

GERMAN PROGRAM AT SKIDMORE

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023



WORDS OF WELCOME

Liebe StudentInnen und FreundInnen des
Deutschprogramms!

The 2022-2023 academic year was very exciting in the German Program. We got our own Instagram account, revived the Skidmore German Club, debuted a new course, welcomed new faculty, supported original student research, hosted numerous events, revealed a new German Program T-shirt designed by a German major, and recognized the excellent academic and extra-curricular achievements of our students. This academic year we also welcomed new German majors and several minors (with more anticipated soon!).

Our elementary German courses were full in the fall and spring semesters, which made for very fun class time and the opportunity for faculty to meet many new Skidmore students. Our well-enrolled intermediate and advanced courses had wonderful discussions and produced fabulous final projects, including a short film that premiered at the German Program's end of the year party. Read on for details on everything we got up to this academic year!

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FACULTY NEWS

SPRING 2023

A word from our new faculty,
Professor Michael Swellander:

I could not have asked for a more welcoming and productive first year working in Skidmore's German Program. Skidmore students continue to inspire and delight me with their insights and enthusiasm in class, office hours, and at Program events.

Among the most gratifying experiences in my first year has been teaching Elementary German I and II sequentially over the fall and spring semesters. Every student in Elementary II took Elementary I with me the previous semester and this was the first time I experienced such continuity in a class. Seeing everyone's progress in German from the first "Hallo, ich heiÙe..." to now has been one of the highlights of my teaching career. I was also pleased to teach my version of Contemporary German Cinema in the fall, where we watched and discussed rich and challenging German-language films from the past three decades. Teaching 206, "Entdeckungsreise D-A-CH" was another highpoint for the fabulous discussions I had about Germany, Austria, and Switzerland with advanced students in the program and for what I learned about their diverse interests and experiences. A research highlight for me was attending the Northeast Modern Language Association Convention in Niagara Falls this spring with Skidmore colleagues in German and French, where I shared work on the 2019 music video "Es Nervt" by LaToya Manly-Spain and Die goldenen Zitronen. I received great feedback and look forward to teaching this music video alongside other materials in courses on contemporary German literature and art.



FACULTY NEWS

SPRING 2023



A word from Professor Juliane Wuensch

The academic year 2022-23 was full of great achievements for our students, the program, and myself. I was promoted to Assistant Professor for German, which gives me the opportunity to advocate more efficiently for the needs of our students and to develop and implement long-term plans for the German Program at Skidmore. Our great work of the past two years has already received attention

and was honored with the 2022 award for outstanding program development and advocacy by the German special interest group of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). This year, we continued our efforts to build community by organizing various events, such as Christmas cookie baking, movie nights, and our first ever year-end party. Additionally, new and updated course designs gave students possibilities to engage with German language, literature, and culture in a meaningful and inclusive way. I was especially impressed by the high quality and dedication with which our students completed their creative projects. More than once, students went beyond what was required for the course assignment and created sophisticated artistic works. "Fun, creativity, and collaboration" is the motto that our students wholeheartedly embrace, which, in my opinion, is the best way to learn about language and culture! I am excited for our next year, in which we will foster relationships old and new, and discover new ways of exploring German together!



Left: The students of WLG 208 German Composition and Conversation with Professor Wuensch during a Raclette-dinner, which is a typical German food tradition around Christmas and New Year.

NEWS & EVENTS

KAFFEESTUNDE

The German Program continued its biweekly Kaffeestunde, where students and faculty come together for a casual chat in German and, of course, coffee and snacks! The faculty enjoyed getting to know students better in this casual, open-ended format. Whether one becomes a regular (Stammgast) or can only stop by occasionally, all German students are welcome and encouraged to come to Kaffeestunde when it starts again in Fall 2023!



Kaffeestunde



Hallo!

Danke schön!

Guten Tag!

Want to make friends and practice your German?

Join us every other Monday from 4:15-5:15 PM in PMH 429!

Feb 2 and 20, March 6 and 27, April 10 and 24

EXPLORE MORE

Our annual info session for majors and minors was highly successful this year - thanks to homemade Apfelstrudel and vanilla ice cream from the German Kaffeehaus in Saratoga. Advanced students and professors answered questions of interested students about the program, we played trivia, and everybody could win German-themed raffle prizes!



