

# Wellesley Wegweiser

Issue Thirteen

Spring 2006

## The Year in Review

In looking back at the academic year 2005-06, I cannot avoid the regretful realization that we are at the end of an era. Margaret E. Ward will be celebrating her 35th year at Wellesley College this spring and this year she began her participation in the college's early retirement program. This means that she will only be teaching in the fall semester for the next few years. However, it does not mean that she is uninvolved in the affairs of the department. This January, she taught our intensive wintersession course in Vienna--ably assisted by Charlie Fisk of the music department--and this coming fall, she will teach a newly developed seminar on Latin America and the Caribbean in the German Imagination. We are also looking forward to the publication of her book on Fanny Lewald in the very near future. We will make sure to draw on her experience, wisdom and institutional memory for a few more years.

All other continuing members of the department were present on campus this year. We were joined by a new leave replacement colleague, Alexandra Meder. Alexandra's appointment builds on the brief tradition of hiring former exchange students from Germany to teach in our language program. Alexandra was our exchange student from Konstanz in 1997-98. This year and next she will be teaching at the 100 and 200 level of our language curriculum. As Isabelle Geiger did before her, she has established a good working relationship with her students, the German Club and our two exchange students from Vienna, Barbara Faber and Inés Weiss. They, in turn, are busy with their duties in the German Corridor and as tutors to our students.

For a department of our small size, we have always been

### Contents

Alumnae Aktuell	2
Focus on Faculty	4
Fulbright	5
Kreuzworträtsel	5
Wintersession-in-Vienna	6
Impressions of Wellesley	7
Wellesley-in-Vienna	8
Prizes	10

extraordinarily involved with other departments and college-wide service. This year was no exception. Margaret Ward is serving on the International Studies Committee and has assisted with the work of the Fulbright



Class of 2005 graduates enjoy the German Department senior breakfast. l-r, Amy Wong, Vera Hannush, Daiva Nevidomskyte, Meghan Moreland, Jennifer Losaw, Emily Vardell.

Committee. Thomas Hansen taught in the Writing Program and added another year to his many years of service on the Extramural Fellowships Committee. Thomas Nolden both taught in and directed the Comparative Literature Program and served on the Minority Recruitment, Hiring and Retention Committee. Yours truly taught in the Comparative Literature Program, was appointed to the President's 2015 Commission on the future of the College, served on the Merit Advisory Committee, and was elected to the Committee on Faculty Appointments for the next three years.

This year, the department has also begun an extensive review of our curriculum. Among the topics we have worked on so far are: the design of our 200 level language and literature program, the definition of our major(s), the integration of our study abroad program into the Wellesley curriculum and the appropriate mix of core German courses and outreach courses taught in English. Beyond the technicalities of these topics, the goal of these conversations is to strengthen our department and serve our students better. We hope to be ready to bring the results of these deliberations to our students, the Deans, and the Curriculum Committee during the fall semester of 2006. After that process of consultation we hope to be able to institute our new curriculum for the 2007-08 academic year.

Jens Kruse  
Chair 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 10th 2006 11:00-12:00. We look forward to welcoming you back.*

Once again a small interested and interesting group of alumnae stopped by to see us during our 2005 Reunion open house. (See Photo)

**Ann Michele Pingoud '94** and her husband welcomed their second baby, Portia, to this world on October 9th, 2005. She's a beautiful baby girl whose arrival has been embraced by her big brother, Hugo, now 19 months old.

"We continue to make our home in New York City which we find to be a fabulous place to raise babies. We traveled to Germany last spring and plan to spend summers there. I speak German to the children, and Hugo is already rattling away in German!"

