 writes "After graduating, I began a year-long internship in Public and Media Relations at the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) in Indianapolis. Having been a soccer and swimming student-athlete at Wellesley, I love what I do and enjoy coming to work every day. As I was welcomed into the city of Indianapolis I found myself quite busy. Who knew there were so many city soccer leagues? And flag football, and dodgeball! Not to mention the music scene and two pretty regular babysitting gigs.

I also connected with the Wellesley Club of Indianapolis. One lovely



Katie Guynn at the Final Four Basketball Tournament in Indianapolis.

Wellesley woman introduced me to a friend of hers who runs a very special building in Indianapolis called "The Athenaeum," built in 1893 by German immigrants for the Indianapolis *Sozialer Turnverein* as a "house of culture" for the mind and body. Today the original "Turnen" [Gymnastics] equipment still stands and the building is home to all of the German clubs in Indianapolis. It boasts a YMCA and the *Rathskeller* restaurant with traditional German food and a beer garden out back. They have a monthly "Stammtisch" dinner and host many other cultural events.

So though I've stayed quite busy with my job, I've tried to stay in touch with the German community here. I ran the 5k *Sankt Nikolaus Lauf* dressed in holiday apparel at the beginning of December.

The Indianapolis Club got to see Linda Wertheimer ('65) of NPR speak in the fall and Madeleine Albright ('59) this spring, both at Butler University. I also had the good fortune of attending an on-campus celebration for Secretary Albright in January, as Wellesley Athletics honored her for the Teddy Roosevelt Award given to her last year by the NCAA. And, perhaps most importantly, I discovered the recipe for "Wellesley Fudge Cake" and highly recommend it!

My internship is up June 4th and that leads me to the next step...I've just accepted a Graduate Assistant position at the University of Missouri beginning next fall. I'll be doing academic advising in their athletic department and be given the opportunity to pursue a master's degree; I am applying to do a Masters of Higher and Continuing Education Administration through the school of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis. I am also trying to figure out a way to combine my two loves and work the upcoming Women's World Cup in Germany during the summer of 2011!

Focus on Faculty

Anjeana Hans joined the German Department in 2009, after spending two years at Tulane University in New Orleans. Since arriving at Wellesley, she has taught beginning, intermediate, and advanced intermediate courses, gotten to know the students studying German, and become involved with the department. She has been impressed by the students' engagement in the department, and, with the German Club, has planned a range of activities, including a holiday party for which students baked an amazing number of *Weihnachtsplätzchen*. Other highlights have been a weekly, informal *Kaffeeklatsch*, as well as plans for a film screening and discussion.

In addition to teaching and participating in these very enjoyable activities, she has been working on her current book project, an examination of films from the Weimar era that draw on elements of the uncanny. German society after WWI was marked by radical change: traditional gender roles and social hierarchies, as well as the former sense of national identity, were turned on their heads. Many unsettling films of the era responded to the anxieties engendered by these changes, eliciting, on the level of both narrative and structure, responses ranging from the desperate and violent reassertion of traditional norms of behavior to the celebration of the new possibilities. At the same time, these films self-consciously reflect on their own status as film, taking part in the development of the medium itself. Of particular interest to her in developing the project are lesser-known films of the era,

many of which were long available only through film archives and are only now gradually gaining wider exposure.



Anjeana Hans (rt.) with students at the Department Holiday party.

She will be spending part of the summer in Berlin, where she will continue research at the film archives. She looks forward to using that time not only to move the project forward but also to collect interesting materials for the courses on intermediate language and on Weimar Germany that she will be teaching in the fall, and, of course, to visiting with students who enroll in summer language courses in Germany.

Thomas Hansen has been Head of the Department for the second year. This spring he reconfigured his former course, "Hitler: the Man in History, Literature, and Film," as a Writing 125 course, which reaches out to a wide audience of first-year students interested in German Studies. This past March *The Weather Fifteen Years Ago* (Riverside, Calif.: Ariadne Press, 2009) – the novel by the Austrian writer Wolf Haas that he co-translated with Stephanie Gilardi (Wellesley, 2009) – was short-listed as one of the ten best works of German fiction translated into English.

In 2009-10, **Jens Kruse** returned to teaching and continued working on his sabbatical 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 will soon appear in *Goethe Yearbook*.