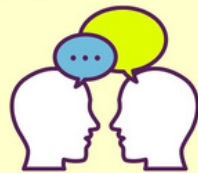
GERMAN PROGRAM

TUESDAY FEB 21
4:30-5:30 PM
PMH 429 WLL LOUNGE

COME AND TRY HOT APFELSTRUDEL AND ICE CREAM!



DID YOU KNOW?



-100 MILLION PEOPLE SPEAK GERMAN AS A NATIVE LANGUAGE. IT IS THE MOST WIDELY SPOKEN LANGUAGE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

DID YOU KNOW?



ALTHOUGH GERMANY IS ONE OF THE MOST DENSELY POPULATED COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD, 1/3 OF THE COUNTRY IS COVERED IN FORESTS AND WOODLANDS.

DID YOU KNOW?

THE FIRST PRINTED BOOK WAS IN GERMAN. TODAY, GERMANY PUBLISHES -94,000 TITLES EVERY YEAR!



NEWS & EVENTS

FALL EVENTS

German Program faculty and students hiked the North Woods on October 10, 2022. While enjoying the fall colors, we also completed a scavenger hunt where we looked up the names of common woodland creatures and took photos of things we saw in the woods. It was a lot of fun and we look forward to doing it again next fall!



GERMAN PROGRAM EVENTS

FALL 2022

FALL HIKE

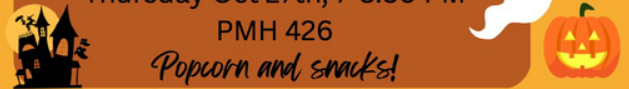
Saturday Oct 8th, 11 AM - 1 PM
Meet at Wilson Chapel



HALLOWEEN MOVIE NIGHT

Thursday Oct 27th, 7-8:30 PM
PMH 426

Popcorn and snacks!



GAME NIGHT

Thursday November 10th, 6-7 PM

PMH 423

Prizes!



BAKING CHRISTMAS COOKIES

Sunday Dec 4th, 2-4 PM
Dhall Test Kitchen



CHRISTMAS COOKIE BAKING

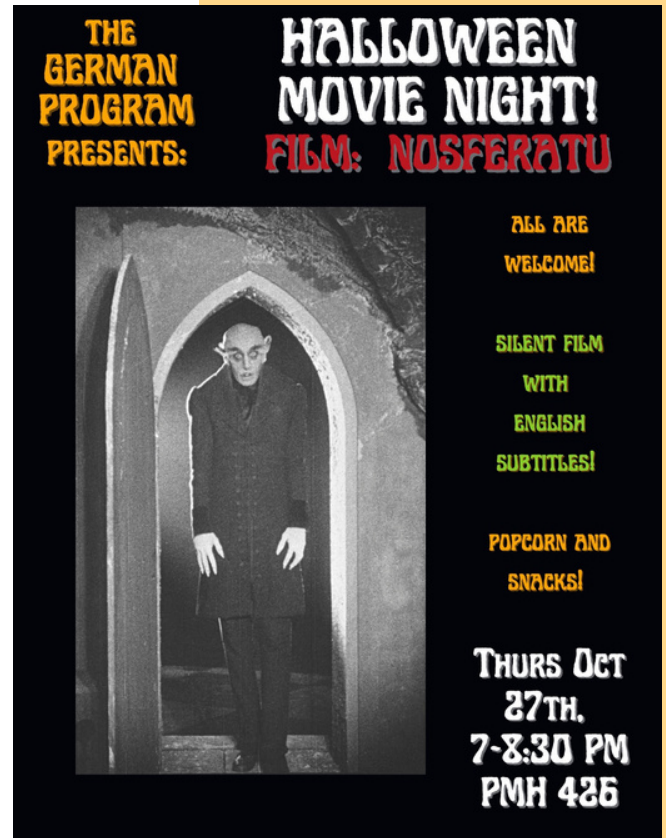
"In der Weihnachtsbäckerei:" Just like in millions of kitchens in Germany during Christmas time, students and professors came together to bake cookies based on traditional German recipes while listening to Christmas music. While some cookies did not bake according to plan (the ovens and ingredients are to blame, of course), all of them tasted wonderful and everybody had an amazing time.



NEWS & EVENTS

FILMABEND HALLOWEEN NOSFERATU

For Halloween, the German Program hosted a screening of F.W. Murnau's 1922 horror classic *Nosferatu*. There was a wonderful turnout of students from all levels of German as well as some curious friends who enjoyed pizza, popcorn, and the silent terror of Max Schreck's legendary performance as a blood-sucking, plague-spreading vampire.



