



Wellesley Wegweiser

Issue Fifteen

Spring 2008

The Year in Review

During the 2007-08 academic year, the German Department - in addition to our usual activities in the realm of teaching, scholarship, and service to the College - had two opportunities that come along only every decade or so. For the first time since the search that brought Thomas Nolden to the department in 1993, we conducted a search for a new tenure-track colleague. In addition, for the first time since we were visited in 1996 we hosted a departmental visiting committee as part of the College's 10-year rhythm of such evaluative and advisory visits by colleagues from other institutions. Since these two activities occupied much of the department's non-routine effort and attention this year I would like to devote the bulk of this review to these two very important activities.

The Dean's Office authorized a tenure-track search for a Beginning Assistant Professor of German in the summer of 2007. In the fall we initiated a national — indeed international — search for a person to teach language, literature, and culture at all levels of the curriculum, someone with a post-1750 specialization and expertise in a secondary field. After reviewing nearly 200 applications, we narrowed the field for initial interviews. On December 28 and

29, Prof. Hansen and I interviewed seventeen excellent candidates at the Modern Language Association Convention in Chicago. After we briefed our colleagues, we selected a group of six who came to campus for full-day interviews that consisted of a teaching demonstration, a research colloquium, further meetings with faculty and students, and a campus and facilities tour. While several of the candidates performed quite strongly during their day on campus, none fully met our expectations. With some regret, we suspended the search in March without hiring. We will be renewing the tenure-track search for an Assistant Professor of German in the next academic year, confident that this will allow us to make the best choice for the department's future. We are grateful that we had the full support of the Dean's Office throughout this process.

During the fall semester of 2007 and early spring semester of 2008, we got ready for the Visiting Committee by preparing — with the invaluable assis-



Class of 2007 German and German Studies majors Sarah Gibson, Meredith Klingerman, Olivia Bradley-Willemann, and Dana Braland enjoyed the senior breakfast.

tance of our Administrative Assistant Joanne Davenport — a voluminous self-study. After having had time to examine these materials, our colleagues Scott Denham (Davidson College), Jocelyne Kolb (Smith College), and Jamie Rankin (Princeton University) were on campus between February 24 and 26 for consultations with faculty, students, the Deans and the President. Their report contained many invaluable observations and recommendations that we hope to implement in the near future. Please allow me to conclude my review of the year by quoting extensively from their report:

(continued on page 7)

Alumnae Aktuell

All alumnae are invited to drop by the German Department, Founders 407 for our annual Open House at Reunion on Saturday, June 7th 2008, 11:00-12:00. We look forward to welcoming you back.

A group of five alumnae joined Margaret Ward and Thomas Hansen during our 2007 Reunion open house.

Among those in attendance in 2007 were **Cecily Goodrich '02**, **Katherine (Kadel) Mitchell '87**, **Suzanne (Suzie) Owen '92**, **Susan Koch-Weser '87** and **Anne (Lebel) Hooker '97** with daughter, Teresa.

Susan Koch-Weser '87 has her advanced degree in Public Health. She will be teaching this fall at Tufts Medical School in Boston.

Katherine Mitchell '87 works for Qualex Inc, a Kodak subsidiary, in Durham, NC as an IT Director. She has told us: "I use my German periodically when working with associates in Germany. My husband, Mike Scaletta, works for John Deere and assists their German office with advertising from time to time. We have a four-year-old daughter, Annika Scaletta, who visited Germany with us in 2006. I still keep in touch with my host family in Berlin, and hope to visit again soon."

Suzie Owen '92 is a freelance medical and pharmaceutical translator. She would be happy to talk to any students/alums interested in translation - smowen11@hotmail.com.

Anne (Lebel) Hooker '97 reports she received her law degree from UCONN and an L.L.M. at the Freie Universität Berlin.

Cecily Goodrich '02 writes: "I'm working here in NYC as a paralegal at a small law firm. I'm considering law school, specifically international law. One of the highlights at work was the day I got to translate a document from



Alumnae pictured with Margaret Ward (l. to rt.) Cecily Goodrich, Suzie Owen, Susan Koch-Weser, Katherine Mitchell, and Anne (Lebel) Hooker with daughter Teresa, attended the German Department reception at the Reunion in June.