**Eowyn Jones Stoddard '95** Is back in Berlin with her husband David and growing family. [Ethan Lewis arrived May 8th] Eowyn wrote in December that the other children are "growing up fast!" They seem to have her linguistic talent too. "Jesse, 7, read a German poem beautifully at our Christmas Eve service and didn't seem to be the least bit nervous. Liam is 5 and loves to draw, practice writing his letters and be silly with rhymes. He will go up to other kids at his Kindergarten and say a German word, distort it just a bit and the other kid will answer back with another silly word and on and on they go! Alethea, 3, is as spunky as ever. Emma, 10 months, is still cute as a button, starting to say little words like "more", "Uh-Oh," "s" (for socks, slippers or any word that starts with s) and began launching off on her own two feet yesterday! David and I are doing well and looking forward to this coming year." If you are interested in finding out more about their Christian ministry in Berlin-Pankow, they have a website at [www.missiontoberlin.com](http://www.missiontoberlin.com)

**Evangeline Frey '00** has been living and working in Luzerne, Switzerland for the last three years. She works at the international headquarters of EF Education and uses her German daily as the office manager. Her free time is spent hiking, skiing and traveling (and also learning Swiss German!).



Alumnae l-r, Linda Szabo '90, (and daughter Emily), Laura Puttlitz '03, Katie Graf '00, Maria Lesser '95, Davina Vora '95, Katherine Witgert '95 and Margaret E. Ward attended the German Department open house in June 2005.

**Amanda Zoellner '03** reports that she and her husband Bryan Fink are still enjoying life together in Lexington, MA. They traveled to Germany and the Czech Republic for a honeymoon trip in October 2005, nearly a year after their wedding, and were pleased to discover that they could still speak enough German to negotiate the city of Prague. Amanda just celebrated one year of working as the administrative director for Wildwood, Mass Audubon's overnight summer camp. She writes, "I really enjoy all the time I spend working with campers and their families, recruiting staff, and planning activities for the summer, and I love working for Mass Audubon. Camp is in my soul, and it's great to have found a way to make it fill the entire year!"

**Nicole Hatch '03**, After completing my teaching assistantship in Hamburg, I moved to Berlin in 2004 and have been working at the European College of Liberal Arts ever since. The college is very young and very small, so I get to play different administrative roles including librarian, web manager and alumni relations coordinator. Living in Berlin is wonderful, especially when you're under 26 and can take advantage of all the cheap concert tickets and museum discounts on offer. Besides its entertain-



ment and recreational opportunities, I'm enjoying Berlin for its central location in Europe. It's allowed me to continue my exploration of the continent and I have a couple trips to Italy and a trip to Slovenia and Croatia planned for this spring. I also hope to visit friends that I met during my year in Vienna at the end of the month. At the moment, I'm mostly looking forward to the long summer days (it's been a pretty cold winter) and the World Soccer Cup. I wasn't able to get tickets, but I'll be cheering Germany on in some bar in Prenzlauer Berg for sure.

**Laura Puttlitz '03** is working at the Northeastern University Law School Library while continuing her degree work in Library Science at Simmons. It was great to see her at last year's reunion gathering in the German Department and from time to time on campus this past fall.

**Elizabeth Castagna '04** has returned to the Boston area after her Fulbright year at the University of Hannover. She is working long hours as a Legal Assistant at Skadden Arps and living in Somerville. **Emily Randall, '04** who returned after a year on a Teaching Fulbright in Hamburg is now living and working in San Jose, California. **Sarah Barron, '04** is also back stateside after her Teaching Fulbright and is working and living in New York City. One of Sarah's last trips before finishing the school year in Riesa, was to the island of Ruegen on the Ostsee (Baltic). Here are a few excerpts from her e-mail diary, in case you are looking for an interesting vacation destination in Germany:

"We visited some truly beautiful areas. Binz is on the eastern coast of the island, constrained to a thin piece of land with the sea to the East and a large lake to the West. The sky was so clear when we arrived in the afternoon that we immediately set out hiking uphill



Sarah Barron '04, Andrea Spiker '03 and Nicole Hatch '03 at the Olympic village in Barcelona.

through the woods to a hunting lodge, which is said to offer the most beautiful view of the surrounding landscape. It was gorgeous, especially because the coastline to the South is very irregular and has eroded away into all sorts of curvacious forms with lakes scattered inland. ...

