

# German Studies



Fall 2007, Volume 2, Number 1

## Message from the Chair



Chair Peter Höyng

Dear Friends  
of German Studies,

This past year has been breathtaking in every sense of the word: so many were the activities, the good and bad news in the department, that it is helpful to pause for a

moment and have a look back.

Without doubt, the passing of our long-time secretary, Elizabeth Soilis, on December 23, 2006, saddened us all. Yet, the memorial service our senior colleagues organized in January filled many of us with joy as Elizabeth's good spirit, politeness, and humor came alive again.

Unfortunately, searches for two new colleagues—welcome, Miriam and Max—and an external review did not allow us much time to grieve. We had to prepare an extensive self-study, including an outline for the future strategic plan of the department. From what we provided, the external reviewers concluded: "Our committee was . . . impressed by the . . . Department as it presently operates. It is now approaching a crucial decision point in its serious ambition to prepare for the next great leap, the development of a graduate program. . . ."

To this extent, plans are under way to establish a Graduate Certificate in German that would allow graduate students who pursue their PhD in related disciplines such as philosophy, history, or comparative literature to augment their qualifications by taking graduate courses in German literature with us. To give you a glimpse of how close we have been working with colleagues from these and other related fields, we introduce you to some of them in this newsletter.

In order to pursue these and other plans, we will continue our excellence in research and teaching. Hence, we are proud that besides our usual academic activities of attending conferences and publishing our research in scholarly journals, Caroline Schaumann finished her book, titled *Memory Matters: Generational Responses to Germany's Nazi Past in Recent Women's Literature* and passed her fourth year-review. Erik Butler finished his first book, *Political Vampires: Cultural Transformation and the Modern Monster*, and Marianne Lancaster was promoted to senior lecturer. And Erdmann Waniek received a Teaching Award from Emory's Center for Teaching and Curriculum for his skillful art of challenging and engaging students with literature.

We are equally excited and thankful that six members from Atlanta's German community formed our first Advisory Council, whose mission is to be ambassadors for our department, infuse us with some ideas, and help us raise scholarships for our students. That brings me to the last, but not least, point: many of our students stood out in their achievements, whether it was writing an honors thesis (Whitney Hostetter) or receiving a Fulbright scholarship (Ryan Plocher and Whitney Hostetter) or a Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst summer stipend (Paul Syers, Alex Vinson, and Audrey Meurnier). Congratulations to all of you!

I very much look forward to continuing work with our students, my colleagues in the department and at Emory College, the German-speaking community in Atlanta, and our alumni!

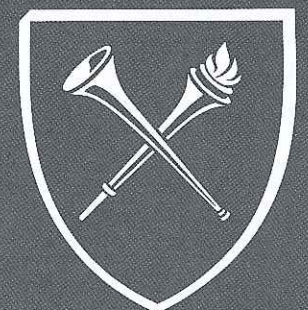
Peter Höyng

Newsletter of the  
Department of  
German Studies at  
Emory University

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# EMORY



## Affiliated Faculty

This year we would like to introduce some of the affiliated faculty members with whom we collaborate. This series will be continued with more portraits in our next issue.



**Angelika Bammer**, associate professor of Comparative Literature in the Institute of the Liberal Arts, identifies her main research interests as narrative and theories of representation, historical memory, nation and cultural identity, feminist and Marxist theory.

Her work began with an interest in the utopian possibilities of the not-yet (the non-place), then moved to a study of the reality of displacement in the contemporary world, and is currently focused on the shifting meaning of place in our understanding of selves-in-communities.

Recent publications include: editor, *Displacements: Cultural Identities in Question* (Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1994); editor, *New Formations*, special issue on "The Question of Home," 1992; and "The Citizen's Body," forthcoming in *Partial Visions: Feminism and Utopianism in the 1970s* (New York and London: Routledge, 1991). She is currently completing the book *Being German: Negotiations of Difference and Identity*.