German to English for a client who used to work for a Swiss company. Other than that, I try to keep myself active - skiing, I ran a 10K race in Central Park, I have started playing rugby, so my days and nights are certainly filled!

Karen Storz '83 writes: "I've been working part-time as a Reference and Instruction Librarian at Lesley University since November, and I'm really enjoying it. In addition to the Cambridge campus where I work, Lesley has programs across the country in 23 other states, so in the space of an hour I might help an undergraduate in the library with a paper on Alexander the Great, a teacher in Georgia with research on setting up a computer language lab, and a Ph.D. student in New York with research on art therapy and autism. I love the variety. The rest of the time, Liam (who just turned 6) keeps me busy. He loves music, science, geography, and beating his parents at Uno. :-)

We'll be at reunion and look forward to the German Department Open House!"

Theresa Lund '00, Assoc. Dir. for Research, Women and Public Policy Program at Harvard Kennedy School writes: "I was offered the Critical Language Scholarship from the Department of State to study Turkish in Turkey this summer in the Ankara program. It will include two months of intensive intermediate Turkish and several trips to different parts of the country (Capadocia, the Black Sea, Ephesus, Fethie, Istanbul, etc.). I accepted the offer and will leave in mid-June for orientation in Washington, D.C. and then head off to Ankara from there."

Kristina Chan '04, who spent a year in Vienna on a Fulbright Scholarship, is currently working as a Project Manager at Goldman Sachs in New York City.

Sarah Gibson Kaczmarek '07 has been accepted for the Masters Program in German Studies at Georgetown University on a two-year partial tuition scholarship. Congratulations, Sarah!



Sarah Gibson Kaczmarek

Focus on Faculty

During this past year **Thomas Hansen** has been working on a revision of *Neue Horizonte*, the first-year text of which he is co-author. In March he delivered a conference paper on the young German writer Alexander Osang. Osang's very readable books are to be recommended to anybody looking for a recent voice from the German literary scene. His newspaper columns about America, and his collection of texts *Berlin – New York* (S. Fischer, 2006), are a style of reportage he calls “cultural glosses,” that is to say, writing that culminates in an insightful point or witty conclusion. These short, transparent texts are anchored in personal experience and filled with wonder, joy, consternation, and cultural criticism. Osang's recent novel, *Lennon ist tot* (S. Fischer, 2007), is a coming-of-age tale set in Manhattan. This *Bildungsroman* involves a quest for John Lennon, which leads the young protagonist by means of rock music back to his roots in Germany.

2007-08 was **Jens Kruse's** last year as chair of the department for a while and it was an extraordinarily

full one: a tenure-track search, a visiting committee (see details in Year in Review), continued service as Acting Chair of the Italian Studies Department as well as on the Committee on Faculty Appointments – all of these activities and duties, in addition to a full teaching load, kept Mr. Kruse very busy. He is very much looking forward to a sabbatical next year during which he will return to his research and writing.

Thomas Nolden led the Berlin excursion for our students studying in Vienna last May and in January spent Wintersession in Vienna with thirteen students fascinated by the rich heritage of this beautiful city. In November he gave a workshop on Jewish writing at the University of Leipzig—a topic that he had also pursued in his book *Contemporary Jewish Writing in Europe. A Guide* (co-edited with Vivian Liska, University of Antwerp). The volume appeared last January and was published by Indiana University Press. He has been directing our Wellesley-in-Vienna program this year as well as Wellesley's program in comparative literature. He also gave one of the keynote lectures at a conference in Belgium on Jewish writing in Europe.

Just a year ago in April, **Margaret Ward** was traveling in Germany. A highlight were visits with some



Margaret Ward with Christine Pierpont von Klencke '73 in front of Wasserburg Hämelschenburg.

of the students she taught in her very first years at Wellesley in the early 70s, Margie Berle Nubbemeyer, '74 in Berlin, and Christine Pierpont von Klencke, '73, whom she visited at her home near Hameln—the famous *Wasserburg* [castle with moat], *Hämelschenburg*. In the fall she taught Beginning German for the first time in many years and a new fifth-semester “bridge” course on “Berlin in the 20s.” After reading Bertolt Brecht's *Dreigroschenoper*, the class was able to better appreciate a performance of the play they attended at Brandeis University. She continues the countdown to retirement with only two more fall semesters of teaching to go. She has also been working on the final chapter of a book on the disappeared children of El Salvador, a familial story.



