

## CHAIR'S CORNER

BY NINA VYATKINA



While leafing through the KURier issues since its inception in Fall 2012, I couldn't help but notice the leitmotif in every "Chair's corner": referring to the period covered in the respective issue as a time of transition for the GLL department. In my role as new interim department chair, I have to pick up this theme yet again. This past academic year has been marked by a number of changes, the first one

being my taking over the department from **Liz Kowalchuk**, who had to unexpectedly step down after only one semester of service as chair. We are grateful to Liz for her many positive ideas for changes and we wish her all the best in her personal and professional life. As I begin my service as interim chair this semester and continue it on a regular basis starting next semester, I would like to express my deep gratitude to our faculty and students for expressing their strong support. I consider this appointment a great honor and I appreciate the willingness of the CLAS Dean's office to entrust a faculty member from the department's own ranks with this important role that has been assigned to external chairs for the past five years.

Another change that greatly affects our department's identity is saying farewell to our last (for the time being) cohort of graduate students. This year's GLL recognition and commencement ceremonies were bittersweet. We were proud to award the Ph.D. degree in German to four students: **Michael Dehaven** (who defended his dissertation with Honors), **Gabrielle Frawley**, **Emily Hackmann**, and **Stefany Van Scoyk**. At the same time, we are sad because these newly minted graduates currently have no successors at either the MA or Ph.D. level. Nevertheless, we hope to re-establish our graduate program in the not-too-distant future. We recently achieved an important first step in this direction: the MA is now officially an MA in German Studies. This new name signals, as it does in our undergraduate program, a move away from the traditional language and literature model and toward a more viable curriculum that seeks to provide students with a contemporary, diverse, and challenging program in the cultural forms and concerns of German-speaking Europe reflected in its literature, arts, history, business, and politics. We therefore envision launching a renamed and reconfigured German Studies MA with strong ties to part-


ner departments and programs. One such new initiative that I have the pleasure to lead is the newly approved interdisciplinary graduate certificate program in Second Language Studies, one of the multiple initiatives of the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures in which GLL is actively participating.

While working to rebuild its resources, current GLL resources are being invested in the successful undergraduate program directed by Prof. **Lorie Vanchena**. In Lorie's own words, "we are already seeing beneficial results from our interdisciplinary German Studies curriculum, now in its third year. These include an increase not only in enrollments but also in the number of German Studies majors and minors. We rolled out our new curriculum at the same time the KU Core was launched and expectations for assessment were articulated, so we viewed this constellation of initiatives as a propitious opportunity to understand better how our program functions within its institutional framework and to keep close watch on our students' engagement with German Studies." The highlights of the achievements of our undergraduates are the Outstanding Service to the Department Award received by **Scott Friesen**, the Outstanding Academic Achievement Award received by **Bailey Spickler**, and the Outstanding Achievement Award received by **Linda Makau**. Please read Lorie Vanchena's extended commentary in this issue on this year's Recognition ceremony to learn more about the accomplishments of our undergraduates and about the generous sponsors who made it possible to reward these accomplishments!

Another important direction of our efforts is raising the profile of the Max Kade Center (MKC) for German-American Studies. **Lorie Vanchena** as MKC Academic Director and **Jim Morrison** as its Managing Director are working on transforming the center's identity to one that reflects meaningful intellectual bridges to European, Atlantic, and Global studies as well as to units on campus such as KU Libraries and the Spencer Museum of Art. Beneficial ties with cultural centers

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and museums in the broader community are also being established. At the national level, the visibility of our department's contributions to German-American Studies has been greatly enhanced thanks to **Bill Keel** who received the Outstanding Achievement Award at the 40th Symposium of the Society for German-American Studies in San Antonio, Texas, in April.

