

German Studies

Fall 2016, Volume 10, Number 1



Message from the Chair

We in German Studies at Emory

are happy to bring you our 10th annual departmental newsletter. The 2015–2016 academic year was another busy one for the department. Perhaps most noteworthy was the hiring of Paul Buchholz as assistant professor in

the department. He joins us from UC-Berkeley and marks the first permanent full-time hire in the department in nine years. At a time when new faculty searches are becoming scarcer, the department appreciates the support and acknowledgement by the dean's office of the department's recent successes by granting this new position to the department.

The rest of the faculty remain active in their research and deeply committed to the success of the department and its students. Miriam Udel's first monograph appeared in print earlier this year, Caroline Schaumann is finishing up a co-edited volume on eco-criticism as well as making progress on her monograph on the history of mountaineering, and Peter Höyng completed the translation of Hugo Bettauer's novel, *Das blaue Mal*, and received a leave for spring 2017 to complete his monograph on Beethoven.

Another milestone in the department was the granting of the very first Viola Westbrook Endowed Scholarship. Thanks to many generous donors and the leadership of Peter Höyng, the fund reached its goal in fall 2015, and the department was able to award a scholarship to rising senior Chloe Kipka to support her research this summer in Vienna for her senior honor's thesis.

This past year saw impressive accomplishments by other students as well. Perhaps most exciting for the department was the establishment of a student-run German Club that had a tremendously successful year that culminated in screening of the film *Schwarz Rot Gold* followed by discussion with students from Morehouse College, Georgia State University, and Agnes Scott College. The department continues to attract excellent students and maintain strong enrollment across all levels of the curriculum and was particularly proud of the 14 German Studies majors and minors who graduated this past year.

Once again the department was fortunate to host a Fulbright Teaching Assistant. A native of Berndorf, Austria, Marilies Terzer taught the one-credit conversation courses and lived in the German House, where she organized a range of exciting extracurricular events. Assisting her as well as the rest of the faculty and the students was the indispensable Terez Whatley-White, who was well-deservedly promoted to academic department administrator in the fall.

Beyond these individual contributions, the department also hosted various programs and events that are described in more detail in the following pages: the 43rd consecutive summer program in Vienna; a series of guest lectures by scholars, authors, and professionals; and the continuation of the German Studies Roundtable.

In closing, we encourage you to read more about the program in the following pages, visit our website for additional information, contact us with any questions or news, or—best of all—stop by the department to visit with us. Thank you for your continued support of the department.

Hiram Maxim
Chair and Professor

Newsletter of the
Department of
German Studies at
Emory University

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Help sustain our
Vienna Program by
giving to the Westbrook
Scholarship Fund

Faculty News



Peter Höyng continued to pursue his expertise in three areas: (1) genre-wise, he explored dramatic texts within their performative contexts, (2)

topically, he studied the works of assimilated German-Jewish figures, and (3) he looked at the interaction between literature and classical music. What these distinct areas share is that they emanate from Austria. Höyng was invited to honor Professor Sander L. Gilman at a two-day symposium last October by presenting a paper from his ongoing project on Beethoven's intellectual life. In addition, Höyng attended the annual conference of Austrian studies, taking place for only the second time in Vienna in spring 2016. He gave a paper on Doron Rabinovici's novel *Andernorts* (2010), or *Elsewhere*, and how the figure of the third structures the novel. Intrigued by the renewed interest on the third, he interpreted Elfriede Jelinek's play *Winterreise* (2011) with its overt references to Schubert's famous and last song cycle of the same name. Last but not least, his essay on Thomas Bernhard's early play, *Der Ignorant und der Wahnsinnige* (1972), got accepted for publication and is slated to appear soon in the peer-reviewed *Journal of Austrian Studies*.



Marianne Lancaster continued the time-intensive task of coordinating the five first-year German course sections, which this year included the addition of an online instructional component. In addition, she served

as supervisor for the department's Fulbright Teaching Assistant, the department's Pace liaison, the department's representative to the Emory College Language Center, the departmental representative to the two-day State German Convention, and the coordinator of the department's peer tutors. She hosted dinners for Emory Scholar candidates as well as for her German Business classes and German business executives. In addition, she helped the Admission Office and served as co-director of the department's summer study abroad program in Vienna this summer. Her engagement with the pedagogical scholarship on intercultural competence

caused her to attend the annual Intercultural Competence Conference at the Center for Educational Resources in Culture, Languages, and Literacy at the University of Arizona in January 2016 and made her an avid participant in the several workshops and presentations organized this year by the Emory College Language Center on the topic, with the goal of developing instructional materials to enhance students' intercultural competence. She remains a devoted and beloved teacher in the department.