Jens Kruse, Thomas Hansen, Margaret Ward, and Thomas Nolden.

Grant Recipients

Amy Wong '05 - I've been in Vienna for a little over seven months on a combined Fulbright grant and teaching assistantship. While studying and researching at the University of Vienna may be the



Amy Wong (left) and other grantees at the Fulbright ball.

more prestigious aspect of the grant, teaching is by far the more fulfilling. I definitely enjoy my courses in political science and American studies; however, I just have more fun with the *Gymnasium* students. I can't say for sure whether teaching is my true calling yet, but I'm happy to report that the idea of preparing lesson plans and leading an entire class no longer fills me with dread! I've accepted a contract extension to teach another year, and I'm excited to see how European media will cover the US Presidential election in the fall. The primary season has provided much fodder for discussions, and surprisingly, anti-American and anti-Bush sentiments are not as widespread and abrasive as I thought they would be. I've discovered that just by talking with my Austrian and British friends that stereotypes sometimes have a way of debunking themselves. "

Stephanie Gilardi '07 writes: "After graduation I traveled to Bulgaria on a MacFarquhar Stipend for International Journalism and spent the summer writing for Bulgaria's national English-language newspaper, the *Sofia Echo*. Since October 2007 I have been teaching English on an Austrian Government Teaching Assistantship at two high schools in Graz, Austria. This year I have also completed an internship at the European Training and Research Center for Human Rights and Democracy, where I continue to work editing a journal on education. My first translation, an

Austrian novel I started working on as an independent study under the direction of Professor Hansen, has recently been accepted for publication by Ariadne Press."



Stephanie Gilardi traveling by train in Austria.

Sanja Jagesic '08 was awarded the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans. Only 30 applicants are accepted each year for this fellowship, one of the most prestigious in the United States. The competition is fierce not just by numbers alone; many applicants are graduate students pursuing Ph.D.s, law degrees, or medical degrees already. The fellowship was estab-



Sanja Jagesic

lished to recognize New Americans and their contributions to American life.

Born in Bosnia, Sanja fled with her family and grew up in Germany. They immigrated to Massachusetts and have lived here for the past eight years.

In graduate school she plans to study educational inequalities in the American public school system.

Kreuzworträtsel

by Emily Buss '08

Deutschsprachige Städte

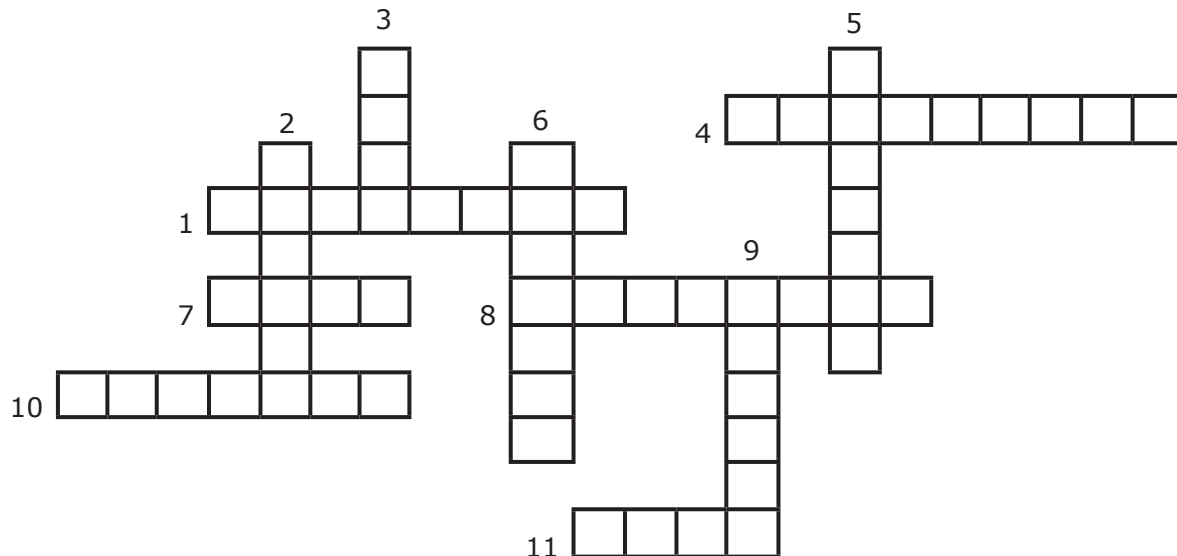
Alle Antworten sind ein Wort.