We came back on another route through the forest and ended up on the beach - fine, pale sand with little shells in light pinks and silver blues. From a distance the beaches are polka-dotted with yellow, red and blue baskets/shelters for two, which people rent during the summer. They are

like a love seat (with pull-out foot rests) and the sides and top are covered with a wicker "basket" that protects you from the wind and sun. After dinner in our apartment we took a stroll around the lake where they have created all sorts of scientific models and experiments along the path for people to try out - everything from playing with water power to trying to refract light. That far North, we still had daylight until nearly 10:30, and the evenings were peaceful and enchanting."

Sometimes former students call to get advice about their daughter's college search process. Professor Ward reconnected with **Barbara Gronquist '73** that way in Fall 2005. Barbara currently works in New York City for DnB NOR Bank ASA and does a lot of overseas travel for them. Being from Finland originally, Barbara is multi-lingual.

It is practically impossible to keep up with peripatetic **Diane Morgan '02** but she still checks in with us from time to time. She went back to Amsterdam in February and is studying there and preparing to take the Foreign Service Exam, learning more Dutch and writing a book about her world travels. She wrote earlier this year: "Two weeks ago I randomly got an email from Lorena Ramirez, the girl who got the other Watson Fellowship at Wellesley the same year I did, and she ALSO now lives in Amsterdam, so we had an awesome catch-up dinner, sharing tales of three years of crazy travel. We live in such a small world!"

# Focus on Faculty

**Thomas Hansen** has been Director of the Wellesley-in-Vienna Program this year. Next fall he will be on leave during which time he will be researching a new project about Vienna, which is just taking shape in his imagination. At the same time he will be preparing a new course for spring 2007 on *Hitler: The Cult of the Führer in History, Literature and Film*. The task represents a daunting encounter with decades of fascinating research but promises to be rewarding.

In the fall semester of 2005, **Jens Kruse** taught *German 325: Goethe* and *CPLT 254: The Law in Literature*. Mr. Kruse also taught two Independent Study courses: one on Schiller (Elizabeth MacGregor) and another one on fugitives in post-war Germany (Sarah Olsen). During the spring semester, Mr. Kruse devoted much of his time to developing a new course for the fall semester of 2006: *German 275: World War II and its Aftermath in German Literature*. Indirectly related to this topic was Mr. Kruse's participation, in January, in a college sponsored faculty development trip to Japan, where he studied the Japanese treatment of memories of World War II.



Faculty members Thomas Hansen, Margaret Ward, Alexandra Meder and Jens Kruse.

Mr. Kruse also continued his research on Kafka and on Goethe reception. In the latter area, he published the article: "Goethe's politics during the Nazi period: Goethe fictions between 1933 and 1945." In: Thomas P. Saine, Victor Fusilero, Claire Whitner (eds.). *The Intersection of Politics and German Literature: A Festschrift for Ehrhard Bahr* (= New German Review, Vol. 19: 2003-2004): 12 – 29. [Actually published: 2005.]

**Alexandra Meder** is very happy to be back at Wellesley. This year she has been busy teaching five courses in Beginning and Intermediate German and participating as well in organizing events for students learning German at Wellesley. Pursuing her interest in teaching, she attended a conference on "Didactics of German as a Foreign Language" and will participate in a series of seminars on this topic over the summer in Germany. She is looking forward to coming back to Wellesley for the 2006-07 academic year.

**Thomas Nolden** has been directing Wellesley's comparative literature program and is looking forward to serving as the director of the department's Wellesley-in-

Vienna program next year. He recently edited a book with Frances Malino *Voices of the Diaspora: Jewish Women Writing in Contemporary Europe* (Northwestern UP, 2005.) Also, his book *In Lieu of Memory: Contemporary Jewish Writing in France* (Syracuse UP) came out in the spring.