Despite the challenges faced by not only our department, but by all Humanities programs at KU and nationwide, our faculty members and instructors continued to conduct research and fulfill their teaching and service duties with admirable dedication and enthusiasm. Here are but a few highlights of their accomplishments this past semester. **Ari Linden** has been awarded a competitive General Research Fund grant for his summer research and a German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) stipend to attend a summer DAAD seminar at Cornell University. Furthermore, Ari presented his research at the KU Red Hot Research symposium on the topic of political engagement to an interdisciplinary audience. **Leonie Marx** was recognized at the KU Employee Recognition ceremony for her 40 years of service to KU. **Andrea Meyertholen** has been working on revamping the German Language Proficiency Sequence (GLPS) curriculum to align it more closely with the KU Core goals. She implemented some of the changes this academic year and will continue implementing others next year. Moreover, Andrea represented our department as judge for the first CLAS / SLLC scholarship competition and as participant in the open educational resources workshop. **Lorie Vanchena** continued her work on the American World War I Poetry Digital Archive project supported by the KU IDRH seed grant. The high potential of this project is evidenced in the broad local and regional media attention it has attracted. Furthermore, Lorie gave a highly praised keynote talk at the opening of the KU Libraries exhibit "Eastern Front 1914-1918: An exploration of the conflict" that was developed in conjunction with the campus WWI Lecture Series. **Nina Vyatkina** also gave a keynote talk at the international TextLink conference in Budapest, Hungary, sponsored by the European Science Foundation. Last but not least, our instructors **Kelsey Coon, Marcus Hoehne, Schirin Kourehpaz, Lena Roesner, Andrea Weis, and Stephanie Wille** worked tirelessly to make the learning experience of GLPS students a positive one and to encourage them to continue with German as their major or minor.

I would like to finish my remarks by expressing our sincere gratitude to our donors. The generous support of individuals like you makes it possible for us to support our excellent students and to attract more of them every year.

## GRADUATE STUDIES

By William Keel

Four students successfully defended their doctoral dissertations at the end of the 2016 Spring Semester.

**Gabrielle Frawley's** dissertation "The Legality of Existence in Exile from National Socialism: The Legal Delineation of Identity and Its Implications for Individuation and Migration as Manifest in German Exile Literature of the Period 1933-1945" dealt with the intricacies of legal identity during the Nazi dictatorship, especially for Jews and others forced into exile. Gabrielle examined the literary works of several exile authors in her study. She is also the recipient of a number of awards during her graduate tenure, including the Montana Huslig Outstanding Graduate Student Award (2010 and 2013), the Stella-Knecht Award for Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant (2014), as well as a Max Kade Dissertation Fellowship (2014-2015). She is currently an instructor for the Language Training Center at KU (collaboration between KU and the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth). Next year she plans to move back to Europe with her husband Chris to research stateless refugees from the Levant, especially Syria.

**Michael De Haven's** dissertation "Input Processing and the Teaching of German Two-Way Prepositions" focused on the teaching methodology to best prepare learners of German as a second language to master the case usage of the so-called "two-way" prepositions which at times require the accusative case and at others the dative case. His "final examination" as the doctoral defense is officially named was awarded "honors" by his examination committee. Michael is also the recipient of the Stella-Knecht Award for Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant (2010), as well as two Max Kade Dissertation Fellowships (2013-2014 and 2014-2015). Michael has presented his research at two conferences at Iowa State University in 2011 and at the University of Colorado in 2015 and also has published an essay on Pennsylvania German in Kansas "Pennsylvania German in Lyndon, Kansas: Variation, Change, and Decline" in *The Language and Culture of the Pennsylvania Germans: A Festschrift for Earl C. Haag* (2010). Michael is currently a Project Manager and Pedagogy Specialist, Language Training Center, coordinating and administering several language training programs and also teaches beginning-level German at the Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth.

**Emily Hackmann's** dissertation "Story Time: The Expression of Temporal Events in Narration by L2 Learners of German" examined the acquisition of verbal tense and aspect marking in the German of learners in the language proficiency sequence at the University of Kansas. Emily was also the recipient of two Max Kade Dissertation Fellowships (2012-2013 and 2014-2015). She recently presented her research at a conference at Georgia State University (2015). After teaching one year at Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri, Emily recently got engaged to our former MA student, Dakota Wallace (their wedding is



planned for this July). She now lives in New Jersey and is an instructor of German with the *Goethe Institut* in New York City.

**Stefany Van Scoyk** successfully defended her dissertation shortly before the end of the semester. Her work is entitled “The Establishment, Dissolution, and Restoration of *Heimat* in German-Jewish Narratives by Stefanie Zweig and Jeanine Meerapfel” and treats the difficult relationship of German Jews to their “Heimat” in both Germany and in exile during the twentieth century by examining a tetralogy and a cinematic portrayal of this theme. Stefany held a Max-Kade Dissertation Fellowship during the current academic year (2015-2016).

**Michael Grünbaum**, who defended his dissertation “Visuality in the *Nibelungenlied*: The Central Role of Seeing as Means of Establishing Order and the Manipulation of the Visible as Catalyst for the Disintegration of Society” at the beginning of the fall semester 2012 (dissertation advisor James Brown), returned to campus to receive his doctoral hood at the Hooding Ceremony on May 14. Since his mother, Lee Krüger, and step-father, Hans Jürgen Krüger, were both receiving their doctoral hoods (doctorates in History) this May, Michael elected to return to campus to take part in the event which he had missed at the time of his own doctorate. Michael has been an assistant professor of German at the University of Utah since fall 2012.

