

2023-2024

NEWSLETTER GERMAN AT SKIDMORE



WORDS OF WELCOME

Another eventful and very successful year has passed with many great achievements from faculty and students in Skidmore's German program. We invite you to read our annual newsletter and find out about imaginative student projects, new courses, publications, events, and the exciting plans of our graduating seniors. While we are saying farewell to four of our most dedicated students from the class of 2024, we also gained three new minors and three new majors. For more recent updates from our students, please follow the German club "Skid spricht Deutsch" on Instagram!

GERMAN PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

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**SKIDMORE
SPRICHT
DEUTSCH!**

FACULTY NEWS

A WORD FROM PROFESSOR MICHAEL SWELLANDER

Max Kade Prize for Best Article in *The German Quarterly*



"Alloyed Truth: The Historiographical and Political Importance of Error in Ludwig Börne's Journalism"

Michael Swellander

Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York

2023-2024 was a very enriching and gratifying year for me in terms of scholarship and teaching. At the beginning of the academic year, I was presented with the Max Kade Prize for Best Article in the *German Quarterly* for my article "Alloyed Truth: The Historiographical and Political Importance of Error in Ludwig Börne's Journalism." I also organized panels at the 2023 German Studies Association Conference in Montreal related to two books I am editing on the history of cultural journalism and translation as it relates to the poet Heinrich Heine: so be on the lookout for those books, which will come out soon! In the classroom, I continue to be impressed and inspired by the students in our German Program, from Elementary German I (WLG 101) to Introduction to German Literature (WLG 215). I had the pleasure of teaching the latter in fall 2023 and was truly taken with the insights and analyses students shared in our class discussions and in their excellent essays. We also had a very fun class visit from director Burhan Qurbani (more on that in another section of the newsletter!) I also had excellent experiences with students in elementary and intermediate language courses this year. In spring 2024, my groups in WLG 101 and WLG 206 were so engaged and fun to work with: you all made teaching a breeze! WLG 206, an upper intermediate course discussing various topics related to Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, deserves a special note. This class had several students with whom I've worked since my first semester at Skidmore. It has been one of the great pleasures (and a first!) of my teaching career to work so closely with you all four semesters consecutively. I look forward to seeing everyone again next semester! – Michael Swellander, Visiting Assistant Professor

FACULTY NEWS

A WORD FROM PROFESSOR JULIANE WUENSCH

The academic year 2023-2024 marks my fourth year at Skidmore College. If you will, I graduated with our seniors this May. We arrived together during a global pandemic and tackled the challenges of online classes and social distancing as best as we could. But it also made us stronger and create a wonderful community: some of the students of the class of 2024 have taken courses with me every semester that they were at Skidmore. We know each other well. So well, that we have insider jokes and know each other's pet peeves. At the senior dinner (see page 10 in this newsletter), they presented me with a wonderful farewell gift: A handcrafted wooden tealight candle holder, made in Germany, with images from my favorite fairy tale film "Drei Haselnüsse für Aschenbrödel." This is a gift that I will cherish forever, and which will always remind me of these first four years at Skidmore and this special senior class.



But the last year was successful and special in many ways. We experienced a solar eclipse together (picture above), offered new courses, grew the program with new majors and minors, and had fun at a variety of extracurricular events.

Personally, I am proud that my teaching guide for the DEFA film *Trace of Stones/ Spur der Steine* was published, and that another article about the fairy tales of Amalia Schoppe was accepted and will be published later this year. I became a board member of the Brothers Grimm Society of North America with which our program co-hosted a wonderful event (see page 6). I am looking forward to continuing my research on fairy tales and nineteenth-century German women writers and are looking forward to sharing my passion for these subjects with the next generation of students!

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

NEWSLETTER 2023-24



The day after graduation I will be heading overseas to Ireland to complete a travel seminar in Dingle. Following my time in Ireland, I have secured a job with a company called Atlas in Berlin. I will be working as a Program Leader helping young students connect and learn about the German language and culture. I will return home to Massachusetts for the summer before heading off to Vienna, Austria where I will be completing a Fulbright. I will be researching at the University of Vienna and teaching English as a second language to middle school aged children. I truly could not have dreamed of opportunities like this without the German Program at Skidmore. I never imagined living abroad long-term and thought I would never speak another language. After three years with this program, I am ready to take on this next adventure. I hope to make my career in international education, bringing students to German-speaking countries and helping them understand the rich and diverse cultures within these places.

CHLOE



LYO

This summer, I'm going to work for the Texas German Dialect Project, an organization in Austin that works to preserve the history and record the language of a local dialect that is on the brink of extinction. I plan to stay back home in Austin for a bit after college, but as soon as I can, I hope to apply for a Fulbright to teach English in Germany. The German Program here has meant so much to me, and I want to stay in contact with all the lovely people I've met at my four years at Skidmore.