Waagerecht

1. Die Geburtsstadt Albrecht Dürers und ein Zentrum des Mittelalters in Deutschland.
4. Die fünftgrößte Stadt Deutschlands ist _____ am Main.
7. Ein Hauptort der Musik des 19. Jahrhunderts und die österreichische Hauptstadt.
8. Der Komponist Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart wurde 1756 in dieser Stadt geboren.
10. In dieser bayrischen Stadt findet man die alte Pinakothek, die Frauenkirche und den Olympiapark.
11. Die Bundesstadt der Schweiz heißt _____.

Senkrecht

2. Eine Stadt in der Schweiz, die ein Finanzzentrum ist.
3. Diese Stadt ist wegen ihres großen Doms sehr bekannt.
5. Im Zweiten Weltkrieg wurde diese Stadt im Osten durch Bombadierungen fast zerstört.
6. Die zweitgrößte Stadt Deutschlands, und die siebtgrößte der Europäischen Union ist _____.
9. Diese Stadt wurde von 1961 bis 1989 durch eine Mauer geteilt.



January-in-Vienna

This January, Professor Thomas Nolden and thirteen Wellesley students spent 2 1/2 weeks exploring the beautiful city of Vienna and Viennese culture. In addition to class, the students enjoyed learning on site about the beautiful churches, palaces, museums, and coffee houses. They also attended a grand ball in the Imperial Palace, operas at the renowned *Staatsoper*, and a play in the magnificent *Burgtheater*.



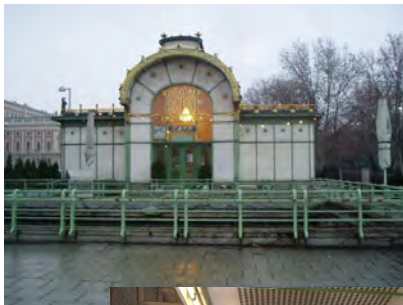
Kaffee mit Sisi



The fearsome three: Herr Hansen, Herr Nolden, and Herr Stollhof



At the ball!



Karlsplatz



from l. to rt.: Amanda Davis, Rachel Amrhein, Adrienna Jacobson, Brandy Parker, Aleyah Soleyn, Aigerim Kabdiyera at the UBahn.



Hofburg

Impressions of Wellesley

Vienna in Wellesley

by Christine Schranz

Shortly before I left for the U.S., I met one of Wellesley's former German TAs in Vienna. Sipping Cappuccino at the *Mocca Club* at *Karlsplatz*, she took great pleasure in predicting that I was about to have a difficult time at this very different, very hard, and very exhausting all women's college. She critically stared at my nail polish-less fingernails and let me in on the secrets of this dog-eat-dog world, where appearance was all that mattered and German TAs were expected to handle insurmountable heaps of work. "And the coffee in the dining halls," she said (and that was when I started worrying), "is nothing like the coffee in Vienna!"

Now, eight months later, I can not help but smile when thinking back

to that August evening at *Karlsplatz*: This "very different, very hard, and very exhausting all women's college" has become my home. For the first time in my four years as a college student, I am looking forward to every single reading and writing assignment. In my tutoring hours, I have met interesting people and learned new things about German history and literature. Our weekly German table meetings are a wonderful excuse to have lunch and stimulating discussions with a group of people I hope to stay in touch with well after my time at Wellesley. And instead of handling "insurmountable heaps of work," I have started an amusing collection of American stereotypes about Austria. The best one so far: The proper procedure to show your affection for an Austrian girl is to "walk up the Alps" and pick an Edelweiss



Christine Schranz

wildflower for her. I like this idea. It makes me smile, and it makes me proud to be part of a culture that is thought to be different in a ridiculously old-fashioned, but lovable way. And: I even like the coffee here.