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

By Lorie Vanchena

Dear German Studies Majors and Minors,

On May 14, 2016 the Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures celebrated your diverse and impressive academic achievements at our annual Recognition Ceremony and Reception. We were pleased that so many of you and your families and friends could join us for the event.

The undergraduate program began with an initiation ceremony for Gamma Pi, the recently reactivated KU chapter of the Delta Phi Alpha National German Honor Society. Delta Phi Alpha “seeks to recognize excellence in the study of German and to provide an incentive for higher scholarship. The Society aims to promote the study of the German language, literature and civilization and endeavors to emphasize those aspects of German life and culture which are of universal value and which contribute to man’s eternal search for peace and truth.”

Professor Ari Linden, faculty advisor for Delta Phi Alpha, conducted the ceremony. New members included John Dillon, Scott Friesen, Linda Makau, John McGuire, Hannah Rowe, Bailey Spickler, Krista Sturm, and William Vincent. The students pledged to continue pursuing their interest in German language and culture. Each received a certificate and pin from the national organization. The students’ memberships and honor cords were funded by the Exter Marguerite Memorial Prize in Foreign Languages. Our congratulations to the new members of the German National Honor Society!

Mr. Jim Morrison, Coordinator of the German Business Language Program and Managing Director of the Max Kade

Center, recognized Casey Craig and John McGuire, who both passed the Goethe-Zertifikat B2, an internationally recognized exam requiring advanced skills in German. John McGuire also passed the Goethe-Zertifikat C1, which calls for very advanced language skills. Congratulations, Casey and John! Mr. Morrison announced that Casey would be starting a new position with adidas-Group in June.

We then recognized students who completed a major or minor in German Studies.

**Casey Craig** earned a Bachelor of Science degree with Honors in December 2015; he studied Business Management and Leadership, with a concentration in International Business. He also minored in German Studies. He participated in the Eutin Summer Language Institute in 2013 and in 2015 passed the Goethe Institute's B2 exam. Last summer Casey greatly enjoyed an internship with the adidas Group on the store operations team in the Retail Back Office, and we were happy to learn the exciting news that Casey would soon begin a 12-month full-time position as a Talent Acquisition Researcher/Sourcer for adidas; he'll be on the Human Resources team for the Adidas Group, which represents all of the company's family brands across the globe. He leaves for Portland, Oregon on June 1 and

begins his new position June 6. We were very glad that Casey came back to campus so that we could celebrate his success! Congratulations, Casey!


**John Dillon** will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and a minor in German Studies. A new member of the Delta Phi Alpha National German Honor Society, he plans to stay at KU to complete his Master's degree in Accounting, after which he will work in Kansas City for Ernst & Young's Assurance Practice.

**Linda Makau** completed a Global and International Studies major and minors in both African Studies and German Studies. Her name has appeared on the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Honor Roll, and she is a member of the Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Students. She has also completed Certification in KU's Global Awareness Program and is a member of Delta Phi Alpha.

**John McGuire** majored in Biology, with a concentration in Genetics, and he completed a German Studies major. In May 2013 he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a concentration in international business. He passed both the B2 and C1 Goethe Institute exams and is a



*German Studies majors and minors John Dillon, Casey Craig, Linda Makau, Hannah Rowe, Krista Sturm, Scott Friesen.*



member of Delta Phi Alpha. He will begin graduate studies this fall at the KU Medical Center.

**Hannah Rowe** will graduate with a degree in Social Work from the School of Social Welfare; she also earned a minor in German Studies. This past academic year she completed a practicum at Catholic Charities, working with refugees in the Kansas City area. A Krehbiel Scholarship helped her study abroad in Holzkirchen, Germany last summer. She also earned Certification in the Global Awareness Program and is a new member of Delta Phi Alpha. She hopes to earn a Master's degree in social work as a human rights profession at a university in Berlin.

**Bailey Spickler** completed a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in May 2015 and this past academic year, while completing her first year in the Master of Science program in Mechanical Engineering, she finished a minor in German Studies. A new member of the Delta Phi Alpha National German Honor Society, Bailey will work this summer as an intern for ExxonMobil at their refinery in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She will then return to KU to pursue a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering.