Dust the bust: Thomas Hansen makes a contribution to commemorate Schiller at our departmental poetry reading.

**Margaret Ward** had a most productive sabbatical in 2004-05. She spent time in both Germany and Central America and began to prepare a new seminar that she will teach in Fall 2006 on "Latin America and the Caribbean in the German Imagination." Her book under the title: *Fanny Lewald: Between Rebellion and Renunciation*, is due out by June in the series: "Themes and Motifs in Literature," published by Peter Lang, USA, [www.plang.com](http://www.plang.com). It will be the only comprehensive study in English on this important woman writer, one that provides an interdisciplinary approach. She thanks all her former students who had a hand in this project over so many years.

Professor Ward is taking advantage of the extra flexibility that her early retirement pattern now allows her. She taught intermediate German and her course on the Nineteenth-Century Woman Question in Fall 2005 and the Wintersession in Vienna program in January 2006. During the past year she has also begun writing a book on her oldest son's adoption story, set against the backdrop of the Salvadoran civil war. While she is spending a few winter months in Florida from now on, she is still very much a part of the department and can always be reached by e-mail.



from **Meghan Moreland '05**  
Teaching Assistantship in Germany

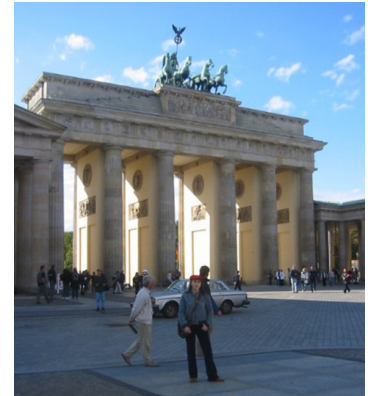
Last fall, my Fulbright Teaching Assistantship landed me in the small German town of Michendorf. Although most grantees are, to a large extent, assigned randomly to cities throughout the country, I couldn't have wished for a better placement. Not only did Michendorf belong to the former East Germany (a history I find fascinating), but it is also just a stone's throw from both the thriving metropolis of Berlin and the historical, castle-laden city of Potsdam. The school I teach at is a *Gymnasium*, and my pupils are between 12 and 19 years old.

Teaching itself has turned out to be very different, and to encompass much more, than I had originally anticipated. I had no formal teacher-

training prior to my arrival, so I had to learn how to make lesson plans, and to then deliver them in a structured, easily comprehended manner, which was much easier said than done! I've also come to understand that a teacher is, in part, also an entertainer. Even the most motivated of students will soon shut down and stop listening if either the material, or the teacher, is boring, unmotivating, and so I try to pick-whenever possible-topics that I myself would have found interesting when I was student.

In addition to trying to improve my students' English speaking skills, I also try to improve their images of America, and Americans in general. Most of them have never been to America, or even met a real American, so I am constantly having to explain my country, and even to defend it. This diplomatic aspect, however,

is just what William J. Fulbright had in mind when he created the Fulbright exchange, and I am very happy to be a part of it. Yes, it's been a very interesting journey, and one that I'll be sad to see end come this summer.



Meghan Moreland in front of the Brandenburg Gate.