Thomas Nolden has been directing our Wellesley-in-Vienna program as well as Wellesley's program in comparative literature, for which he designed a series of faculty events. He taught wintersession in Vienna, and invited Barton Byg, Founding Director of the DEFA Film library, as well as the writer Saša Stanišić from Germany to campus. He hosted Alexandra Millner's first visit to Wellesley (Dr. Millner is our Resident Director in Vienna). He also served as the department's library liaison and liaison for tutors and taught a few newly designed courses, among them comparative literature courses on autobiography and (together with Prof. Aadnani from MES) on encounters between Western and Middle Eastern literatures and cultures.

Margaret Ward writes from Bonita Springs, Florida: "People are already asking me how it feels to be retired, but it isn't official until the end of June and so you should check with me next fall when it sinks in I'm not coming back to the classroom. That is what I will miss the most. Since I have already been transitioning for the last five years by means of Wellesley's generous early retirement plan, I expect to feel fine! In full retirement I will spend about 7 months a year in New Hampshire and the other 5

Focus on Faculty (continued)

in Florida—guess which ones. My husband and I also plan to travel more. In February this year we were in Egypt and last May–June we visited many friends in Germany and then went on a Baltic cruise on a German ship. Many new activities also fill my days as I now sing in two choral groups. Beginning next November I'll be teaching ESL to Hispanic mothers here in Florida.

Einen herzlichen Dank to all the members of the Department and especially to Joanne Davenport for planning such a wonderful surprise luncheon for me on my last teaching day, December 10, 2009. Also another thank you to my students in "Latin America and the Caribbean in the



Prof. Ward now (2010) and then (1971).

German Imagination" for surprising me with a luscious chocolate cake and

to the German Club for serenading us all with carols on the last night of the seminar. My last semester was made especially memorable because of the wonderful students I had in both the seminar and my section of Beginning German. I hope you'll keep in touch. The same is true for all my former students. I love hearing from you. As Emerita I keep my college email address. A bio-bibliographical portrait of Fanny Lewald I just completed, will appear in the *Berühmte Frauenkalender 2011* (Suhrkamp 2010) as March 24, 2011 will mark her 200th birthday."

German Club

A German Club Update

by Jennifer Lee

This year's goal for the German Club has been for us to rebuild membership and to reestablish a presence on the Wellesley Campus. We had to be reactivated last year by the Student Government in order to become official again. Since then, we've slowly been growing. The club serves a small but important niche in the Wellesley Community, and we intend to continue promoting German language and cultural events on campus. This year, we've baked pretzels as a fundraiser, made *Nikolaustag* goody bags for German students, went caroling on a cold winter night, and attended Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos* at the Boston Lyric Opera—and by chance ran into Prof. Hansen at the performance! The club has also gotten together to watch *Im Juli* and *Die fetten Jahren sind vorbei*, and a showing of *Orlacs Hände* is currently

being organized with the help of Prof. Hans, who has been invaluable with her ideas and suggestions. Moreover, we have established an initial contact with the German Club of Boston College, and we hope to develop this connection. Recently, we've even created a Facebook group—Wellesley College German Club—feel free to join!



At Boston Lyric Opera (l. to r.) back: Isabel Custodio, Denisse Ruiz, Emily Bell, Lucy Bergin, Prof. Hansen. front: Jennifer Lee, Alexandra Quintela.



Kirsten Mericka and Alexandra Quintela from the German Club caroling to Prof. Ward's seminar class.



Enid Li and Renée Coe preparing Nikolaustag goody bags to put outside German students' doors.

Wellesley-in-Vienna

Alexandra Millner
Wellesley in Vienna Director

This year, the Wellesley-in-Vienna program started with an orientation weekend at the Loos-Haus, a hundred-year-old inn in the mountains built by the famous Viennese architect Adolf Loos. Supplied with delicious Austrian dishes and surrounded by beautiful scenery—and a lot of snow—we managed to plan the term in a very pleasant atmosphere. The six students spending the spring semester in Vienna were able to find interesting university courses and sport activities from among the wide range of offerings. The first month is/was dedicated to intensifying the students' knowledge of the German language at *Alpha Sprachinstitut*, which also offers many additional cultural activities such as learning how to waltz.

Throughout the term, there are guided tours focused on special aspects of Austrian history and regular meetings as an introduction to the vibrant cultural life of Vienna. We have and continue to visit museums, theatres and concert halls. This year, we had the opportunity to meet Literature Nobel Prize Winner Herta Müller, who had a reading at the *Burgtheater*. The cultural experience of Vienna also helps the students to understand the crucial role Austria has always played in an international political and cultural-historical context.