This past year saw **Hiram Maxim** wrap up one research project and make progress on two new scholarly pursuits. With the superlative help of research assistant and German studies major Lydia Rautman, Maxim

was able to complete the data analysis from his multiyear investigation into second-language writing development within the department's curriculum, and he plans on submitting the findings for publication in early fall. With the gradual conclusion of that project, he was able to start focusing on an edited volume that will examine the pedagogical opportunities of the linguistic landscape for second-language learning. This interest has grown out of his work with Emory students in exploring the linguistic landscape of Vienna. His other new project is a case study conducted collaboratively with a colleague at UC-Irvine into the experiences of international students studying German. He completed a pilot study on this topic in the spring and will begin an extended version of the study in the fall. Also, because of the national attention that the department's curriculum continues to receive, he was invited to give workshops at four different institutions over the course of the year.



Caroline Schaumann served as director of undergraduate studies for the 2015–2016 academic year, working with the department's majors and minors, which she greatly enjoyed. In the spring she taught a newly devised senior

seminar on the changing definitions of nature in the Anthropocene. In connection with this class, she invited Professor Simon Richter to deliver the third Maximilian Aue Memorial Lecture and discussed her work at a German

Studies Roundtable in April. Schaumann also presented her work on Hans-Christian Enzensberger and Adalbert Stifter at the German Studies Association Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., and the Women in German conference in Banff, Canada. In her remaining time, Schaumann worked on two book projects. The co-edited anthology *German Ecocriticism* has been submitted to the publisher and should be in print next year. She plans to complete her monograph on the cultural history of mountaineering while collaborating with researchers at the University of Potsdam, Germany, this summer and fall while on leave thanks to a DAAD and Humboldt Foundation fellowship. Her co-edited anthology, *Heights of Reflection*, will appear in paperback in 2017 and the co-authored article "Human and Non-Human Agencies in the Anthropocene" was published in *ecozon@* and also translated into Korean.



This year saw the publication of **Miriam Udel's** first book, *Never Better!: The Modern Jewish Picaresque*, as part of a new series at the University of Michigan Press, Michigan Studies in Comparative Jewish Cultures.

Material drawn from the book about *Di gas*, Yisroel Rabon's novella of urban disaffection, appeared in an issue of *Polin* focusing on interwar Poland. Combining a post-tenure leave with an appointment in the initial cohort of Emory's Interdisciplinary Faculty Fellowships, Udel launched her next research project, a study of Yiddish children's literature. As the first phase of the three-year fellowship, Udel and her collaborators, Marshall Duke (Psychology) and Melvin Konner (Anthropology), convened a seminar for faculty and graduate students that placed Yiddish children's literature in comparative perspective. Next year, she and Duke will lead an undergraduate seminar that builds on this foundation. Udel's study of the Sabbath tale appeared in *Jewish Social Studies*. A translated, annotated anthology of Yiddish children's literature, called *Honey on the Page*, is under contract with New York University Press and slated to appear in 2018. Her research was further aided by her appointment as the Dr. Emmanuel Patt Memorial Visiting Professor at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research and by receiving a fellowship from the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture.

Paul Buchholz Joins German Studies faculty

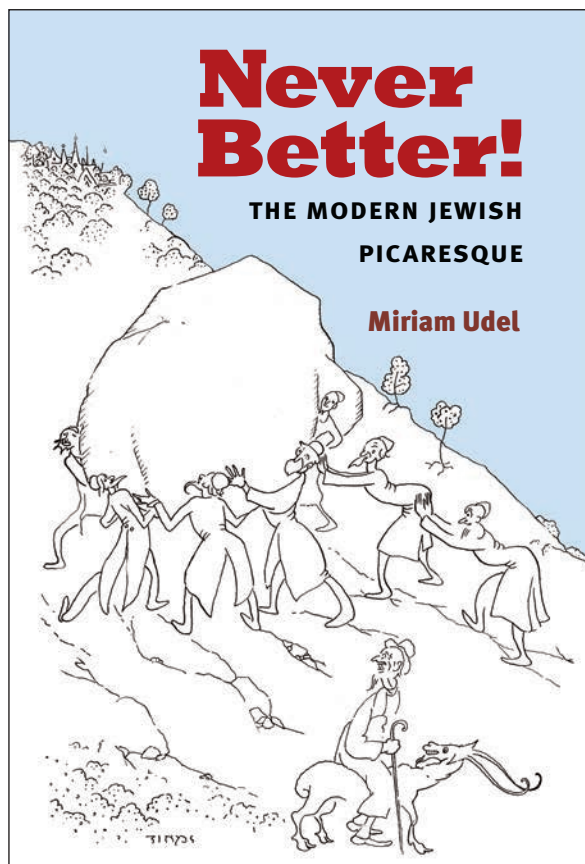
We are pleased to welcome Paul Buchholz, who joins the Department of German Studies from the University of California, Berkeley, where he taught as an assistant professor during the 2015–2016 academic year. He previously held academic appointments at New York University and Scripps College.