**Krista Sturm** has earned a German Studies major. A cadet in the Air Force ROTC Program, Krista is commissioning this weekend into the United States Air Force as a 2nd Lieutenant. She will attend missileer training in Vandenburg, California and then begin her career as a missileer. She was awarded the USAA Spirit Award this year "for best exemplifying the Spirit of Service to the nation, community and ROTC." She is also a member of KU's chapter of the Delta Phi Alpha National German Honor Society.

**William Vincent** earned a major in Philosophy and a minor in German Studies. He received a Krehbiel Scholarship for our summer language institute in Eutin and the Brownstein-Young Award from the Philosophy Department last year. Bill is a member of the National German Honor Society.

**Scott Friesen** has completed his German Studies major, earning nearly 60 credits in German Studies (only 30 are required), a result of spending the 2014-15 academic year studying abroad in Bonn, Germany. Scott will stay at KU one more semester to complete his minor in Environmental Studies. A recent Delta Phi Alpha initiate, Scott received the \$20,000 Collins Scholarship from the Office of Study Abroad to support his year in Bonn. He was awarded the Dr. Walter Fahrer Scholarship and the Krehbiel Scholarship to participate in our summer language institute in Holzkirchen before heading to the University of Bonn for a year. Scott also earned Certification in the Global Awareness Program. When not studying in Germany, Scott has been a member of the famous Marching Jayhawks Drumline, an extracurricular activity that got him out of class

one day last fall when the drumline was invited to march in the Kansas City Royals' World Series parade.

**Scott Friesen** is this year's recipient of the Exter Award for Outstanding Service to the Department. He has served the German department, the Office of Study Abroad (OSA), and the University of Kansas in his position as Study Abroad Peer Advisor. He has been instrumental in encouraging students to study abroad and in Germany in particular; with his lively, enthusiastic, and well-informed accounts of his time in Bonn, he has helped convince other students to pursue similar opportunities. He has represented OSA and the German department at events such as the International Jayhawk Festival and the School of Business's Global Key Symposium; he has been seen wearing *Lederhosen* at such events! He has also served as a willing and helpful contact for our majors studying in Bonn this year and those planning to do so next year. Finally, Scott visited classes to talk about study abroad opportunities and spoke about his experiences to groups of high school students who visited KU.

Congratulations on your award, Scott, and thank you for your invaluable service to our department!

This year **Bailey Spickler** is the recipient of our Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement. While completing her undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering, Bailey received the Arthur S. and Helen-May Johnson Fund for Women in Engineering (2 years), the Robert M. Carey Scholarship (1 year), and the E. William Ulrich Scholarship (2 years). She was initiated into Pi Tau Sigma, the mechanical engineering honor society, and served as its Vice President her senior year. Colleagues in the German department who have had the pleasure of having Bailey in a class commented on her intelligence, creativity, and commitment, all qualities reflected in her strong academic performance. She participated actively in class, demonstrated critical engagement with the material, and challenged herself to speak only German. Completing a German Studies minor took considerable commitment on her part; she pursued this goal not only to prepare herself for an international career but also because she embraced the intellectual challenge of combining her work in Engineering with a Humanities minor, an interdisciplinary capacity that we value. We congratulate Bailey on her outstanding academic achievement!

This year we want to recognize **Linda Makau** for her Outstanding Achievement while an undergraduate at KU. Linda is an exceptional individual whose achievements, international experience, and interests evidence her great potential as a leader and global citizen. Linda received numerous scholarships while at KU, including the Non-Traditional Student Commuter Award and scholarships from African-American Studies and the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures to support her participation in the European Forum Alpbach Seminar, held in Alpbach, Austria, in summer 2015. Last

year's week-long seminar, which drew participants selected from around the world, focused on the question of inequality, specifically on public discourse that describes inequality not only as "a deficiency hampering opportunities and reducing resources" but also as "a driver for change and diversity." This topic was a perfect fit for Linda, given her interest in foreign affairs and her commitment to community engagement and helping others. Last August she wrote enthusiastically about the interesting, interactive seminars in Alpbach and about her roommates from Vienna and Istanbul, with whom she discussed U.S.-European Union relations, government, and the U.S. presidential race.

When Linda applied for the Alpbach seminar, she had never written a resume, but she did not hesitate to contact the University Career Center and work through multiple drafts under the guidance of a Graduate Intern there. This kind of motivation, focus, and desire to learn characterize Linda's outstanding achievement.