**David Carr**, Charles Howard Candler Professor, Philosophy, lectured at the universities of Helsinki and Copenhagen, at Loyola Marymount (Los Angeles), and Marquette (Milwaukee). Next year he will present papers at Groningen (Netherlands) and Georgetown universities. He is currently working on a book

on the philosophy of history. His recent publications include: "The Reality of History," in *History, Historicity, and Science*, ed. Tom Rockmore and Joseph Margolis (Aldershot, England: Ashgate, 2006) 121–36; "Heidegger on Kant on Transcendence," in *Transcendental Heidegger*, ed. S. Crowell and J. Malpas (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2007) 28–42; and "History as Orientation: Rösen on Historical Culture and Narration," *History and Theory* 45 (May 2006): 229–43.

**Cathy Caruth**, chair, Winship Distinguished Research Professor, Comparative Literature and English, is currently using a Quadrangle Research Grant to work on a videotaping project. This NIA Project at Grady Hospital is being done in conjunction with coprincipal investigator Nadine Kaslow, Psychiatry and Chief of Psychology at Grady. Caruth is also completing a book concerning trauma in relation to history that extends the work of her last book, *Unclaimed Experience: Trauma, Narrative, and History*. She recently published the article "Repetition and Erasure: Lifton on War," *Postmodern Culture*, special issue. Caruth solicited and presented papers at Bard College ("Arendt on Dark Times") and University of California-Irvine ("Lying and History" keynote, along with "Cultures of Violence").



**Astrid M. Eckert**, assistant professor, History (lecturer), teaches modern German history in the history department. She spent the summer in Berlin doing research for her new project, which looks at tourism to the inner-German border until 1989. In the past academic year, she taught her first graduate class on contro-

versies in German historiography after 1945. She also developed a Freshman Seminar called History That Never Happened and discussed various "what ifs" with incoming Emory students. In spring 2008 she again will teach the modern German history survey and hopes to see many German Studies students there. Eckert has just edited a conference volume titled *Institutions of Public Memory: The Legacies of German and American Politicians* (Washington D.C.: German Historical Institute/Sheridan Press, 2007) and published the article "The Transnational Beginnings of West German Zeitgeschichte in the 1950s," *Central European History* 40:2 (2007): 63–87.



**Kevin C. Karnes**, assistant professor, Music History, spent spring 2007 on leave with the help of a University Research Committee grant, completing the manuscript "Music, Criticism, and the Challenge of History: Shaping Modern Musical Thought in Late-Nineteenth-Century Vienna," which is cur-

rently under review. This year, he published the complete correspondence between Austrian music theorist Heinrich Schenker (1868–1935) and Dutch composer Julius Röntgen (1855–1932), in German transcription and English translation, in *The Schenker Correspondence Project*, an online publication of Columbia University. Karnes is presently coediting, with Walter Frisch of Columbia University, a revised and expanded edition of *Brahms and His World*, to be published by Princeton University Press in conjunction with the 2009 Bard Music Festival in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York.



**Deborah E. Lipstadt** is Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies and director of the Tam Institute for Jewish Studies. This year she received the honorary degree Doctor of Humane Letters from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and from the Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles. Lipstadt

was in Bucharest, Romania, in June as a member of the U.S. delegation to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe conference Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding. Her book *History on Trial: My Day in Court with David Irving* (2005) was released in paperback in 2006, and she is currently working on a book that looks at Holocaust denial at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

She recently received grants from the Berrie Foundation, Gralla Foundation, Schusterman Foundation, and Becker Foundation to support translation of resource material on the website [www.hdot.org](http://www.hdot.org)—which documents the libel trial *David Irving v. Penguin Books UK and Deborah Lipstadt*—into Middle Eastern languages.

## Welcome to Our New Faculty Members



This past academic year, **Hiram Maxim**, associate professor, continued his research on the interrelationship between reading and writing in a second language. He conducted a classroom-based study with advanced learners to examine how they used the lexicon and syntax they encounter in their readings in their own writing. Maxim presented the results of this study at the annual conference of the

American Association of Applied Linguistics in April. The curricular and pedagogical implications of such a textually oriented approach to foreign language instruction were also the topic of an article for the *International Journal of Applied Linguistics* that he coauthored. Maxim also remains active in the profession as an elected member of the Applied Linguistics Division of the Modern Language Association, for whose upcoming annual conference he has organized three sessions. He is excited about his upcoming move to the Department of German Studies at Emory and very much looks forward to working with his colleagues on enhancing the undergraduate curriculum.

