

# Spotlight on: Duke in Berlin



## CONGRATULATIONS!

This Spring Duke German bids farewell to seven German majors and twenty German minors! We wish them the best of luck in all of their future endeavors.



### German Majors

Alexander Bernard, Jr.

Dalbert Chen

Cecile Franke

Mark Hollingsworth

Nicholas Kachulis

Krishtha Spuglio

Brendan Walsh

Continued pg. 2

**D**uke in Berlin is one of the hallmark programs within Duke German. We sat down with program director Prof. Jakob Norberg to discuss the ins and outs of life in Berlin and what we can expect from DiB in the future.

DG: Tell us about your role as director of the Duke in Berlin program. What are the most challenging and rewarding aspects of leading the program?

JN: It is tremendously rewarding to work with the Duke in Berlin program. On the Duke campus, we can teach people German and inspire students to study German culture. With Duke in Berlin, we can help students become cultural insiders in Germany.

Duke in Berlin is our department's chance of guiding students to incredibly enriching and even life-changing cultural experiences. I am extremely grateful that we have this program and that it has become an integral part of our language and culture curriculum.

DG: Why Berlin? What kinds of opportunities are available to students there that they might not get elsewhere?

JN: Few European cities are as dynamic, energizing, and culturally rich as Germany's capital –

Continued pg. 6



**LETTER FROM THE CHAIR**  
An update from department chair, Thomas Pfau  
Page 2



**CATCHING UP**  
Checking in with Erik Grell, graduate of the CDG Program.  
Page 3



**GREETINGS**  
Introducing the incoming Co-Presidents of the German Club  
Page 4

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

I would like to begin with a note of sincere thanks to several people in our department, and in the graduate program, for their dedicated service and professional accomplishments.

This past week, we concluded a remarkably successful graduate recruitment effort, coordinated and overseen by Stefani Engelstein and Jonathan Hess. Stefani has been a tremendous presence in the graduate program in all kinds of ways, and generously assisted by numerous current graduate students, she has ensured that we have met our target of eight, highly talented new students who will be joining our program this coming Fall.

As most of you are aware, we have also significant successes with placing our new PhD's at fine institutions around the country (U of Washington, U of Notre Dame, Fuhrman U, and Utah State U). All of these accomplishments and successes are the fruit of sustained and thoughtful collaboration between faculty advisors and graduate students.

Enhancing such successful professional development are various ongoing endeavors, such as our dissertation colloquium (co-directed by Stefani Engelstein and Eric Downing) and the wide-ranging and probing discussions of individual projects at the "Works in Progress" series. I would like to thank Henry Pickford for all his efforts as convener of this forum.

Meanwhile, as evidenced by the more than sixty undergraduates who attended our recent Abschlussfest, our language program is going strong. A very special thanks is due to Inge Walther and Susanne Freytag for their attentive guidance of this critically important part of our department's larger mission within the university. We remain hopeful that the Duke's ongoing deliberation on a new curriculum will continue to recognize unequivocally the importance of foreign-language learning. Our undergraduate program continues to flourish and, thanks to Kata Gellen's thoughtful and constant attention and supervision, has drawn superior enrollment numbers for this past year.

### Congratulations to our 2016 German Minors!

Kevin Butz		Judith Leng	Marc McFarland
Jack Lucas	Michael Devito	Jackson Moore	Ji-Ho Park
Devyn Gortner	Nora Gerien-Chen	Runzhen (Jenny) Ni	Benjamin Ramger
Andrea Herman	Samantha Greenky	Rebecca Reibman	Patrick Schutz
Thomas Jenkins II	Kaitlyn Jaeck	Mary Michael (Mickey) Seibert	Michaela Walker
		Zhan Wu	

Likewise, the Duke in Berlin Program continues to flourish, thanks in particular to Jakob Norberg's efforts. Over the past months, Jakob and I have also reformulated and consolidated various cooperative arrangements in Berlin (with the FU, HU, and Uni Potsdam), all of which will benefit our students in years to come. Uni Potsdam has agreed to raise its stipend levels for up to two graduate exchange students per year. Humboldt Universität has now given us excellent instructional spaces for our summer and Fall program, located right at the university's main location at Unter den Linden in the very heart of Berlin.