## Kreuzworträtsel

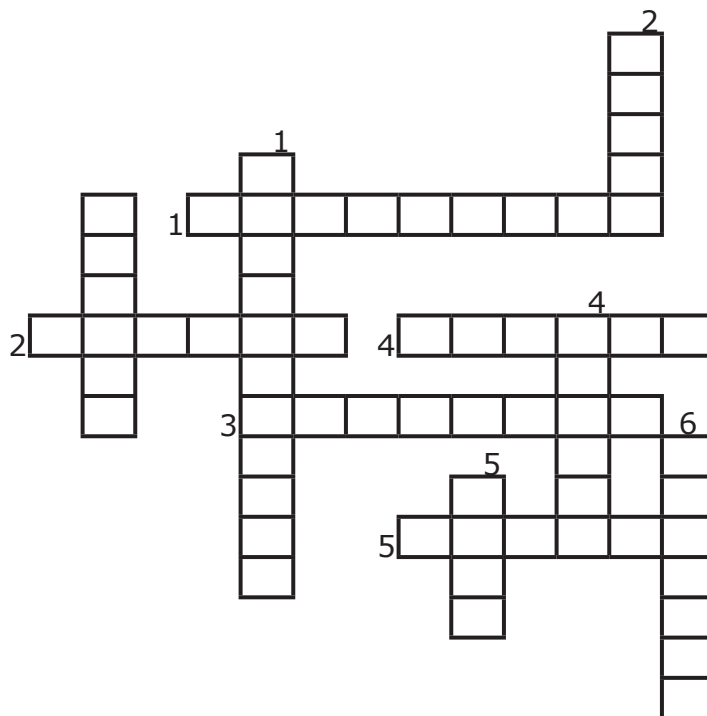
by Emily Buss '08

### Waagerecht

1. Seine 9. Sinfonie endet mit dem Chorfinale zu Schillers Ode "An die Freude". (1 Wort)
2. Dieser Komponist aus Leipzig schrieb viele bekannte Opern, z.B. *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*. (1 Wort)
3. Clara \_\_\_\_\_ war Pianistin und die Ehefrau von Robert. (1 Wort)
4. Seine 4. Sinfonie ist in E. (1 Wort)
5. Gustav \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Wort)

### Senkrecht

1. Felix \_\_\_\_\_ Bartholdy. (1 Wort)
2. Franz Josef \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Wort)
3. Dieser Komponist aus Salzburg schrieb seine ersten Kompositionen im Alter von 5 Jahren. (1 Wort)
4. Dieser Komponist schrieb die "Wassermusik" in London. (1 Wort)
5. Aus dieser musikalischen Familie, ist Johann Sebastian der bekannteste. (1 Wort)
6. Dieser Österreicher wurde der "Walzerkönig" genannt. (1 Wort)



# Wintersession-in-Vienna

Eight students and two professors, Margaret Ward from the German Department and Charles Fisk from the Music Department spent twenty-two eventful days in Vienna in January 2006, our intensive fourth semester German course. Appropriately for this "Mozart-Year" (250th birthday), Professor Fisk lectured on composers from Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven to Mahler, Schönberg and Berg. We also learned a lot of German, visited many museums and exhibitions on our own and as a group, and went to musical events in all the major venues, including *Hänsel und Gretel* at the *Volksoper*, a wonderful performance of Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony* in the golden *Saal* of the *Musikverein* where some of us actually sat on the stage, and *Die Zauberflöte* at the *Staatsoper*. We enjoyed warming up with food and drink in a traditional *Heuriger* after a winter hike through the snow in Heiligenstadt, where we visited one of Beethoven's many Viennese apartments, this one where he wrote the letter to his brothers known as the *Heiligenstädter Testament*. (See Photo) And despite all this exposure to "high culture," we still had leisure time to explore the city's legendary *Kaffeehäuser*. Barbara Faber, one of our exchange students this year, arranged for the students to go to the *Wirtschaftsuniversität* at the *Hofburg*.



Lauren Buck, Lindsay Kua, Cody Squire, Julia Shalnova, Abby Tutor, Erica Harmon, Barbara Faber, Vanessa Troiano, and Vanessa Rivera pose in their ball gowns before heading to the *Hofburg* palace to dance the night away.

What a great way to learn German! Isabelle Geiger, whom many of the students had had as an instructor in Beginning German the year before, paid a surprise visit and gave an interesting guest lecture, bringing us all up to date on the year 2005 in German politics, culture and sports.