This summer Linda will complete an internship in Shanghai with a not-for-profit charitable organization, Stepping Stones, which works to improve education and the general welfare of disadvantaged children, mostly in rural China. She was drawn to this organization because she loves children and teaches a class of 3-5 year olds in Kansas City, so she feels this is a field to which she will bring experience. Her internship will be supported by a Freeman East Asia Scholarship.

Linda grew up in rural Kenya, speaking her native language, Kikamba. She has mastered English, and we are very glad she chose to learn German at KU! As her achievements demonstrate, Linda seeks out challenges that she views as opportunity. Moreover, as those of us who have served as her teacher, advisor, and mentor know, Linda is a humble and kind person.

I said this last year, but it bears repeating for this year's graduates: as Director of Undergraduate Studies, it has been a privilege and a lot of fun to serve as your advisor and mentor and to have had many of you in my classes. This weekend the Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures celebrates your achievement at the University of Kansas, and we are grateful that you chose to spend much of your time in our pro-



Linda Makau, recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award, with her mother and grandmother.

gram. We hope that your major or minor in German Studies and those you have completed in other programs have helped spark a commitment to life-long learning, not just about the language and culture of German-speaking countries, but about all cultures—including your own. We want you to have happy, healthy, meaningful lives informed by your intelligence, your curiosity, your creativity, your compassion, and your sense of duty to our country.

Please stay in touch! We would love to hear from you. And let us know if, down the road, we can be helpful. We will miss seeing you in our classrooms and office hours, but please know that our heartfelt good wishes accompany you as you move forward.

Congratulations!

## GERMAN CLUB ACTIVITIES

By Ari Linden

This year, the KU German Club organized several on- and off-campus events. Led in the fall by president and vice president Juliana Hacker and Lauren Cassidy, the group met for the St. John's Oktoberfest and organized a movie night and potluck at the Max Kade Center. The feature film for that evening was *Bella Martha* (2001). The group also collectively designed a KU German Club t-shirt for all of its members and some of the faculty in our department—more of which are still available! Following the departure of Juliana and Lauren for a study abroad semester in the spring, Reed Booher and Joseph Haug assumed the leadership positions. Over this past semester, they organized two film screenings/potlucks at the Max Kade Center: the recent Austrian horror film, *Ich seh ich seh* (2014), and the German production *Nordwand* (2008), about German and Austrian mountain climbers scaling the Eiger in 1936. Both screenings were a success.

## FACULTY NEWS

**William Keel** received the Outstanding Achievement Award at the 40th Symposium of the Society for German-American Studies in San Antonio, Texas, in April.

**Ari Linden** received a KU General Research Fund grant for his summer research and a German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) stipend to attend a summer DAAD seminar at Cornell University.

**Leonie Marx** directed two dissertations on topics in twentieth century German literature and culture and guided her doctoral candidates, Gabrielle Frawley and Stefany Van Scoyk, to successful completion by the end of the spring 2016 semester. Her book chapter "Konkurrierende Netzwerke im kenianischen Exil" will appear this summer in *Networks of Refugees from*

*Nazi Germany: Continuities, Reorientations, and Collaborations in Exile* (Leiden: Brill).

**Andrea Meyertholen** presented a paper titled: “It’s Not Easy Being Green: The Failure of Abstract Art in Gottfried Keller’s *Der grüne Heinrich*” at the 2016 MLA conference in Austin, TX. She has been engaged in outreach efforts with high school teachers of German. As part of her outreach initiative, she is collecting profiles of (preferably) recent alums of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures (B.A. or minor). If readers are or know of alumni who studied German at KU and are now enjoying career success, please contact her at ameyerth@ku.edu.

**Nina Vyatkina** gave a plenary talk that was sponsored by the European Science Foundation at the conference “TextLink: Structuring Discourse in Multilingual Europe” in Budapest, Hungary, in April. Nina also had a number of publications in peer-reviewed, high-impact Applied Linguistics journals. She guest-edited a 100-page-long special issue of the *Journal of Second Language Writing* (ranked 6th among 172 Linguistic journals) and published a co-authored article in the same issue. Additionally, she published an article in the *ReCALL* journal (ranked 13th among 172 Linguistic journals). She directed the dissertations in applied German linguistics by Michael DeHaven and Emily Hackmann who both completed their degrees this spring.