Buchholz specializes in German-language narrative literature of the 20th and 21st centuries. His research examines how the narrative form of literary fiction can complicate commonplace ideas of human community such as the nuclear family, the nation-state, and humanity as a “planetary” community. He has published articles on contemporary German and Austrian authors including Terézia Mora, Peter Handke, Gerhard Roth, and Peter Rosei. Currently he is completing his first book, *Private Anarchy: Impossible Community and the Outsider's Monologue in German Experimental Fiction*, which focuses on the chaotic models of community expressed within novels and novellas by Gustav Landauer, Franz Kafka, Thomas Bernhard, and Wolfgang Hilbig. His next book project, tentatively titled

Communities of Desolation, will explore how new threats of environmental degradation and destruction have created new images of human collectivity in literature.

Buchholz enjoys teaching literature because of the way it challenges our accepted ways of describing the world and allows us to experiment with new ideas of self and society. In the past, he has taught German language and literature courses focusing on political protest, family and domesticity, modern ecological thought, and theories of political community. His introductory survey courses of German literature have examined literary responses to social, political, and cultural upheavals from the 18th century to the present.

Buchholz will teach the core German Studies course GER 301 in the fall and a newly devised senior seminar in the spring. Together with Caroline Schaumann, he will lead an Academic Learning Community on the environmental humanities for graduate students, staff, and faculty in spring 2017.



Book Overview

Never Better!: The Modern Jewish Picaresque
by Miriam Udel

It was only when Jewish writers gave up on the lofty Enlightenment ideals of progress and improvement that the Yiddish novel could decisively enter modernity. Animating their fictions were a set of unheroic heroes who struck a precarious balance between sanguinity and irony, which author Miriam Udel captures with the phrase “never better.” With this rhetorical homage toward the double-voiced utterances of Sholem Aleichem, Udel gestures at these characters’ insouciant proclamation that things had never been better and their rueful, even despairing admission that things would probably *never* get better.

The characters defined by this dual consciousness constitute a new kind of protagonist: a distinctively Jewish scapegrace whom Udel denominates the *polit* or refugee. Cousin to the Golden Age Spanish *pícaro*, the *polit* is a socially marginal figure who narrates his own story in discrete episodes, as if stringing beads on a narrative

necklace. A deeply unsettled figure, the *polit* is allergic to sentimentality and even routine domesticity. His sequential misadventures point the way toward the heart of the picaresque, which Jewish authors refashion as a vehicle for modernism—not only in Yiddish but also in German, Russian, English, and Hebrew. Udel draws out the contours of the new Jewish picaresque by contrasting it with the 19th-century genre of progress epitomized by the *Bildungsroman*.

While this book is grounded in modern Jewish literature, its implications stretch toward genre studies in connection with modernist fiction more generally. Udel lays out for a diverse readership concepts in the history and theory of the novel while also explicating the relevant particularities of Jewish literary culture. In addressing the literary stylistics of a “minor” modernism, this study illuminates how the adoption of a picaresque sensibility allowed minority authors to write simultaneously *within* and *against* the literary traditions of Europe.

Description from University of Michigan Press, (http://www.press.umich.edu/8834858/never_better).

43 Consecutive Summers in Vienna



For the 43rd year, 15 Emory students descended on Vienna in early June to study German and explore the richness of Austrian culture. In addition to three hours of instruction each day, students took daylong excursions to the baroque abbey in Melk, the concentration camp in Mauthausen, and the summit of the Schneeberg. They also had time to explore the city itself and get to know their host families. The dynamics and esprit de corps of the group were once again outstanding and due in no small part to the one-credit course that all program participants take during the spring semester to introduce them to Austrian culture, history, and politics.