**James Van Horn Melton**, professor of History, returns to German Studies from Emory's Department of History with a shared appointment in both departments. We are thrilled to have him, for he is an internationally recognized scholar in the field of Austrian and eighteenth-century studies.

Melton is currently completing a book on the trans-Atlantic migration of Salzburg Protestants to the Georgia colony in 1734. Previous books and edited works of his include: *The Rise of the Public in Enlightenment Europe* (Cambridge MA: Cambridge University Press, 2001); *Absolutism and the Eighteenth-Century Origins of Compulsory Schooling in Prussia and Austria* (Cambridge MA: Cambridge University Press, 1988); editor, *Cultures of Communication from Reformation to Enlightenment: Constructing Publics in the Early Modern German Lands* (Aldershot, England: Ashgate, 2002); *Paths of Continuity: Historical Scholarship in Central Europe*



James Van Horn Melton and Maximilian Aue

(Cambridge MA: Cambridge University Press, 1994); coeditor and translator of *Otto Brunner, Land and Lordship: Structures of Governance in Medieval Austria* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1992).



**Miriam Udel-Lambert**, assistant professor of Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture, joins our department of Harvard University's Department of Comparative Literature, where her dissertation focused on the ethics of speech in modernist literature and used Yiddish works to investigate some broader questions in modernism. Her article on the

Yiddish fable writer Eliezer Shteynberg recently appeared in *Prooftexts: A Journal of Yiddish Literary History*.

## Yiddish at Emory

With this year's appointment of Miriam Udel-Lambert as assistant professor of Yiddish language, literature, and culture, Yiddish has gained a permanent address at Emory. Udel-Lambert will start off by teaching a beginner's course in the Yiddish language that will integrate literature and culture. She will teach *yiddish af yiddish*—with all instruction taking place in the language itself from the first day of class. She also looks forward to teaching seminars in literature and culture that will be accessible both to readers of Yiddish and to those working in translation. These courses will draw on her dissertation work about the ethics of speech in Yiddish modernism and the new research she will be undertaking at Emory on the modern Jewish use of the picaresque form and its relation to the European *bildungsroman* (novel of social formation). Udel-Lambert looks forward to working in concert with colleagues in the German Department and the Institute for Jewish Studies to build a comprehensive program in Yiddish literature and culture. *Mitn rekhtn fus!*

## German Studies

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## In Memory of Elizabeth Soilis 1937–2006

What follows is a letter by Viola Westbrook, read during a memorial service on January 29, 2007.

Liebe Elizabeth, dear Elizabeth,

We are coming together tonight to celebrate your remarkable life of extraordinary courage and civility, of loyalty and love.

We began this year without you. Or so we thought. But actually, we find that you are certainly among us. Even though your chair is empty, your wonderful smile that cheered us every morning still seems to linger, and your marvelous sense of humor that so brightened the daily routine still reverberates in our hearts. Your great courage inspires our work; even more, your gentility and ever-present willingness to help demand that we try to live up to your example.

But it is your legacy—the legacy that you entrusted to me the last time I visited you in the hospital—that profoundly challenges us to uphold what you have taught us. It is the legacy of a life lived in the service of building and maintaining harmony among us all, of treating each of us—whether students, staff, faculty, or deans—with equal kindness and dignity. We will honor your legacy, Elizabeth, and commit to that same standard as we go forward.

I miss your friendship and I miss your warm hugs when I returned from being away awhile. I miss our outings and our



Elizabeth Soilis and Silke Delamare

trips. And maybe I faintly hear you now saying as no one else could say it, “shame, shame.”

Dear Elizabeth, we are indebted to you for your many years of loyalty and dedication, and with a full heart, we thank you. What a gift your life has been to us!

Liebe Elizabeth, wir danken Dir!

## German High School Teachers Visit Emory

For the third year in a row, the department invited German teachers from Atlanta’s high schools to spend half a day on our campus. With the generous support of the Center for Teaching and Curriculum, senior lecturer Viola Westbrook organized a stimulating program for our guests on Saturday, November 4, 2006. Following Department Chairman Peter Höyng’s welcome of attendees, Assistant Professor Erik Butler shared with his audience a glimpse into his research on the cultural history of vampires. This presentation was followed by a discussion of topics of mutual interest, such as curricular discussions between high school and college, concerns about losing German programs in high schools, and how the department can help keep these programs strong in the Atlanta area. A congenial lunch offered more opportunities for conversation, the exchange of ideas, and the discussion of professional concerns. The visit concluded with a tour of the campus and a delightful round of *Kaffee und Kuchen* hosted by our German TA, Melvin Haack, and the students of the German House on Clairmont Campus.