Abby Tutor summed it up: "Jänner in Wien hat viel Spaß gemacht." And Erika Harmon added: "Ich wünschte, ich könnte diesen Kurs noch einmal belegen!" The whole experience made both Lauren Buck and Lindsay Kua decide to apply to study in Vienna again next year: "I enjoyed myself tremendously," Lindsay

said enthusiastically. Of the eight students, five will return to Vienna during the course of the 2006-07 academic year: Lauren Buck, Erika Harmon, Lindsay Kua, Julia Shalnova, and Vanessa Troiano.



Margaret Ward, Isabelle Geiger, and Petra Schiller, our Viennese exchange student in 2003-04 keep the Wellesley network lively at the Hotel Sacher.



The group in front of one of Beethoven's dwellings in Heiligenstadt.



# Wintersession-in-Vienna (continued)



Musikverein



Vanessa Rivera and Erica Harmon listen attentively to Prof. Fisk's lecture.



Vanessa Troiano, Lindsay Kua and Lauren Buck raise their glasses of *Glühwein* to toast the Viennese culture we enjoyed at this *Heuriger*.

## Impressions-of-Wellesley

### Vienna in Wellesley

Sharing spaces, sharing lives  
- Barbara Faber & Inés Weiss

If somebody back home were to ask us about our favourite Wellesley memory, we would not hesitate to answer: the hallway gatherings in the German corridor. Most of the time, these hallway parties were not scheduled or planned and tended to occur spontaneously.

It all started with Inés or me bumping into someone in the hallway. After a few minutes we sat down in the hallway, because it was quite exhausting to stand all the time. Students passing by usually stopped and decided to sit down too.

Instantly, there would be 8 people sitting casually in the hallway, chatting, eating cookies and chocolate (which always magically appeared).

We preferably ate Austrian chocolate – which coincidentally was

one of our favourite topics to talk about.

We talked about different brands from Germany, Austria and Switzerland and compared color, texture and taste.

Besides talking about chocolate, we also became involved in very deep conversations about unanswerable questions like “What is the difference between Germans and Austrians?” “Do the guys really wear ‘Lederhosen’ and the girls ‘Dirndl’?” or “What is it about the common confusion between Austria and Australia?” and “Why are there no kangaroos in Austria?”

Lately we were trying to solve the mystery about the difference between American tissues and Austrian/German tissues. Unanimously, we concluded that the Austrian/German brand “Tempo” was the best, after dissecting each tissue down to its layers.

Two hours and four empty boxes of

chocolate later, college reality would catch up on us and people would slowly start to depart.

While we cleaned the hallway of all our suspicious evidence (e.g. empty chocolate boxes, German grammar books, gnomes and tissue samples), we went back to our rooms, still thinking about the importance of Dirndl, Lederhosen and Austrian chocolate.



Inés Weiss and Barbara Faber

# Wellesley-in-Vienna

The Wellesley-in-Vienna program includes more than studying at the university. Students also gain professional insight and skill while interning at various institutions. Stephanie Gilardi interns at a film institute with a focus on Eastern Europe, Dana Braland at a publishing house that specializes on literature from Central Europe, and Sarah Gibson works with intercultural consultants, travelling to various destinations in Europe: Budapest, Venice and Prague.

Wellesley-in-Vienna students are all confronted with challenges of daily life in a foreign culture. Here are some of their impressions.

**Christiane Hartnack**

"Karlsplatz. Endstation. Bitte alle aussteigen." "Karlsplatz. End station. Please exit."

I step out of the U-2 and make my way with the crowd to the escalator. Up two flights of fluorescent stairs to the long walkway that leads to the *Staatsoper* exit. I see a man on the floor, dirty and asleep. Two policemen stand over him and discuss whether they should bother to wake him. The one on the right looks like he thinks it would be funny to kick him.