THE GERMAN PROGRAM PRESENTS: **HALLOWEEN MOVIE NIGHT!**
FILM: NOSFERATU

ALL ARE WELCOME!
SILENT FILM WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES!
POPCORN AND SNACKS!

THURS OCT 27TH,
7-8:30 PM
PMH 426

The poster features a black and white image of Max Schreck as Count Dracula standing in a gothic archway. The text is in various colors and fonts, including yellow, white, and red.

FILMABEND FRÜHLING LOLA RENNT!

In April, the German Program screened *Run Lola Run*, Tom Tykwer's vibrant time capsule of late-1990s Berlin. German students and other friends of the Program enjoyed the movie's quick editing and driving techno soundtrack as well as pizza and popcorn. The great response we received to this film makes us excited about some very special film screenings and events we have planned for the 2023-2024 academic year! Stay tuned!



THURS, APRIL 6
6:30-8:30 PM
PMH426

ALL ARE WELCOME!

PIZZA AND POPCORN!

WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

the German Program presents:
FILMABEND!
(MOVIE NIGHT)

The poster features a movie poster for *Lola Rennt* with a woman with red hair. The text is in various colors and fonts, including red, white, and yellow.

NEWS & EVENTS

T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

Over the winter break, the German program called for submissions for new designs for our German program T-Shirt. We received several great ideas and thank everyone who participated in the contest. The winning design comes from German major Lyo Coleman, who combined Hansel and Gretel and the East-German cult car Trabant in a fun and convincing way.



GERMAN PROGRAM
**T-SHIRT
DESIGN
CONTEST**

Design our new German T-shirt! What design should represent German culture and the Skidmore German program?

**SUBMIT YOUR DESIGN
BY FEB 28, 2023**

EMAIL SUBMISSIONS TO [JWUENSCH@SKIDMORE.EDU](mailto:jwuensch@skidmore.edu)



NEWS & EVENTS: NEW COURSES

CONTEMPORARY GERMAN FILM

Professor Swellander taught the WLL course Contemporary German Film in English during the fall 2022 semester. The course featured an all-new film list and assignments. The screening schedule was oriented around the theme of “people in transit” in German cities, the outskirts of cities, in the European Union, and across the world. Students explored the stories of young people in Germany who find themselves “in transit” because of school, work, politics, and military conflict. Students in the course led insightful discussions about the films and their own experiences being in transit and wrote truly remarkable final film analyses. Students also completed a creative project (a press kit or script for a “deleted scene”) elaborating on themes from the movies screened in the course. These excellent projects and essays demonstrated that students in the course had deeply considered the complex themes of the films.



Fall 2022, WLL 251, 4 Credits
Instructor: Michael Swellander
TTH 3:40-5:30pm, screenings Tues. 6:30-8:30pm

People in Transit: Contemporary German Cinema

Fulfills: International Affairs Cultural Worlds,
Humanistic Inquiry, and Film Studies major/minor

Travel to Germany through film!

Why do people around the world move to Germany? And why do so many Germans move from their hometowns to urban centers like Berlin? In this course, we'll try to answer these questions in discussions of recent German movies about jobseekers, tourists, students, and refugees on the move in and around Germany. Through genres like coming-of-age films, crime thrillers, and historical dramas we'll get a peek at contemporary German life, politics, and history. No knowledge of German is required!



Spring 2023
**THE EUROPEAN UNION-
COMING TOGETHER OR GROWING APART?**
WLL 263C/ HI251C/ IA (3 credits)
Professor Juliane Wuensch



In an interactive, communicative way, we will analyze and discuss topics related to the history, politics, business, and economy of the European Union. At the beginning of the semester, students will be able to select the weekly course topics from ten modules and tailor the syllabus based on their interests. History and culture of the diverse European countries (with a special focus on German-speaking countries) will be explored in discussions and through a variety of mediums, such as films, art, and literature. Short skits and role-plays will help us identify and work through intercultural differences and confront stereotypes. We will be critically assessing the European Union and its vision and policies on global issues, such as climate change, sustainability, and food justice.

- In English, open to all
- Elective for World Languages, History, IA
- Counts towards the IA major as a “cultural world” breadth/depth course
- One-credit add on for German majors and minors (WLG 271)

THE EUROPEAN UNION- COMING TOGETHER OR GROWING APART?