Faculty members of German Studies with visiting high school teachers in front of Trimble Hall



Visiting instructors Francien Markx and Alison Beringer toasting Beringer’s new position

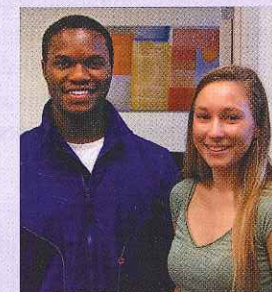
## Farewell to Alison Beringer and Francien Markx

With sadness, we say goodbye to our visiting faculty, Alison Beringer and Francien Markx. Beringer has accepted a one-year position as visiting assistant professor at Colgate University in Hamilton, New York. Markx will start a tenure-track position as assistant professor at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. Both colleagues contributed greatly to the life of the department; they will be greatly missed. We wish both of them the best of luck in their new endeavors!

## Staff News

Our sincere thanks to **Susannah McCormick** for assisting the department for two semesters as a work-study student. Susannah graduated this spring from Emory University with a double major in biology and German. She plans to apply to a master’s program in midwifery at Ohio State University this fall. Susannah provided outstanding help for our daily operations. Her presence in the office was always a source of joy, and her pleasant demeanor and tireless enthusiasm will be difficult for successors to match. We are confident that Susannah will continue her successful academic career, and we wish her all the best.

**Terez Whatley-White**, who graduated with a major in German and a minor in political science last December, helped us through some very difficult times. After Elizabeth Soilis passed away, Terez immediately stepped to the fore. In demanding circumstances that included the department’s self-study, faculty searches, and many other projects, Terez kept things flowing smoothly. He is now pursuing a career with an international



Terez Whatley-White and Susannah McCormick

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2007–2008

We are looking forward to a new academic year filled with promising events. Jamie Melton graciously has agreed to revive the department’s tradition of the **German Studies Roundtable**. He has put together several lectures for the upcoming semester. On September 7, George Williamson—associate professor of history at the University of Alabama—will present the paper “August von Kotzebue and His Critics: Rethinking the Origins of German National Culture.” The Second Roundtable on November 5 will focus on contemporary literature and culture with a lecture by Angelika Bammer, associate professor in the Graduate Institute of Liberal Arts: “Nostalgia: Günter Grass’s and Christa Wolf’s Confessions.” Both Roundtable events are in English and are meant as an informal exchange among departments, faculty, and students.

In March 2008 we are planning a **reading and discussion with journalist and author Wibke Bruhns**. Bruhns’s *Meines Vaters Land: Geschichte einer deutschen Familie* (2004), translated as *My Father’s Country: The Story of a German Family* (2008), reconstructs the life of her father, Hans Georg Klamroth, a collaborator in the attempted assassination of Hitler on July 20, 1944. Klamroth was hanged that August. Bruhns (born 1938), who barely remembers her father, has recreated the family’s daily life from photographs, letters, documents, diary entries, family archives, songs, and poems. As Germany’s first female newscaster (at *Heute* news from 1971 to 1973), Bruhns promises to be an engaging speaker. Her reading and the discussion will take place in English.

The **2007–2008 German Film Series *Reel Borders*** focuses on geographical, ideological, and psychological borders and includes Weimar classics such as *Das Cabinet des Dr. Caligari* (*The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*, 1920), contemporary box-office successes such as *Gegen die Wand* (*Head-On*, 2004), and *Das Leben der Anderen* (*The Lives of Others*, 2006), as well as lesser-known movies such as *One, Two, Three* (1961), *Black Box Germany* (2001), and *Nachtgestalten* (*Night Shapes*, 1998).

For schedules, details, updates, and additions, please consult the departmental homepage.

company, where his proficiency in German will add to his many other distinctions. Thanks, Terez, for your exceptional skills and your wonderful sense of humor.