In the meantime, looking ahead to the coming academic year, I am optimistic that we can build on our recent successes. As we all know, the job market in the humanities, and in foreign-language departments in particular, is bound to remain very tight for the foreseeable future. That said, CDG students are extremely well positioned to succeed in a challenging professional environment. I encourage all of you, and the new entering class in particular, to continue drawing in timely and regular fashion on the rich advisory resources of our program's faculty, and to consult with their advisors extensively when approaching the various milestones (writing proficiency review, prelims, chapter exam, fellowship applications, etc.) in the program.

Finally, I would like to ask everyone to join me in a most sincere word of appreciation to Margy Swanson and Dorothy Turner. We are truly fortunate to be able to rely on their consistent dedication and wise guidance through Duke's ever-expanding maze of administrative rules and constantly re-shuffled procedures, not to mention their personal support of faculty and students at all times.

With best wishes to everyone in our department for what I hope will be restorative and productive summer months.

Thomas Pfau

## CATCHING UP: ERIK GRELL



Erik Grell graduated from the Carolina-Duke Graduate Program in German Studies and just accepted a tenure-track job at Furman University in Greenville, SC. We sat down with Erik to talk about his time this past year as a lecturer at Hamline University in St. Paul, MN.

DG: Could you tell us about your position at Hamline? What are your teaching, research, and service responsibilities?

EG: I currently serve as Lecturer at Hamline University (St. Paul, MN) where my duties fall largely in the realms of teaching and service. My position entails teaching seven courses (3-1-3), though I received a course release this year to participate in a new faculty seminar.

In addition to teaching at all levels of the German language curriculum, I also offer an introductory course to language and culture ("The Language Phenomenon") which has been one of the most exciting opportunities here at Hamline.

Although I was initially afraid to return the dreaded syntactic trees Paul Roberge introduced to my life, I have quickly found a new appreciation and understanding for linguistics.

I have also had the occasion to teach an upper-level conversation and composition course as well as professional German, both of which challenged me to devise a new dynamic and integrated curriculum for courses I hadn't previously taught at Carolina-Duke.

In terms of service, I have spent considerable time advising German-language majors and minors in an unofficial capacity. I am also working with colleagues within the humanities and the administration to devise a new curriculum for German in particular and the modern languages more broadly. We hope to grow the program and attract new students to language study, but there are many challenges facing languages at Hamline, particularly in the absence of a language requirement.

That being said, working at a small liberal arts college has also offered other opportunities for service. I was a midnight breakfast volunteer during finals week last semester, where I served students eggs and bacon; I participated in a faculty panel for Fall Visit Days, an information session for prospective students and their parents; and finally, I served on Hamline's selection committee for the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR). I helped identify undergraduate projects to receive funding and I will be chaperoning the trip to Asheville in April, when the conference takes place.

There are no research requirements attached my position, but I've done my best to pursue my own scholarship during a very busy year. I was able to participate in both the

MLA (Austin) and GSA (Washington D.C.) and I am presenting at Hamline's Faculty Research Colloquium, a broad interdisciplinary platform rather similar to Carolina-Duke's Works in Progress.

DG: What has been the biggest challenge as you transition from graduate school to your position at Hamline?

EG: I often feel as though I am a one-man team here at Hamline. This semester, I am the only faculty member teaching German and although I have many great colleagues in the languages department and other departments outside of language study, it isn't the same as having a large community of German-language teachers with whom to interact.

That isn't to say that there aren't advantages to working more independently, but it has proven challenging. I should note, however, that I am incredibly thankful to have a fantastic Fulbright teaching assistant from Hamburg, who tutors my students and teaches labs.