Professor Wuensch taught a new course about the European Union which was offered in English and attracted a record number of 24 students from across the college. The students were able to design the course syllabus based on their interests. In addition to an introduction about the history and structure of the EU, the course modules covered information about the member states, the crises the EU had and has to face, business in the EU, food policies, and current affairs. A highlight was the debates and role-plays in which students demonstrated how they can apply the knowledge that they gained in real-life scenarios, which were an essential part of their final group projects for the course.

NEWS & EVENTS: COURSES

CREATIVE WRITING

In the course WLG 218 Creative Writing, six dedicated students explored and challenged their own boundaries in multiple writing projects. They were able to practice and improve their German writing skills, while at the same time letting their imagination fly and creating fairy tales, poems, and short stories. The highlight of the course was the collaborative writing of a film screenplay as their final group project. The students were full of enthusiasm and even decided to adapt the screenplay into their very own "Tatort"-inspired film which the whole program viewed during our semester-end party. The film is available on Youtube and can be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/1uLhvatFrG8>

Spring 2023
WLG 218 - 3 credits
Professor Juliane Wuensch

Schreiben beflügelt. Komm und versuche dich an Gedichten, Geschichten, Märchen und Krimis. Verbessere dein Deutsch, sei kreativ und finde deine Flügel.

Kreatives Schreiben auf Deutsch



The study of literature requires imagination and creativity as much as analysis and interpretation. This course is conceived as a writing workshop, in which students with intermediate German language competency create their own literary texts based on prominent literary models. The primary focus will be to learn to write poetic narrative and dramatic works independently and effectively. Students regularly present and discuss their original works in class, and based on the collective critiques and concrete suggestions revise their writing. The learning method in this course is practice-oriented so that students can acquire the skills necessary for literary writing, improve their grammar, and improve their vocabulary.

German Program
Abschlussparty
2. Mai 7-8 PM
PalamtN 426

WLG 218
German Creative Writing
Final Project Film Viewing



tatort: skidmore
wo ist frau wuensch?



STUDENT PROJECTS

CREATIVE WRITING WLG 218



Wenn ein Frosch sich verwandeln will,
Muss er sagen (mit besonderem Stil):
Frosch bin ich; ich quake gut,
Aber ich bin Mensch im Blut,
Hopfen tue ich sehr gern
Aber ich bin Mensch im Kern.
Also, bitte, was muss ich geben,
Um als Mensch zu leben?"

Die Stille

Die Stille hängt in der Luft,
als die Türen schließen.

Verschiedene Gesichter,

Das Vertraute und das Fremde.

Aufgestellt wie ein Rudel Sardinen.

Die Minuten klammern sich an uns, während wir klettern
von Stockwerk zu Stockwerk.

Die Augen richten sich auf die Zahl an der Wand –

Die Tür klingelt und öffnet sich

und eine weitere Person fällt der Stille zum Opfer.

*Above: Collage and
Poem from a Fairy Tale
by Samantha Allman*

*Left: „Die Stille“ Silent
Movie and Poem by
McKenna Otey:*

<https://youtu.be/6ZW5>

[N2EGj7M](https://youtu.be/6ZW5)

STUDENT PROJECTS

CREATIVE WRITING WLG 218

Tür-zu-Tür Verkäufer

kloklodio

hmmmmMmMmMMMMM?

haihai!!hihihahaaaAA!