Three young teenagers with translucent skin stand in a circle and drink the large cans of the ever-popular gold and green *Ottakringer* brand beer. A man and a woman with equal length hair start to kiss. Their dog takes a piss



Sarah Gibson in Budapest

on the floor next to them. The smell is not distinguishable in the sour air. Some times I hold my breath as I walk through, but then the smoke burns my eyes.

I give a *Euro* to the man on the ground who seems to be the only one without a beer in hand. Now he can join in. I give the rest of my breakfast to a woman on her knees with her hands out asking silently for an offering.

I get on the escalator at the "Oper" exit. The light is almost blinding. The sky is crisp and blue. The State Opera building stands in full glory. The city is clean again. The people are able to stand. The birds chirp and the air smells like a dream.

Vienna is a city of paradox. The desperately poor men in the underground with their dogs contrast with the old women who choose to wear fur coats. The filth of the *Karlsplatz U-bahn* emphasizes the grandeur of the Opera building. The contradictions feel endless. Vienna is a city of wonder to me, of unsolved equations, where 2+2 does not necessarily equal 4, but rather 10-6.

**Sarah Gibson**

*My Wien:*

In that moment when I ease out of a good night's sleep, heading gently but reluctantly towards full alertness, the sounds of the city of drift lazily through my window...Klopf...Klopf...Klopf. Bing Bing...BONG! I hear the hollow sounds of horses' hooves on cobble streets and the deep, booming church bells greeting the morning. They make an odd but comforting contrast to the sounds of car engines and horns, and the laughter of people who have arisen earlier than I. I take a moment to place those sounds, including the *Fiakers*—horse-drawn carriages winding slowly through the streets. I find it strange, not that horses are an uncommon sight (and smell) in this

modern city, not that the tolling bells sing out on nearly every street, but that these sounds blend so seamlessly into the hum of the everyday: a lazy combination of old and new that defines this city for me—a soundtrack for the buildings, fountains and other sights. Listening to the comforting sounds of bells and hooves, I allow myself the luxury of rolling over and falling back into slumber.

**Pamela Wolpert**



Fiaker at Albertina

Hurry up and wait...

The weekly run for standing places at the *Staatsoper* requires a certain dress. From the first time I went to see "Barber of Seville" with my roommate to tonight, standing in line for "Tosca" with Olivia, the ritual of the *Stehplatzkasse* remains the same. Show up slightly more than two hours before the show. You don't want to come two hours before curtain—that must be what the guide books say. If the show starts at 19.00, the crowd arrives at 17.00, a whole mish-mash of languages and people thrust together.

Hurry up and wait...

The cashier window has opened. Always the same request: "*Stehplatz Balkon, bitte!*" From the *Kassa* we rush to the right staircase, where we are stopped to wait in line two flights up.

Hurry up and wait...

Forty-five minutes before curtain—almost home free. The doors open and the people waiting to claim their places rush in. We always run left—most people don't seem to realize that there are two sides available. Once there, our scarves come into play, tied onto the



# Wellesley-in-Vienna (continued)



Wellesley-in-Vienna students l-r, Sarah, Merri, Dana, Pam, Stephanie and Olivia enjoy lunch at Vienna University.

railing to mark off our territory for the next three hours. We run back home just around the corner to *Führichgasse* for a quick dinner before curtain.

## **Merri Klingerman**

A classic blunder. I lost count between one and three, and I stepped squarely on the gentleman's toe.

Our waltz lost all of its momentum and we stopped in the middle of the parquet floor of the main ballroom of the Hofburg Palace. Still hand-in-hand, my partner and I endured a beat of uncomfortable silence before he tilted his graying head slightly to the side, raised his eyebrows and went for the jugular. "Sie sind eher keine Wienerin, oder?"