Marion B. Hughes

We welcome **Marion B. Hughes** as the department’s new program administrative assistant. Marion—who was born in Germany and raised in the U.S.—earned a BA in German and international relations from Marquette University. Although this is her first experience in a university setting, Marion has gained very valuable knowledge through the years in international banking and recently as an administrator and teacher’s assistant at St. James UMC Preschool and Our Lady of the Assumption School in Atlanta. She is excited to join the department and is thrilled at the prospect of speaking German every day.

## News from Our Students

German Studies at Emory has provided me not only with a strong grasp of a language, its culture, politics, literature, and history but also a residence, more than a few adventures abroad, and my first job after college. After living in the German House for two years, studying abroad on the Vienna summer program and with the Institute for the International Education of Students in Berlin, and majoring in German, I'll be teaching English next year in Mönchengladbach as a Fulbright teaching assistant. Though I spent relatively few hours (for a German major) in Trimble Hall, I couldn't have made it back to Deutschland without our little department. Thanks for all the help, the wonderful home and, of course, *ein wunderschönes Hauptfach*. —Ryan Plocher

Since the first time I met with a professor in the German department, I have had a wonderful experience learning German at Emory. The department is one of the more friendly and open on campus, and the faculty is very adept at helping students at all skill levels of German.



Paul Syers and Audrey Meurnier, DAAD summer scholarship recipients

I came to Emory already with a solid understanding of the German language. The German department faculty have helped me not only better my German but they have shown me so much more of the rich culture and history that the German-speaking countries have. I was lucky enough to be chosen for a Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst-sponsored summer research internship in Munich this year. Thus, I am able to pursue both of my chief passions: physics and German. The enriched experience with German culture that I have gained from the department has helped me feel more at home here in Munich as I conduct my research and live on my own, completely immersed in the culture. —Paul Syers

This summer I am living in Berlin and conducting archival research with Rosemarie Garland-Thomson (Women's Studies). My main task is to collect data and translate the files of patients involved in a Nazi initiative to euthanize disabled individuals. Garland-



Marihelen Otto, Alex Vinson, and Shoham Elazar helping to promote our Summer Abroad Program during this year's CIPA Fair at the DUC



Susannah McCormick, Ryan Plocher, and Whitney Hostetter enjoying the moment after the Delta Phi Alpha ceremony; both Ryan and Whitney received Fulbright Grants to teach in Germany this fall

Thomson will use this data in a book project that investigates an underlying cultural logic for evaluating human worth and social "fitness," and follows how this logic plays out: sometimes through curing people and sometimes through killing them.

As a recipient of a SIRE grant, I also will be using this data to develop a project of my own. Given that the project is still in its early stages, I don't have a firm topic; however, I'm beginning to look closely at the idea of cost-benefit analysis as a logic underlying the Nazi killing rationale.

Life in Berlin is great—the city is fantastic, the people are friendly, and my project is turning out to be an extremely formative experience, both academically and personally. —Alex Vinson



This year's inductees to Delta Phi Alpha, the German National Honor Society, were (bottom row, left to right): Alez Vinson, Jeff Schram, Andy Shoenig, Rebecca Perch, Stephanie Chen, Paul Syers, and Viola Westbrook; (top row): Alex Horstman and Megan Gray

## My Year as a Teaching Assistant at Emory University

Emory's Department of German Studies has been importing teaching assistants from Germany for the past nineteen years to teach our undergraduates. These skilled and dedicated teachers are selected by the Fulbright Foundation. Melvin Haack will be replaced by Benjamin Becker from Düren, Germany, for academic year 2007–2008. With thanks to Melvin for all he contributed, we are pleased to present his report.

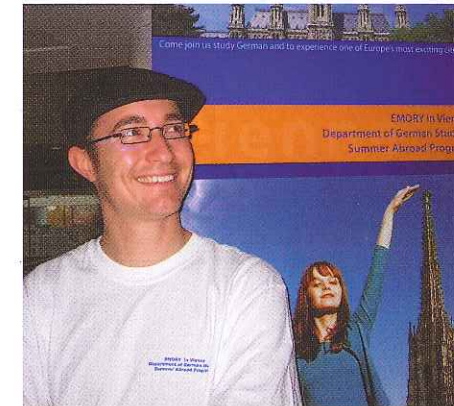
"Own only what you can carry with you; know language, know countries, know people. Let your memory be your travel bag."