eeeeEEEEEE!! **graAU!AU!**

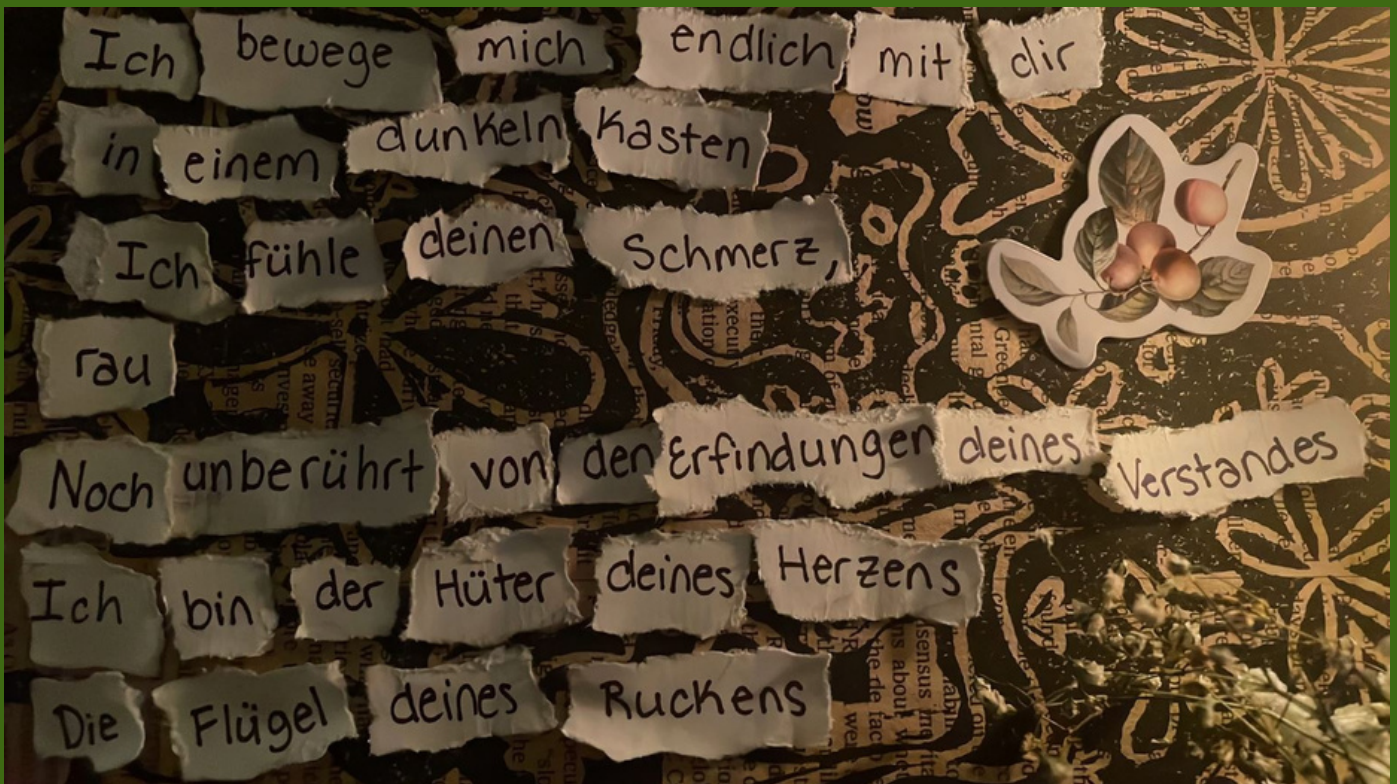
schschschschccccchhhhhhuuuuu...m.....

BARABARA.

Klonck.

*Left: Lautgedicht
("Soundpoem") by Lyo
Coleman*

*Below: Poem and Still
Image from the stop-
motion film by Grace
Burnett*



STUDENT PROJECTS

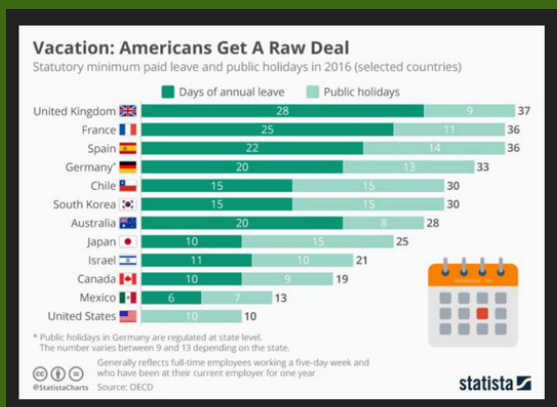
FALL 2022 AND SPRING 2023

In Contemporary German Cinema (WLL 251), taught in fall 2022, students completed creative projects. Students had the option of either writing a script for an imagined “deleted scene” from one of the films we watched or assembling a press kit for one of the films, including an interview with the director or anyone else associated with the film, performed by students. We had fun creatively elaborating on themes from our discussions in these projects.



Pictured above: Angus O'Connor in the role of Michael Haneke, answering questions about Das weiße Band (The White Ribbon), 2009, in WLL 251, Contemporary German Cinema.

In German Language and Culture: Entdeckungsreise D-A-CH (WLG 206), students completed projects on a theme of their choice from the course. Presentation topics included broad comparisons of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland in the areas of education and state-mandated vacation time as well as fashion in Germany versus the US. All presentations included fun activities we did together, through which we approached themes from the course in new, creative ways.



Pictured above: Slide from a WLG 206, German Language and Culture, presentation by Serenity Albin-Chadwell, Will Bryce, and Bevin Dean comparing vacation time in Germany to that in other countries.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023

SAMANTHA ALLMAN, GERMAN MAJOR, CLASS OF '23

In August prior to my senior year, I spent a month in Heidelberg, Germany, attending the International Ferienkurs at Heidelberg University.