On the whole, I can't say enough how prepared I have been to perform my duties here at Hamline. Meeting first-year and junior faculty from other disciplines has made me realize how much Carolina-Duke prepared me for this job and my current successes.

Finally, I would add that the challenge of being the only full-time German teacher at Hamline has been vastly mitigated by an amazing group of students with whom I share a very strong rapport. They have made my time here incredibly wonderful.

Continued pg. 5



**GREETINGS:  
INCOMING GERMAN CLUB  
CO-PRESIDENTS  
GEORGE SCHIEDER '17  
JASON KAPLAN '18**

Leadership of the German Club for the 2016-2017 academic year will be placed in the capable hands of George Schieder, a biology major from Atlantic City, NJ and Jason Kaplan, a History and German double major from St. Louis, MO. We sat down with them to talk about why they got involved with the German Club and their plans for next year.

DG: What motivated you to get involved with the German Club?

GS: Speaking has always been the weakest part of my German language ability. Comprehension was something I could always improve myself, but the act of conversing is something not easily practiced without direct personal contact. German Club offered (and continues to offer) exposure to new German speakers every week. At first, I felt very uncomfortable speaking to others, but through practice I've become much more confident in my own abilities; I enjoy very much speaking at Kaffeestunde and watching the movies at

Kinoabend. I guess I became more involved because I wanted to pay forward the welcoming experience I had with the club.

JK: I've been taking German since 7th grade and knew I wanted to continue learning at Duke, and the German Club seemed like a great way to get involved with other German students on campus.

DG: What are you most looking forward to next year?

GS: Bringing back the German Wurst-cookout on a nice day! Last Spring we had a wonderful cookout in on the quad and it brought a lot of people together.

JK: I am participating in Duke in Berlin this fall and cannot wait!

DG: What is your favorite German word and why?

GS: Doch! Simple. Useful. Concise. I use it almost everyday because it's so handy and there is just no satisfying English equivalent.

JK: My favorite German word is das Luftschloss because it literally translates to "castle in the air" but it means daydream - something we all do a lot.

**IN ADDITION TO GEORGE AND JASON THE OTHER 2016-2017 GERMAN CLUB OFFICERS WILL BE:**

VP, Kaffeestunde: Danielle Mayorga-Young

VP, Kino Abend: Sam Frederick

Treasurer: Natalie Hollister



**GERMAN CLUB:  
YEAR IN REVIEW**

This year the German Club organized a variety of fun and interesting activities to get students speaking German and learning more about German culture.

As always the club organized a weekly Kaffeestunde, bringing students from all levels of German together to practice their skills. In addition, the club organized a bi-weekly Kinoabend this Spring, using film to take us through the history of Germany in the 20th century.

The club also celebrated Rosenmontag and the beginning of Fasching with a party including masks and German pop music. Students got to show off their crafty side during a German Club T-Shirt decorating evening and had a great time playing board games during German Club Game Night. The year culminated with Grill Abend at which NC BBQ met German sausages and a deliciously fun time was had by all.

With new leaders in place for next year, the club is poised to continue building excitement about German language and culture within the Duke community.



**CATCHING UP, Cont. from pg. 3**

DG: Throughout the course of your undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate career, you've spent time at four different American universities. How has your scholarship and teaching benefited from this broad exposure?

EG: Perhaps more than anything else, I have learned how to balance teaching and scholarship in a way that bolsters both. The challenges of meeting a publication deadline and preparing for a lesson can feel like a pendulum at times, but I've learned that both tend to feed off of each other. I've experienced both extremes and I now feel like I can balance the life of an academic a bit more easily. The broad experiences I have received before, after, and during graduate school have helped me devise strategies for balancing both.

I have also come to understand that every institution has its own way of doing things. Every institution has its own culture which one must learn to operate within in order to succeed. On a less positive note, I have seen how politics can be a destructive impediment to both scholarship and teaching. Some institutions, simply put, have dysfunctional departments where people do not always play nice. Others offer much more promising models of collegiality and professionalism. To support my teaching, I've learned to identify those people and resources at any given institution that prioritize teaching as a goal.