—Alexander Solzhenitsyn

Dear friends, students, and colleagues:

I used this pungent quotation by Alexander Solzhenitsyn to open my application for the job of teaching assistant in the U.S. back in September 2005. To this day—as I have to admit with a shameful blush—I haven't read a single book by the author, but I surely have lived the quote. My travel bag of memories is about to burst, because in there I carry the images and experiences of ten wonderful months. If you have a minute, join me in looking back at this venturesome time.

When my plane landed in New York in August 2006, I was a purveyor of British English. That was to change soon. My fluency and confidence in speaking (mostly under the caring assistance of my roommates and the friendly women of the Checker Cab Hotline) improved on every level; *trousers* became *pants*, *rubbish* transformed into *trash*, and I curiously set out to explore two countries. First of all, stepping away from Germany actually brought me closer to it, for I was able to gain an outside look at all the things that I always had taken for granted, including crusty bread. Then, of course, there was the U.S. Apart from living an exciting but also everyday life in Atlanta, I have seen quite a lot of heaven and hell between Alaska and Hawaii.



Melvin Haack promoting our Summer Abroad Program in Vienna at the CIPA Fair at the DUC

I climbed Lady Liberty in New York, roamed the streets of New Orleans at Mardi Gras, gambled five bucks on the sad and greedy slots of Las Vegas, and gazed into the mighty silences of the Grand Canyon (and still wonder why it's not called "Supreme" Canyon).

Yet, as important as language and countries may be, after all it's *people* who turn all those "facts" into real experiences and add color to the memories of this adventure, which led me to discover foreign spheres as well as myself. Dear friends stood out against existing stereotypes and great colleagues turned the humble halls of Trimble into more than just a place to work. I never will forget the caring face of Elizabeth Soilis, who was the first one to welcome me to my new job with a smile, coffee, and a good joke. Finally, my students: that wild bunch of clever and sassy people, who eagerly and successfully contributed to make teaching a pleasure and an experience of personal growth.

Time to bring this story to an end with one of the taglines this university has taught me: "Teaching assistants will come and teaching assistants will go, but Dooley goes on forever." Stay classy, Emory!

Euer Melvin  
melvin.haack@web.de

## Summer Abroad in Vienna 2007

For the thirty-fourth year in a row, Emory students have discovered the rich cultural heritage of Vienna. The nineteen students who participated in this year's program were an especially diverse group. Three international students and members of the Emory community from numerous disciplines and graduating classes took part in three levels of intensive German classes. Besides pursuing a rigorous course of study, they explored many sites in Vienna and its environs (for example, the monastery of Melk). This year, we were especially fortunate to draw on the expertise of Matej Varga, a native of Slovakia, who organized a special tour of his hometown, Bratislava. Another highlight of the summer-abroad program was the opportunity to attend opera performances, including an impressive staging of Verdi's *Don Carlos*; such activities complemented the music course offered by Timothy Albrecht. For the second time, we met with local Emory alumni for dinner and conversation. Johnny



Manfred Asamer (center) is a graduate of Goizueta Business School (86MBA) and president and CEO of Asamer & Hufnagl Holding AG. He invited this year's group to learn more about his company and hometown Gmunden where he treated the group to a boat ride on scenic lake Traunsee.

Lippincott (09C) summed up his experience: "This is the most beautiful city I have ever stayed in." Kushal Shah (09C) added: "Vienna is a city of endless possibilities."

# Alumni—Request for Information

Tell us about your recent accomplishments. We would like to share them with other alumni in our next issue.

Name

Address

Check here if new address Phone number Year graduated

News-worthy item

**If you would like to make a gift to support German Studies at Emory,**

please contact Randy Gorod at 404.870.7690 or [randy.gorod@emory.edu](mailto:randy.gorod@emory.edu). Checks can be mailed to his attention at 825 Houston Mill Road, Suite 107, Atlanta GA 30329. You also may go online to contribute at Emory's giving page: [https://www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/EMR/onlinegiving/showGiving-Form.jsp?form\\_id=282](https://www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/EMR/onlinegiving/showGivingForm.jsp?form_id=282). Please indicate your support for German Studies with your contribution.

**Gifts will be used for:**

- German Studies Scholarly Enrichment Fund
- Student Awards
- Student Travel Support

*Thank you for your support!*



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