I panicked. I blushed. Without saying a word, I had revealed myself as a foreigner. I ripped through my mental cache for a graceful gesture that would communicate not only my profound apologies, but also my belated realization that this dance was not the dance I'd learned to mimic as a girl. This was, in fact, a very different, very fast and very public test of rhythm, grace and athletic ability for which I was clearly unprepared.

I squeaked out an "eher nicht." The gentleman nodded, and he smiled – a little. Then he offered me some

advice. You want to resist, he said. Stop resisting.

And he was perfectly right; I had been resisting in many ways— and I had to stop. I am accustomed to my own way of moving, of speaking, of being. And it is terribly difficult to continue in the old way—resisting the new, the unfamiliar, the uncomfortable— while trying to learn and adapt to new surroundings. When I first arrived in Vienna, I took great pains to avoid making mistakes that would expose me as a foreigner, even if it meant keeping quiet when I had something to say. It was a while before I took ownership of my imperfect German. And it's taken me even longer to gather up enough courage to try to speak in the local idiom. It is likely that I will never be mistaken for a Viennese—neither while speaking, nor while dancing. He was the expert, it's true, but that doesn't mean that I had no place on the dance floor.

He counted us back into the dance. I let myself follow his lead, and slowly brought my attention up from my feet to the scene itself – to the orchestra, to the onlookers whose eyes were, in fact, not trained on me, to the elation of being whirled so quickly in so grand a ballroom, hardly aware that I was touching the floor at all.

## **Stephanie Gilardi**

After a semester in Vienna, I realize that I have adapted to a very different pace of life than the one I knew at Wellesley. I feel rushed if I have less than an hour and a half to spend in a café. Attending six hours of class every week seems to require a great deal of sacrifice and will power. I fully recognize the absurdity of my frustration with writing this. It's not as if it's a difficult assignment or that I don't have plenty of time on my hands. Ultimately, procrastination proved inspirational; dragging my feet, I unearthed an inner quality I could expand upon with enough confidence and sense of ownership to entitle the essay, "Mein Wien." Laziness is a trait I never afforded myself the opportunity to cultivate at Wellesley, but in Vienna, I nurture it with the greatest care. A

certain professor warned me about this unproductive and happy condition; he called it "Viennese indolence." I chose to study abroad primarily to improve my German. I also believed that the experience of studying abroad would change me, although I wasn't sure how. Becoming lazy isn't exactly what I had in mind for my "cultural experience," but this, more than anything else has helped me appreciate Viennese culture. I have had time to experience and learn from my environment. I have met people, I've gotten comfortable, and my German has improved. I have also visited museums, attended operas, ballets and concerts, and I have consumed an unbelievable amount of coffee. However, I will always remember Vienna for the times I didn't do much of anything. Vienna will always remind me of Viennese indolence.

## **Dana Braland**

One thing that stands out to me about living in Vienna is coincidentally the American Embassy down the street from my "*Studentenheim*", on Boltzmanngasse. Within the first two months of living here, two protests have been staged right below my second story window. The first was relatively small with fewer than 20 people. My roommate, who had spent the last 3 years in the same dorm, was already used to the procedure of the police blocking the street off. One afternoon we heard a loud chorus of shouting that seemed to be drawing nearer. We realized it was a large group marching toward the embassy. She advised me to leave right away before it got closer and not to speak any English outside. As I thought about her advice, it occurred to me that I rarely had the viewpoint of being outside looking in. I was witnessing a new perspective on the U.S. Even though the incident made me reevaluate wanting to speak English in public, this realization was a valuable one, and I consider it to be one step in the right direction to accomplishing what the goals of study abroad should be. **Olivia Bradley-Willemann**

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## Congratulations!

The 2005 Elizabeth Vogel Falk Prize  
was awarded to:

• **Gabriela Hayes '08**

The 2005 Ethel Folger Williams  
Sophomore Prize was awarded to:

• **Stephanie Gilardi '07**

**Nina Lawrence '07** received an Undergraduate Scholarship for Study in Germany through DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service).