Congratulations to the other seniors!

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

NEWSLETTER 2023-24

Class of
2024

RUBEN

Ruben is looking forward to spending time with his family in New York City before traveling to Europe and trying to find a job in Germany.



EMMA

The community that the German program created shaped my professional, academic, and personal experience at Skidmore. The experiences and connections I made enabled me to work as a Research assistant, a Peer Mentor, and a Rassias Driller at Skidmore, and even as an archival and legal research intern in Freiburg, Germany. I was so lucky to share and develop my passion for the German language and culture, culminating in my thesis, which I was able to present at an undergraduate research conference as well as at the academic festival. As I move beyond Skidmore, I'm pursuing jobs in international education, planning to visit friends in Vienna, and I hope to complete my masters in Germany.

NEWS & EVENTS



FAIRY TALE READING HOUR

In collaboration with the Brothers Grimm Society of North America and the Northshire Bookstore in Saratoga Springs, German students McKenna, Chloe, Emma, and Lyo read original Grimm fairy tales to a captivated audience on a Sunday afternoon in February.



These are the tales we read:

Der Froschkönig
Der Wolf und die sieben Geißlein
Frau Holle
Der gestiefelte Kater
König Drosselbart

Do you know them all?



NEWS & EVENTS

FILM SCREENING AND DIRECTOR INTERVIEW

Professor Swellander's course Introduction to German Literature (WLG 215) was visited this year by the German **director Burhan Qurbani** to discuss his **2020 film *Berlin Alexanderplatz***. Students interviewed Qurbani in German and in English, exploring the film's symbolism, sound design, casting, and connection to Alfred Döblin's 1929 novel of the same name, which students read in excerpt. A clip from the interview was shared at a college-wide screening of Qurbani's film, which reimagines Döblin's story in present-day Berlin and recasts the protagonist Franz Biberkopf as a recent immigrant from Guinea-Bissau.

THE SKIDMORE GERMAN PROGRAM
AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
WORLD LANGUAGES
AND LITERATURES PRESENT
A FILM SCREENING OF

BERLIN ALEXANDERPLATZ

A free adaptation of Alfred Döblin's modernist masterpiece



15 NOVEMBER 2023
6-9.30 PM

EMERSON
AUDITORIUM

Followed by a
**Q&A with director
BURHAN QURBANI**
and Skidmore German students
(pre-recorded)

Open to the Skidmore
Community:
German Audio with English
Subtitles



NEWS & EVENTS

FALL HIKE

In October, at the height of fall colors, we did our annual hike in Skidmore's Northwoods. We enjoyed learning the German names of flora and fauna, and engaging in the favorite pastime activity of Germany: dem Spaziergang. Of course, Buttercup, Professor Wuensch's adorable dog, joined us again!



WEIHNACHTSFEIER

To celebrate the end of the fall semester and the holiday season, we had a traditional German Weihnachtsfeier with festive treats, small gifts, German decorations, and Christmas music. For the first time, we also had a Holiday Baking Contest which Serenity won with her homemade molasses cookies!



NEWS & EVENTS

KAFFEESTUNDE

Both semesters, students and professors got together for tea, coffee, hot chocolate, cookies and German conversations during our bi-weekly Kaffeestunde.



EXPLOREMORE

GERMAN PROGRAM

MONDAY, FEB. 26

PMH 426 4:30-5:30 PM



Join us for hot Apfelstrudel and ice cream while we play trivia and learn about the German major, minor, and study abroad opportunities!

GUTEN TAG!

TSCHÜSS!

DID YOU KNOW?

130 million people speak German! It's the most widely spoken language in the European Union.



DID YOU KNOW?

The first printed book was in German. Today, Germany publishes ~94,000 titles every year!

EXPLOREMORE

FILM NIGHT

THE GERMAN PROGRAM
PRESENTS...

HALLOWEEN FILMABEND

IN GERMAN
WITH ENGLISH
SUBTITLES

WITH PIZZA
& POPCORN!



FRITZ LANG'S "M" (1931)

MONTAG 30. OKTOBER

6:00-8:30 PM

PMH 429

NEWS & EVENTS



*Guten
Appetit*

SENIOR DINNER 2024

To celebrate the achievements of our four seniors Chloe, Emma, Lyo, and Ruben, Professor Swellander and Professor Wuensch invited them for dinner to the new German restaurant **Spargel on 9** in Queensbury. We shared excellent appetizers (Kartoffelrösti und gebackener Briekeäse) and desserts (Apfelstrudel und Spaghettieis) and devoured our entrees (frischer Spargel, Schnitzel, Sauerbraten), accompanied by a fresh German beer. While it was bittersweet to say goodbye, this meal was an excellent way to commemorate the past four years together! Alles Gute und viel Glück!