This is also the main aim of the core course, which is dedicated to the most significant works of Austrian literature reflecting upon watersheds in European history since 1850. Apart from their studies, Wellesley students can also intern at institutions of their choice according to their interests and talents: **Katie Van Adzin** is interning at the Association of Agnostics and Atheists for a Secular Austria, **Grady**



At Loos-haus with Alexandra Millner, Tess DeLean, Grady Bailin, Shu-Yen Wei, Julia Wagner, Katie Van Adzin, Megan Henry.

Bailin at Austria's first laboratory for veterinary diagnostics, **Tess DeLean** at the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies, and **Megan Henry** at the Documentation Centre of the Austrian Resistance. The program thus offers both an insight into Austrian and European history and tradition as well as the opportunity to take an active part in today's professional and cultural life.

Katie Van Adzin

I never expected this to happen, but after returning from a spring break trip to Spain, coming back to Vienna felt like coming home. Travelling away from Vienna gave me a new perspective on my sense of belonging there. When I was in Spain, I realized that I felt a bond not only with the other English-speaking people I encountered, but also with the German speakers I met. Even though my trip to Spain was wonderful, I was surprised by how comforting it was to return to Vienna after two weeks. I came back to a place that had seemed so foreign to me just weeks earlier, but that had somehow become familiar.

Seemingly by design, I ran into three Spanish students who were visiting Vienna on their vacation the day after I got back from my trip to Spain. I

showed them around the city, and for the first time realized how well I had gotten to know it, and despite my constant worries about my German skills, I saw for the first time how much I could understand that they could not. You never realize how at home you can feel in a place until you leave it, and I am just glad that I realized this before I left Vienna for good.

Falk Fund Summer Stipend Award

by **Alexandra Quintela**

In the summer of 2009, I received a summer stipend from the Wellesley College German Department that helped to fund a month-long CIEE German language and culture program in Berlin, Germany. This summer course was a fantastic opportunity that I am happy to have participated in. I was able to travel to Berlin, meet international students, have a laid-back and co-educational academic experience, and fall in love with the city of Berlin. This summer not only sustained and improved my language skills, but it allowed me to learn more about the world and myself in it. I traveled briefly to Potsdam and Munich, which served as an interesting contrast to Berlin and gave me a new perspective on the diversity in German culture. Academically, I appreciated taking a summer course as a way to sustain my German language studies. In the three months between the spring and fall semesters, one can really lose a lot of skill if unused.



Katie Van Adzin (l.) studying at the Alpha Sprachinstitut

Wellesley-in-Vienna (continued)

While in Berlin, I had small language courses for four hours a day, five days a week; here, I received close attention from a German language instructor. Afterward, I would have a two-hour lecture about German culture (cinema, literature, etc) that was taught in a large seminar room with students of various German language levels. Though I didn't always understand the material, this was a good introduction to German-style university courses. Additionally, I had a weekly meeting with a pronunciation tutor, where I learned to control my mouth in order

to rid myself of the small nuances of an American accent. Simply living in Berlin for four weeks required one to learn a new type of German, where everyday conversation is made and ideas about life are expressed. Getting directions or recommendations required that I constantly put my German lessons into practice.

Overall, the summer study abroad session served as an amazing opportunity where I not only learned more about German culture and language but was able to see, feel, taste, and experience it fully.



Alexandra Quintela standing on the memorial of the former Berlin wall.

Impressions of Wellesley

Vienna in Wellesley

by Kirsten Mericka

When I was accepted to study in the US, I looked forward to a different and new experience in a country far, far away from home. I was excited and could not wait to see the campus, meet the students and start my new academic life at Wellesley College.

As soon as I arrived, I was enchanted. The American charm hit me and has not left me since then. Although there was a period of adjustment: for example, when I had to explain that Austria was not the country famous for kangaroos but romantic cities, and of course the majestic "The Sound of Music" mountains.

Eventually, the magic worked on me thoroughly and I turned into a true Wellesley woman: I spent lots of time in the Science Center and the Clapp Library, complained about dining hall food and worshiped Lemon Thai. I studied endlessly for midterms and finals, took the Peter

Pan bus to Boston and back, and suffered through Wintersession with my German students (but I secretly enjoyed every moment at the same time). I followed Wellesley FML and community debates as well as traditions like the primal scream and midnight breakfast. I was introduced to American holidays, started wearing Wellesley apparel and bleeding blue. I now hope to make a difference in the world. Have I transformed into an American?