Celebrating the Viola Westbrook Endowed Scholarship Fund

In fall 2011, on the eve of Viola Westbrook's retirement, we proudly launched the Westbrook Endowed Scholarship fund in honor of her indefatigable commitment to Emory for four decades. Five years on, we are grateful for all the contributions made to the fund so that we can celebrate its maturity—and its first recipient (see below). We are in particular indebted to the generous support of her husband, Albert Westbrook, who generously initiated the fund, and to Stuart A. Rose 76B, Emory alumnus and literary benefactor, whose stepdaughter, Tonya (14C), spent the past year as a US Teaching Assistant in Austria.

The idea behind the Westbrook Scholarship is to enable students who major or minor in German studies to continue their language studies or pursue a research project in a German-speaking environment. With our own Summer Study Abroad Program in Vienna in mind—now in its 43rd consecutive year—the scholarship might also help students defray the costs associated with the travel to Austria's capital. After all, it was Viola Westbrook who benefited from such a scholarship as a young student from Hamburg when she made her first trip across the ocean.

Chloe B. Kipka, a native from New Hampshire, is the first recipient of the

Westbrook Endowed Scholarship Fund. Besides majoring in German, she chose classics as her second area of academic concentration. She was recently inducted into America's oldest academic honors society, Phi Beta Kappa. Chloe used the Westbrook Scholarship to stay in Vienna this summer to assist Peter Höyng in completing a book project on Hugo Bettauer's novel, *Das blaue Mal*, or *The Blue Stain* (1922), a novel of miscegenation that starts and ends in Georgia but takes the reader also to Vienna and New York. In addition, she began exploring topics for her honors thesis next year.

Being in Vienna was actually a return, since Chloe participated in our 42nd summer study abroad program for which she received the Max Kade scholarship. The German Studies department will look forward to a long list of students who will benefit from the Westbrook Scholarship Fund. Undoubtedly,

for some of them it will have an equally important impact on their lives. To make a contribution to the Westbrook



Viola Westbrook and Chloe Kipka

Endowed Scholarship and fund the intellectual aspirations of current and future Emory students, visit our website at german.emory.edu.

For more than 25 years, the German Studies Department has hosted a Teaching Assistant from Germany or Austria through the Fulbright Commission. Last year, the department was delighted to welcome Marilies Terzer from Berndorf, Austria, and invited her to share a few memories from her year at Emory.

My Emory Experience

by Marilies Terzer

When I arrived at Emory last August, I was awestruck. The campus is just like the movies. It's like a little village on its own, with beautiful buildings wherever you look. After a few weeks of getting lost, I finally found my way around campus. When the semester started, I was surprised by how many students wanted to learn German and how eager they were to do well in class. I really enjoyed teaching and sharing my culture with them, inside and outside of class. My most memorable German event was the "Erntedankfest," for which I cooked and baked, and everyone enjoyed it. Some of the German events did not go as smooth as this one.

The second semester teaching German was "a piece of cake," as some would say. I already knew how to include everything from the plan into my lessons, I knew how to work with the students, and I was not nervous about it anymore. A few students presented interesting situations in the classroom, but overall my experience with Emory's German students was an extremely positive one, and I am looking forward to seeing some of them again when they are in Vienna for the summer program.

The one thing that I really appreciated the most was the trust the Department of German Studies put in me. I was never treated as an inferior—they accepted me as one of their own. They wanted to learn from me as much as I wanted to learn from them.



Marilies Terzer

Cultural Club Launches with Eventful First Year



The Emory German Culture Club had a great first year. Many of our events focused on spreading German culture around campus. For instance, there was a great turnout at our *Brezel*-making Night (below), where we made German pretzels from scratch.



Other events focused on the German department and its students, such as a student-run study abroad panel and a field trip to the *Weihnachtsmarkt* at the Atlanta International School. To promote cross-cultural

relationships, we joined with the Italian Club for a trip to the High Museum of Art exhibit on the Habsburg family and hosted the French Club for a dinner celebrating the French-German region of Alsace. Additionally, we represented Germany at the Emory International Festival, led a student discussion about the Berlin Wall, and celebrated German majors and minors with Love Your Major week.