The Year in Review (continued from page 1)

"We want to emphasize above all the excellence of the department at Wellesley (...) a department with a distinguished tradition of excellence, with very high standards, and with a clear sense of identity within the college and the profession at large.

Students we saw were competent and engaged, enthusiastic and full of praise. They enjoyed their place in the department and felt they had gained skills and knowledge from the major.

A striking record of department majors' successes in receiving fellow-

ships and scholarships (Fulbright, Fulbright and Austrian Government teaching assistantships, Marshall, Watson) shows that the skills and knowledge of majors is recognized and validated by outside judges. This record is better than that of most peer institutions. We were impressed by this record of achievement.

The faculty members are deeply committed to the department and to their students. The commitment shown by all the faculty members is nothing short of extraordinary. They regularly teach independent studies and reading courses; they routinely

defer administrative and sabbatical leaves; they devote extra time to intensive courses on campus or in Vienna during Wintersession; they often teach beyond the department; and unlike many colleagues in similarly high-profile departments, they consistently all teach at all levels, from beginning language to upper-level literature and culture. (...) We admire the egalitarian spirit that drives this kind of teaching rotation and recognize that such a structure demands more preparations by more faculty members more of the time."

Jens Kruse

Wellesley-in-Vienna

Alexandra Millner

Wellesley in Vienna Director

The Wellesley-in-Vienna program usually starts with a warming-up weekend with the Resident Director in the beautiful scenery of the Austrian Alps. Staying at the famous *Loos Haus*, we not only try to get to know each other and to have a good time, but we also discuss the many opportunities offered by the study program at the University of Vienna. Wherever we meet for the rest of the academic year, it is always a famous site with a lot of historical impact – be it *Schloss Belvedere*, a castle famous for its Rococo architecture and its collection of paintings by Gustav Klimt, St. Stephen's Cathedral at the very center of Vienna, or one of the old coffeehouses. Considering all those possible distractions on the way from the students' dorms to the university building, I sometimes

wonder how students manage to make their way to classes. Of course, all Wellesley students are quite busy with attending lectures and writing papers. They also intern at a variety of institutions and organizations. They are free to choose according to their interests and talents: Ana Ila does a research project at the Democracy Center Vienna, Colleen Corcoran interns at Women-Without-Borders Vienna, and Kathleen Mills-Curran takes part in the network Monasterium, a virtual archive of Central European monasteries and dioceses, whereas Nadza Durakovic, who has only recently arrived, hopes to get an internship at the ADA, the

Austrian Development Agency. Still they have time enough to enjoy living in Vienna.

From Colleen Corcoran '09

Weihnachten in Wien

Coming from an “über”-ly Christian city (Wheaton, IL; more Christian churches per capita than any other city in the United States) and having dutifully attended Catholic schools

the first time I stumbled across the giant Advent wreath outside of the *Rathaus*, which had of course been transformed into an enormous Advent calendar itself, my Wellesley-trained mind questioned why no one had yet set flame to it in the name of religious freedom. However, several glasses of *Glühwein* later, I considered writing a suggestion to President Bottomly about installing an Advent wreath in Alumnae Valley come Christmas 2008.



Colleen Corcoran, Kathleen Mills-Curran, Alexandra Millner, and Nadza Duraovic.

for 13 years, I always assumed that extravagant Christmas preparations were the norm. Rather, I had assumed that until my first December at Wellesley. The campus lacked any form of holiday decorations and my professors gifted me only with grueling examinations. On top of that, I awoke to find tragically empty shoes on December 6. How could St. Nick have forgotten my chocolate coins, or better yet, my gold coins?

Spending December in Vienna allowed me a trip down memory lane, to a time from my childhood when “the whole world” stopped to appreciate the spirit of the season. Admittedly,

Several trips to the *Christkindlmärkte* allowed me to appreciate them as more of a celebration of Austrian culture than the actual holiday of Christmas. The Viennese enjoyed an opportunity to gather with family and friends, do some Christmas shopping, have a warm drink in the cold, and appreciate the beauty of their city. Luckily

for me, their traditions also happen to include plenty of *Wurst*, *Lebkuchen*, *Brezeln*, *Punsch*, and *Glühwein*.