Prost!



NEW COURSES AND STUDENT PROJECTS

FALL 2023

INTRODUCTION TO GERMAN LITERATURE (WLG 215)

Students in Introduction to German Literature ended the semester with a final creative project that could be a reimagining of a literary text in another form (a painting, a song, etc.), a sequel, or a wholly new piece in a similar style to a text we had read in class. Students produced amazing original work, including drawings interpreting a grim Gottfried Benn poem, a text in accordance with 19th-century censorship laws, among other impressive pieces. The image here, by Will Bryce, shows the visual component to a sound poem (Lautgedicht), “Opfer,” in the style of dadaist Hugo Ball. Note the multiple typographies.

Wir sind Opfer, Unsinn auf den Straßen.

Jeder muss arbeiten, wir müssen Wiedergutmachung zahlen!

(Wiemarer)

unsere Gesellschaft, ein unharmonisches Orchester,

Wir müssen vereint sein und die Republik unterstützen!

(Wiemarer)

ist kaputt.

SENIOR SEMINAR (WLG 376): EDUCATION, SHOCK, AND GIGGLES: GERMAN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE AND FILM

Students in the Senior Seminar explored the last 200 years of children's literature and film together and discovered the cruelty and dark pedagogy of Struwwelpeter and Max und Moritz, the hidden messages in Grimm's fairy tales, the charm of Heidi, Biene Maja, and Pumuckl, as well as the magic of Bibi Blocksberg and the Neverending Story.

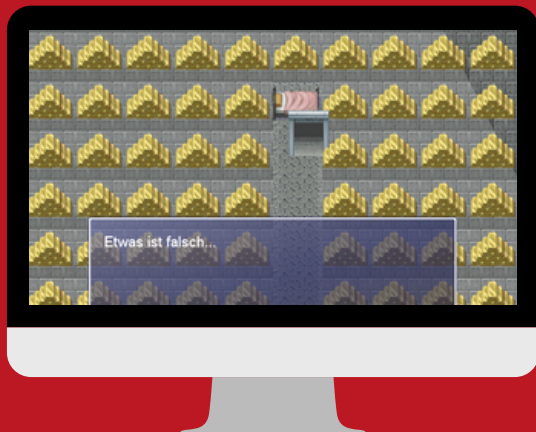


NEW COURSES AND STUDENT PROJECTS

SPRING 2024

ENTDECKUNGSREISE D-A-CH (WLG 206)

Students in WLG 206 worked on a variety of projects in conjunction with the oral reports they made individually and in groups throughout the semester. Students staged debates, created illustration assignments, and designed their own games. Tyler Willcox designed a whole video game that tested students' knowledge of the German Bundesstaat Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.



GERMAN FOR THE PROFESSIONS (WLG 301)

Students in the newly updated course WLG 301 worked in teams to create interactive and informative projects exploring topics such as the path to German citizenship, the German education system, intercultural differences in table manners, and the rise of the right-wing party AfD in East Germany. They created board games, performed role-plays, recorded short films, and designed posters to engage their audience. Overall, the course is designed to prepare students to live, work, or study in German-speaking countries, including navigating the job market, finding an apartment, and being aware of intercultural differences.

CONGRATS!

HERZLICHEN GLÜCKWUNSCH! 2024 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Seniors Lyo Coleman '24 and Emma Stratman '24 have been selected to present their theses at the 13th Undergraduate Research Conference in German Studies on Saturday, April 6, 2024! A Zoom link to watch their presentations will be available in March.



THESIS PUBLICATION

Recent graduate Samantha Allman '23 published her thesis "Verlangen, Freundschaft und mütterliche Liebe im Märchen 'Prinzesschen' von Marie von Olfers" in Augenblick, Journal for Undergraduate Research in German Studies. Read her thesis [here](#). Congratulations, Sam!



ACHIEVEMENTS & CONGRATULATIONS

PRIZES AND AWARDS

Isabel Ostheimer '26

Academic Achievement Award
in recognition of outstanding
work in Elementary German



Congratulations



Emma Stratman '24

Recipient of the German
Consulate General Prize for an
outstanding German senior

ACHIEVEMENTS & CONGRATULATIONS

★ **Congrats!** ★

Delta Phi Alpha 2024

Inductees



Will Bryce '26



Zach Searight '25



Bevin Dean '26



Herzlichen Glückwunsch!



DELTA PHI ALPHA INDUCTION CEREMONY

SPRING 2024