Scholarship, of course, has always been a much more individual affair. I greatly miss the rich and supportive environment Carolina-Duke afforded in this regard, I miss the libraries and I miss my study carrel in Bostock. The liberal arts institutional model certainly places more weight on teaching, but as my career progresses I find myself drawing upon the habits of mind that guided me in graduate school to continue to perform my research.

DG: Could you tell us about the project you're currently working on?

EG: I'm currently turning dissertation chapters into articles and putting together a book proposal (or two). My committee helped me identify two distinct projects within my dissertation and I am currently working to determine the shape both of them will take. My first project examines nineteenth-century popular prose fiction, investigating how key genres helped German negotiate their political identities. My second project analyzes political allegory in several canonical texts. I'm specifically interested in how German realism deployed a discourse of desire as a means of discussing and shaping politics.

SPOTLIGHT: Duke in Berlin, Cont. from pg. 1

JN: I think that is what makes Berlin an excellent spot for our students. The city is full of museums, memorial sites, theaters, orchestras, galleries, cultural venues, and, to say the least, affordable places to eat...

DG: Could you tell us about the class you taught in Berlin last summer? How did being 'on site' influence the way that you taught?

JN: I taught a class called Berlin Since the War, previously taught by the wonderful residential Director Jochen Wohlfeil, who manages the semester programs, and my predecessor in the position of director, Bill Donahue. The class meets twice weekly, once in a classroom and once in a museum or at a site, such as the German Historical Museum, the Stasi Prison at Hohenschönhausen, or the Berlin Wall Memorial. It is extraordinarily inspiring for me, and hopefully for my Duke students, to first read about Berlin history and culture and then open the classroom door to walk out to explore the traces of this history and the life of this culture in the actual city. You see what you otherwise would only have read about, and come to understand more profoundly what it is you see.

DG: In your opinion what is the most important thing undergraduate students gain through study abroad in Berlin, particularly those who have limited exposure to German or have never been outside of the country before?

JN: The discovery and exploration of a culture other than your own almost always allow you to see the world, and your own background, in a new perspective. You realize, through your own immersive experience of a foreign environment, that there are many ways to organize a society and to live a life.

DG: How do graduate students also benefit by participating in the program?

JN: I think study abroad programs are an absolutely indispensable part of any university language and culture program. The graduate students who accompany faculty and students to Germany to teach or help with events and excursions receive a more complete preparation for a future academic career. And then they also get to be in Berlin!

## CONGRATULATIONS CAROLINA-DUKE GRADUATES!

This Spring the CDG program will graduate six PhDs, the largest group of graduating students in program history! We wish them the best of luck in all of their future endeavors!

### Rory Bradley

The Enlightening Supernatural: Ghost Stories in Late Eighteenth Century Germany

### Janice Hansen

Redeeming Faustus: Tracing the Pacts of Mariken and Faust from the 1500s to the Present

### Heidi Hart

Contrary Voices: Heine, Hölderlin, and Goethe in the Music of Hanns Eisler

### Steffen Kaupp

Transcultural Satire in German Fiction of Turkish Migration: Self-Deprecation, Ethnic Impersonation, Intertextuality

### Annegret Oheme

Adapting Arthur. The Transformations and Adaptations of Wirnt von Grafenberg's Wigalois

### Christian Straubhaar

Understanding the Visuality of a Medieval Visionary: Fourteenth Century Dominican Henry Suso's Interwoven Concepts of Divine Image, Gendered Identity, and Epistemology

## Duke German

Old Chemistry 116M  
Box 90256  
Durham NC 27708  
Tel: 919-660-3160  
Fax: 919-660-3164

Editors: Margaret Swanson, Claire Scott, and Bethany Bowen-Wefuan