Our cross-cultural events also inspired us to focus on cultural diversity in Germany. At one of our biggest events, a documentary film screening co-hosted with the Goizueta Diversity Council and Morehouse College, we discussed racial diversity in Germany and America. Finally, we celebrated the end of the year with the department at our annual Grillfest (*Bratwürste überall!*). We have even more in store for next year and can't wait to meet all of our new members. *Bis bald!*

Student News

On April 18 the department held its annual awards ceremony and recognized a range of accomplishments by the many talented students studying German at Emory. **Angie Chermanz Monroy** (Duluth, GA) received the award for outstanding achievement by a first-year German student, while **Paul Greenstein** (Clemson, SC) and **Amy Tang** (Shanghai, China) shared the *Sprachpreis* for second-year German. Vienna Summer Program participants **Eskew Roberts** (Sylvania, GA), **Claudia Tong** (Hangzhou, China), **Zoey Zhang** (Shanghai, China), and **Tico Han** (Shanghai, China) were recognized as this year's recipients of the Max Kade Scholarship. This is the ninth year in a row the Max Kade Foundation has supported these generous scholarships for the Vienna summer program.

internships since the department's Advisory Council started the program in 2011. Each year the department also inducts qualified students into Delta Phi Epsilon, the national German Honor Society. This year **Sam Budnyk** (Mary Esther, FL), **Stephanie Ebo** (Patchogue, NY), **Sarah Hesse** (Atlanta), **Jimmy Hu** (Dalian, China), **Lydia Rautman** (Columbia, MO), **Irene Shinn**, **Michelle Sikora** (Westville, IN), and **Congying Yu** (Hangzhou, China) were the latest round of inductees.

Finally, two students were singled out for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the department. Rising junior **Lydia Rautman** received the Emory College Language Center Award for Excellence in German for her superior academic performance, her leadership role in the newly formed German Club, her position as a peer tutor, and her research assistance to the faculty. Graduating senior

A few weeks later 14 German Studies majors and minors graduated from Emory, heading for bright and successful futures. **Shummi Chowdhury** (Atlanta) will attend UGA law school; **Madison Malone** (Huntsville, AL) will attend Emory School of Medicine; **Jordan Feltes** (Philadelphia) will attend St. Louis University Medical School; **Katharina Miles** (Charlotte, NC) will work for GlaxoSmithKline in their Future Leaders Program; **Kyle Adams** (Sandy Springs, GA) will enroll in the MS program in engineering at Georgia Tech; **Lindsay Dennis** (Cincinnati) will start work with Caggemini Consulting in Atlanta; and **Hannah Rose Blakeley** (Atlanta) will spend next year in St. Andrews, Scotland, as a Bobby Jones Scholar.

Alumni News

We are always delighted to hear from our graduates. Alumni abroad include **Derek Quindry 15C**, who completed a year as Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Bidingen, Germany; **Tonya Grieb 14C** and **Lizzie Howell 15C**, who both completed a year as US Teaching Assistants in Austria; **Will Snyder 15C** who completed his first year in the MA program in Archaeological Science at the University of Tübingen; **Micah Castle 15C**, who finished her year as an Au Pair in Vienna; and **Matt Niebes 14C**, who completed his MA in American studies at the University of Heidelberg.

Closer to home, **Sarah Richards 09C** completed her first year teaching German at Shiloh High School in Snellville, GA; **Abby Kahn 10C** is in her third year in the PhD program in applied linguistics at Penn State University; **David Trac 13C** is in the joint MD/PhD program at Emory School of Medicine; **Robert Cooper 13C** is living in Brooklyn and working in the recording industry, **Sarah Corrigan 13C** completed her master of divinity at Emory's Candler School of Theology and will enroll in the PhD program in comparative literature at Harvard University in September; and **Abby Weisberger 14C** will enter her third year in the PhD program in German studies at the University of Michigan.



US-Germany interns at the welcoming ceremony in Frankfurt in May

In its sixth year, the US-Germany Internship program awards paid, three-month summer internships to German studies majors and minors. This summer, **Emily Dowd** (Blairstown, NJ) interned with Trumpf Manufacturing in Stuttgart, **Kyle Adams** (Sandy Springs, GA) with ARAG Insurance in Düsseldorf, **Irene Shinn** (Los Angeles) with Teleperformance in Dortmund, and **Gaoke Chen** (Shanghai, China) with Fresenius Pharmaceuticals in Frankfurt. More than 40 Emory students have received

Kyle Adams received the department's Award for Excellence for his outstanding class work, his peer tutoring, his key role in the formation of the German Club, and his continued engagement with the department, its faculty, and its students. Following the ceremony, students and faculty moved outside to celebrate the end of the academic year at the annual spring Grillfest, which achieved special status this year by being zero-waste and locally sourced.