## ANNUAL EVENTS

By William Keel

### KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF GERMAN: SCHÜLERKONGRESS 2016

On Saturday, March 5, some 160 high school students of German from nine Kansas high schools were hosted by the KU Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures for the annual state-wide daylong competitions in German language, literature and culture. In addition to providing the facilities for the event in Wescoe Hall, the department also supplied some 25 volunteers from faculty, lecturers and students to judge the poetry and prose competitions as well as staff the “Tante Emma Laden,” where the guests could buy German-themed items with *Kongress-Euro* earned by speaking German with native speakers. This year’s event had the motto: “*100 Jahre Da-Da—bist du dada bei?*” commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Da-Da art movement. Many of the high school students and teachers sported the official T-shirt with the motto emblazoned on the front.

The high school students competed in poetry recitation, prose reading, a culture quiz (teams—across schools to foster collaboration), video contests (individual high school teams) and poster contests (individual high school teams) as well as participated in a cultural scavenger hunt (teams—across

schools to foster collaboration) with a focus on German cultural history in the Spencer Museum of Art at KU. The Culture Quiz was in its totally revamped format from individual paper/pencil to technology enhanced (power point) team format. Upper level students had the opportunity for an oral proficiency interview/evaluation. All students had the opportunity to converse with German native speakers (often exchange students), played German games, sang in a German choir and performed German dances. Interviews with National German exam winners for Germany trip award nominations also took place during this event. The event concluded with a general awards ceremony recognizing the best performances during the event with medals, ribbons and certificates as well as the showing of the top videos.



### KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF GERMAN: DEUTSCHES WOCHENENDE 2016

The annual immersion weekend for teachers of German in Kansas will be hosted by the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures on September 23-24, 2016. The event will be held in the Max Kade Center for German-American Studies and have a focus on teaching German for the professions. Friday evening will feature a “Lernspiel: Berufliche Sprache” as well as supper and a reception. On Saturday, Jim Morrison will present on „Wirtschaftsdeutsch an KU – Eine Einführung“ and Nina Vyatkina will present „Schriftliche Kommunikation im Beruf – Stellenanzeige und Bewerbungsbrief.“ Following lunch, the annual KATG business will be held with election of new officers. The event will conclude with the opportunity to attend the Oktoberfest sponsored by St. John’s Church in downtown Lawrence.

## GIVING TO THE DEPARTMENT



Since 1887, when William Herbert Carruth became the first professor of German at KU and was joined in the 1890s by Elmer Franklin Engel and Alberta Lincoln Corbin, KU's tradition of German studies has offered students at all levels the opportunity to learn one of the world's great languages and to study the literature and culture of Central Europe. Under J. Anthony "Toni" Burzle's tenure as department chair in the 1950s and 1960s, the department was in the forefront of establishing opportunities for our students to study language and culture in Germany.

Our programs in German at KU, however, rely very much on the generosity of our former students. For many of you, a summer, semester, or year in Germany during your KU years was the highlight of your studies. This experience has

been and continues to be a truly life-changing event for so many of our students. Each year study abroad becomes more and more expensive. It is imperative that we support our students and enable them to study abroad.

Norm Fahrer, attended both of our summer institutes as a KU undergraduate (Holzkirchen in 1965 and Eutin in 1966). Before he died, Norm contributed \$150,000 to establish an endowed scholarship fund, in memory of his father who had taught German at Bethany College in Lindsborg, for KU students to participate in the summer program in Holzkirchen. It is very gratifying to hear from former summer institute students. With your help we can continue to offer such high quality summer experiences in Germany for our future students.

We are also very proud of our record of achievement in educating and training our future professionals in German Studies. With the support of the Max Kade Foundation, we have been able to offer year-long dissertation fellowships to our doctoral students in German. These fellowships enable our advanced doctoral students to devote themselves full-time to conducting their research, writing their dissertations, and support the presentation of their research at professional conferences. Additional support for our graduate students and the research programs of our Max Kade Center are greatly appreciated. [With thanks to Prof. William Keel, who composed this historical narrative.]

*Herzlichen Dank und beste Grüße!*  
Nina Vyatkina, Chair

### *Ways to give to the department*

You can donate online with a credit card by going to <http://www.kuendowment.org/depts/german/dept> Online giving is **secure**, **speedy**, and **simple**. Click the area you would like to support and you will be redirected to the website of KU Endowment, the non-profit fundraising organization that supports KU. For information on other ways to give, please visit the [KU Endowment web site](#). For information on other opportunities to assist the Department, please contact the Chair, Nina Vyatkina at [vyatkina@ku.edu](mailto:vyatkina@ku.edu) or (785) 864-9178.

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### **Please tell us your news:**

**Profession:**

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