Especially my fellow students cast a spell on me. Not only the German students, but also the other international and American students



Kirsten Mericka basking on Green Beach during Lake Day.

welcomed me with their friendly smiles and enchanted me immediately. I have become friends with these extraordinary and intelligent women. They have become part of my family and I genuinely hope that these relationships beyond nationalities will last. I truly fell in love with them.

The new life I experienced in the German Corridor, the German Department and the German Club enchanted me as well. Working with the faculty and students was fantastic. The amazing "queendom" of Wellesley continued to work its magic on me with the incredible offer of academic and social events, clubs and organizations. I wish to stay in this fairy tale, at least for a little longer. The beauty of the campus still strikes me when I walk along its paths. I feel like I have stepped into another world.

There may be things in this magical world that I still don't fully understand yet, but I'm currently under the charming spell of Wellesley College and I mean to stay here happily ever after.

Deutsche Idiomatiche Ausdrücke

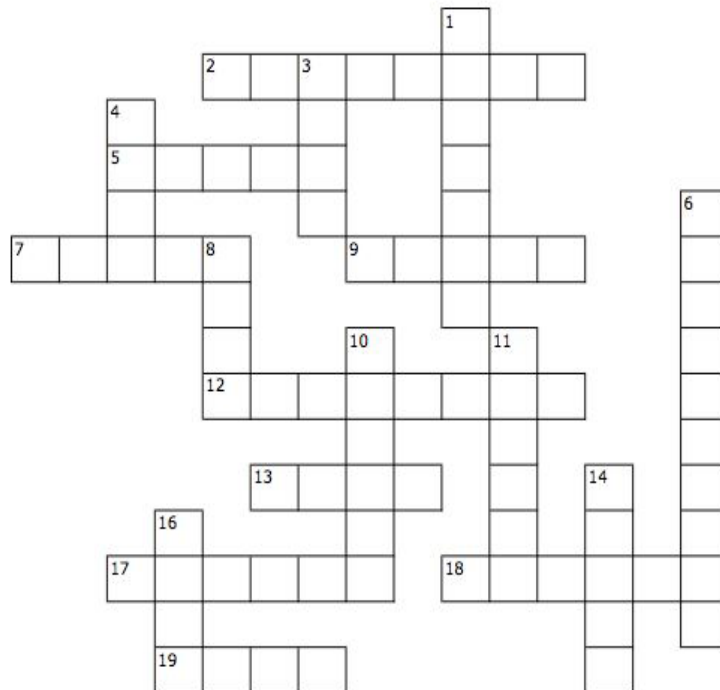
Note on spelling: in this puzzle, “ä” is written as “ae”, “ö” as “oe”, and “ü” as “ue”.

Waagerecht:

2. Ein _____ kommt selten allein.
5. Der _____ fällt nicht weit vom Stamm.
6. Bellende _____ beissen nicht.
7. Eher geht ein _____ durchs Nadelöhr.
9. Es geht um die _____.
12. Wie _____, so zerronnen.
13. Das passt wie die Faust aufs _____.
17. _____ macht Sorgen.
18. Kümmere dich nicht um _____ Eier.
19. sich _____ und dämlich reden.

Senkrecht:

1. Aus _____ wird man klug.
3. Es ist nicht alles _____, was glänzt.
4. Es ist kein _____ der nicht zuvor ein Sträuchlein gewesen.
6. Man kann nicht auf zwei _____ tanzen.
8. Es hofft der Mensch so _____ er lebt.
10. Was du heute kannst besorgen, das verschiebe nicht auf _____.
11. Was man nicht im Kopf hat, muss man in den _____ haben.
14. Mit _____ fängt man Mäuse.
15. In der Kürze liegt die _____.
16. Sport ist _____.



Department of German
Wellesley College
106 Central Street
Wellesley, MA 02481

The **Wellesley Wegweiser** is a
yearly publication produced each
spring by:

The Department of German
Wellesley College
106 Central Street
Wellesley, MA 02481
Phone: 781-283-2584
Fax: 781-283-3671

Inquiries may be
directed to:
Joanne Davenport
Administrative Assistant

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