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German Studies

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Department Events

German past and present on view at this year's departmental events

In addition to the teaching and research that took place during the 2015–2016 academic year, the department was also home to several events that drew audiences from across campus and Atlanta. Early in the fall semester the department welcomed Nina Vyatkina, associate professor of German and applied linguistics at the University of Kansas, to campus for a public lecture as well as a workshop in Hiram Maxim's upper-level grammar review class on the use of German language corpora for learning and teaching German. Focusing primarily on the *Digitales Wörterbuch deutscher Sprache* (www.dwds.de), Vyatkina highlighted the many advantages of mining this large database of German-language texts for understanding how the German language is used in practice.

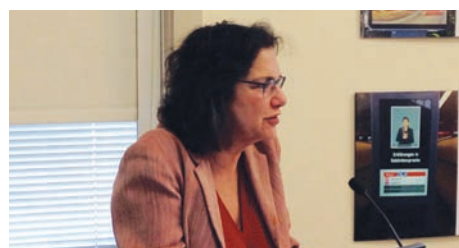
Later in the semester, the German Studies Roundtable convened as a panel discussion moderated by Caroline Schaumann to consider the current state of Germany 25 years after unification. Professors Tom Lancaster from Political Science, Brian Vick from History, and our own Peter Höyng shared their insights into the changes and developments in the political, historical, and cultural landscape in Germany since 1990.

The spring semester started with great fanfare with a class visit to German 202 and a public reading by author Jennifer Teege. Teege's autobiographical account of her discovery in her mid-30s that her grandfather was the notorious concentration camp commandant Amon Göth (portrayed by Ralph Fiennes in the film *Schindler's List*) has received international acclaim, and she

captivated her audiences at Emory with details from her personal life but also with comments about the current atmosphere in Germany regarding immigration.



Later in the semester the department had the good fortune of welcoming Susan Neiman, director of the Einstein Forum in Potsdam, to campus for a public lecture about her latest book project, *Learning from the Germans*, in which she explores potential lessons that can be drawn for other countries, particularly the US, from Germany's efforts to come to terms and learn from its past.



The spring semester also saw Simon Richter, professor of German at the University of Pennsylvania, deliver the third annual Maximilian Aue Memorial Lecture in which he



deftly drew parallels between Goethe's *Faust* and current threats that climate change pose to the planet.

To conclude the academic year, the German Studies Roundtable convened one more time to discuss Caroline Schaumann's paper, "Altered Environments in the Anthropocene," from her ongoing eco-critical analysis of contemporary German fiction.



From top right, continuing clockwise: (1) Simon Richter; (2) Caroline Schaumann; (3) Peter Höyng, Brian Vick, and Tom Lancaster; (4) Susan Neiman; and (5) Jennifer Teege and Peter Höyng

James McMahon, Former German Professor, Remembered

James McMahon, professor of German at Emory from 1966 to 2002, died February 14, 2016, in Green Valley, AZ. A native of Buffalo, NY, he held an undergraduate degree from St. Bonaventure University and a PhD from the University of Texas, Austin. He taught many different classes at Emory, but his specialty was medieval languages, literature, and music. He authored many articles and one book, *The Music of Early Minnesang*.

Two Emory faculty remember his contributions to the department and university:

Senior Lecturer Marianne Lancaster writes, "Jim was a real gentleman, and I enjoyed

working with him from 1991 to 2000. He directed the first half of our summer study abroad in Vienna—even after his retirement. On campus he stood out as a tall, slender man in his sunhat. He enjoyed learning, was calm, patient, and spoke in a soft voice. He loved music and medieval times, and his door was always open to people with questions."

Retired Senior Lecturer Viola Westbrook writes, "Jim warmly welcomed me into the Emory German department in 1967 and, until his generous words from afar some 40 years later at my retirement, he has been a genuine inspiration and friend to me. The marvelous richness of his knowledge, especially of

course in the area of medieval scholarship, was a continuous gift to us all, colleagues and students alike. In difficult times he proved to be a very insightful and effective leader and peacemaker. His understanding and fairness always seemed to prevail in the end and accomplish the best results for all concerned. And yet the characteristic that perhaps I cherished the most about Jim was his gentle humanity. It defined his being throughout his life."

Jim is survived by his wife, Ann; sons Christopher, Mark, and Stephen; granddaughter Sophia McMahon, and sisters Ann McMahon and Joan Fridmann. He was 78 years old.

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