From Nadza Durakovic '09

The moment I stepped off the plane and onto Austrian soil, I felt a queer pulsing sensation in my stomach – a sensation that only intensified the more I got to know and love Vienna. Looking back in retrospect, the feeling was akin to the butterflies that spread through your body as you fall deeply in love. And that is exactly what happened to me: I fell deeply and madly in love with Vienna.

Wellesley-in-Vienna (continued)

But my impressions and experiences were certainly individual. After all, I am European, and I have desperately yearned for Europe the past eight years that I've lived in America. Visiting family and friends for a short month or two was never enough. I wanted to live there again, to immerse myself in its long history and its diverse cultures. That is why, upon arriving in Vienna, I felt like I had finally come home. That is also why I might not have judged Vienna objectively at first. I loved it from the start, without having experienced it to the fullest or weighed its positive and negative sides, simply because it was European.

By now I have seen its less glorious sights: the homeless people begging at every corner; the reputed 'coldness', or shall we say 'disinterest', of the local population; the relentlessly raging wind in the winter; etc. But none of those aspects have managed to dim my view. Vienna has infiltrated my being: its grandiose buildings; the intellectual atmosphere; the famous coffeehouses; the unique blend between western and eastern European cultures. As I furtively tell myself while walking down the beautiful cobbled streets on a sunny day, it has become my city. And even its less glorious parts serve only to make it that much more uniquely – Vienna.

From Ana Ila '09

My experience in Vienna has been multifaceted since the very beginning. I have learned enormously here: I became acquainted with philosophical ideas of the famous Viennese Circle, in particular with ideas of Rudolph Carnap and Victor Kraft; and I even got to see the

works of the famous artist, Gustav Klimt. I learned more about the EU, about the highly egalitarian Austrian social policies – a dream of almost every citizen in this world – and many other wonderful things.

From Kathleen Mills-Curran '09 *Taste the Rain Forest*

Unlike in the US, where Supreme Court cases have been fought to ensure the pedestrian's right to pass by unmolested, Viennese sidewalk petitioners are only too happy to stop you to extol the virtues of their organization. Leaving the University of Vienna today, on one of the first warm days in several months, the normal crowd of students holding petitions for "*Umweltschutz*" [environmental protection] was out in force.

My normal strategy is to walk right by looking very busy and important, but there was no way to keep a straight face today after one earnest young man asked for my support for "environmental protection – now with NEW CITRUS FLAVOR!" I laughed in spite of myself; he tried to get me to sign his petition. I declined but could not forget the utter unexpectedness of it.



Colleen Corcoran, Ana Ila, and Kathleen Mills-Curran on a visit to the vineyards.



Nadza Durakovic, Colleen Corcoran, and Kathleen Mills-Curran in front of Lusthaus in the Prater.

Vienna has many oft-extolled virtues – the glorious architecture, plentiful music and theater options, coffee-house culture – but only after living here have I discovered the little human gems that will not appear in any guide, like that young man trying to save a zesty environment.

Whether it's a spontaneous group on *Kärtnerstraße* offering "*Freie Umarmungen*" [free embraces] to hug-hungry strangers, or famous '*Gurken Rudi*' at the local farmer's market, up to his elbows in his second barrel of pickles, the city of Vienna often strikes me sometimes as just that – a city. It is made what it is, not by the buildings (though they are lovely), nor by the language (though it is full of the delicious, complicated grammar to which I've become completely addicted), but by the Viennese themselves. They make this place a surprising and vibrant place, not just to visit, but to live.

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Congratulations!

The 2007 Elizabeth Vogel Falk Prize was awarded to:

- **Jillian Cunningham '10**
- **Enid Li '10**

The 2007 Ethel Folger Williams
Sophomore Prize was awarded to:

- **Colleen Corcoran '09**
- **Ana Ila '09**

The 2007 Natalie Wipplinger Prize
was awarded to:

- **Sarah Gibson '07**
- **Pamela Wolpert '07**

Kaitlin Staudt '08 was awarded an
Austrian Government Teaching Assistantship to Niederösterreich
in Weiner Neustadt.

Abigail Tutor '08 was awarded an Austrian Government Teach-
ing Assistantship in English in Zwettl.