During my senior year, I completed my thesis, which was about Marie von Olfers's fairy tale "Prinzesschen." To assist my thesis research, I was granted money from the Student Opportunity Fund in order to buy an antique copy of Marie von Olfers's *Drei Märchen*, which contained "Prinzesschen" as well as illustrations done by von Olfers herself. I presented a section of my thesis at the 12th Undergraduate Research Conference in German Studies presented by Moravian University and Lafayette College in Pennsylvania. My paper was awarded an Honorable Mention. I plan to try to publish my thesis in the coming months.



*Pictured left:
Samantha presenting
her thesis at the
Skidmore Academic
Festival*

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS: STUDY ABROAD

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023



DEVIN HERBINGER

Studying in Freiburg, Germany (Spring 2023)

At the time of writing this, I have spent about five months in Freiburg, Germany! Though it is an English-based abroad program, I have been able to absorb and immerse myself more in German—though speaking is harder than I thought—and experience a new way of living. I am finishing up my studies in the European Union, having traveled extensively around Europe as a part of the program. I have now been to Strasbourg, Berlin, Brussels, Paris, Stockholm, Prague, and Munich. I have been able to acquire a more comprehensive understanding of the European Union and its institutions while continuing my economics and business studies. Here in Baden-Württemberg, I've even been exposed to a few of the many regional dialects of German, in particular, the Badisch dialect; For instance, the popular winter festival of Fasnacht is Fasnet.

Mein Flug in die USA steht vor der Tür, allerdings werde ich meine Zeit in Freiburg vermissen.

CHLOE HANRAHAN

German Minor, studying abroad in Bath, UK (Spring 2023)

Hello from Bath, UK! My name is Chloe, and I am a German minor studying abroad in the United Kingdom this semester. I knew I wanted to study with Advanced Studies in England since my sophomore year, but after finding a passion for German language and culture studies, I knew I had to find a way to integrate that into my study abroad. Luckily, ASE offers special one-on-one tutorial style courses with professors in unique fields; I was accepted to a German tutorial with an Oxford doctorate student named Santhia Kittlaus. This class was completely designed for my passions within German studies and areas where I specifically needed to improve. I studied poetry, film, music, history, linguistics, and so much more. It was truly a life changing program. Oh! And I got to travel to both Austria and Germany over my spring break!



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS: STUDY ABROAD

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023

LYO COLEMAN

German Major, studying abroad in Berlin, Germany (Fall 2022)

I have been committed to German since seventh grade, so from that point, I've had the goal to study abroad in Berlin. When I say Berlin was worth the eight years of waiting, I mean it. There are so many moments when you don't even feel like it's really happening, when you can't believe you got to do it. My suggestion is, if you can go, to believe it all and let yourself experience every aspect of it.

Not only was Germany so fantastic to visit and get to know, I also learned so much about myself. The German language is one of my main passions, so understanding the colloquial and modern language, seeing how much immersion helps, and realizing how to find chances to practice were all enhanced by watching my personality respond to a new culture and society. I'm so glad I never gave up on my middle school dream, but even if study abroad is more of a spontaneous decision, it's hard not to have an amazing time.



EMMA STRATMAN

German Major, studying abroad in Freiburg, Germany (Spring 2023)

I am in the Language and Area studies program with IES in Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany! So far, I've been doing lots of hiking and traveling. Freiburg is in Baden-Württemberg, so I've loved being able to do day trips to Switzerland and France. Hiking in the Black Forest, exploring Freiburg's Altstadt, and going to an SC Freiburg match at Europa Stadion have been the highlights of my time in Freiburg so far. Freiburg is a beautiful university city with so much to explore and lots of cool events, and I'm excited to be able to stay here through July for an internship!



ACHIEVEMENTS & CONGRATULATIONS

AWARDS AND PRIZES

2023 Recipient German General Consulate Prize:
Samantha Allman

2023 Recipient Academic Achievement Award:
Beylinn Geiss



Sophia Delohery



McKenna Otey

congratulations
new members of
delta phi alpha!



Chloe Hanrahan



Ben Gerschwer

Alexandra
Rotmil-Eser



DELTA PHI ALPHA INDUCTION CEREMONY



**WIR FREUEN UNS AUF NÄCHSTES JAHR!
BIS BALD!**

