The Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures conducted two Summer Language Institutes in Germany, one for intermediate undergraduate students in Eutin, directed by Dr. Andrea Meyertholen and Assistant Director Stephanie Wille, M.A., and one for advanced undergraduate students in Holzkirchen, directed by Dr. William Keel.

50th Year: Summer Language Institute Eutin 2015

By Andrea Meyertholen

Last summer marked the 50th time that students from the University of Kansas arrived in Eutin, Germany to take part in the Intermediate Summer Language Institute. Despite the impressive number of years this tradition has connected the sister cities of Lawrence and Eutin, it was a summer of “firsts” for all Jayhawks involved with the 2015 program. This includes its director, myself; assistant director, Stephanie Wille; and participants, a group of 17 students eager to experience the country and its culture. For six weeks we lived with host families as the students earned two semesters’ worth of KU language credit. Providing the organizational support that helped make this summer a success were Martin Vollertsen, chairman of the “Freunde von Lawrence,” as well as city representatives Annette Rudolph and Nicole Ausborn. Without their assistance, I am not sure how we would have made it to Eutin in the first place.

To be sure, our summer in Germany got off to an unanticipated rocky start when our arrival in Germany coincided with a nation-wide train strike. So, while we had made it to the correct country, we had no way of getting ourselves to the correct city. Luckily, the good people of Eutin came to the rescue, in a manner of speaking. Going above and beyond the cultural imperatives of Gastfreundlichkeit, the fire brigade was deployed to drive out to Hamburg and transport us to our final destination.

We were eventually able to ride the trains!

The best meat on a stick that Kiel has to offer!

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Deutsche Sommerschule in Holzkirchen 2015
By William Keel

Mainz and a Rhine river cruise. The amazing events and wonderful students of this past summer are still fresh in my mind, even as plans for the 2016 SLI in Eutin begin to take shape. This year promises to be particularly exciting, for Eutin is hosting the state garden show, or Landesgartenschau. In addition to the traditional activities and travel destinations, we will be attending the inauguration of the Lawrence Eutin Friendship Garden in June. Funded through donations from both sister cities, the garden will remain in Eutin long after the Landesgartenschau ends to serve as a symbol of the German-American friendship that make programs such as the SLI in Eutin possible.

As impressive (and surreal) as it was to be entering Eutin in a convoy of emergency vehicles, I continued to be amazed and humbled by the show of hospitality, goodwill, and friendship that we experienced during the entirety of our home stay. We were welcomed at city hall, invited to the annual Deutsch-Amerikanischer Abend, and treated to tours of Lübeck’s museums and the Kieler Woche. Our time in Eutin culminated with a special visit to the state legislature, where students met with SPD-representative Regina Poersch to discuss the implications of wind energy for the German landscape and economy. Such extraordinary opportunities, coupled with the welcoming sentiments of Eutin’s citizens testify to the uniqueness and value of this program and the greater sister-city relationship.

After expressing our gratitude by hosting a BBQ/potluck dinner, we said goodbye to our friends and host families in Eutin, and embarked on a two-week tour of Germany. Prior to our departure, the group had already journeyed to Berlin for a weekend, where we learned about street art, wandered through remnants of the Wall, and availed ourselves of DDR kitsch. Now we headed down south to Bavaria, stopping first in Nuremberg for a hands-on experience of the German First Reich (the medieval castle and dungeons) and the Third (Documentation Center Nazi Party Rally Grounds and Nuremberg trials courtroom). We continued on to Munich, where we made a meaningful pilgrimage to Dachau. Besides this sobering encounter, we sought out Munich’s typical tourist fare like eating giant pretzels and pig knuckles at the Hofbräuhaus and watching glockenspiel theatrics on Marienplatz, while also engaging in the atypical, such as a roof climb on top of Olympic Stadium. The ultimate highlight was a day trip into the Bavarian countryside to tour the castles of Neuschwanstein and Linderhof along with the fairytale town of Oberammergau. Our Deutschlandreise concluded with the Carnival city of Mainz and a Rhine river cruise. The amazing events and wonderful students of this past summer are still fresh in my mind, even as plans for the 2016 SLI in Eutin begin to take shape. This year promises to be particularly exciting, for Eutin is hosting the state garden show, or Landesgartenschau. In addition to the traditional activities and travel destinations, we will be attending the inauguration of the Lawrence Eutin Friendship Garden in June. Funded through donations from both sister cities, the garden will remain in Eutin long after the Landesgartenschau ends to serve as a symbol of the German-American friendship that make programs such as the SLI in Eutin possible.
attracted our students from Arkansas to pose next to the wild boar on the square near the rail station there (they called it a “Razorback”). After orientation and four days in Köln and Bonn, the group continued to Berlin for an intensive introduction to modern German history with many sites relating to the dictatorship of the National Socialists and to the period of divided Germany during the Cold War. But now and then the students found time to enjoy the food of Berlin as in the photo of some eating the infamous Currywurst at Konnopke's Imbiss—a “greasy spoon” of the first order in the former East Berlin—actually under the elevated U-Bahn there.

After returning to Holzkirchen, the students attended classes and went on excursions to castles, museums and hiked in the Alps. A visit to the Holzkirchen Folklore Club (Trachtenverein) introduced the students to both the folk costumes as well as the folk dances of southern Bavaria. In addition to trying their hand (no pun intended) in the traditional Schuhplattler, involving the slapping of hands on the leather shorts (Lederhosen) and shoes, the students paired up with the Holz-kirchner to dance an easier two-step.

A chance meeting at a church picnic between me and Albert Kraft, a retired butcher in Holzkirchen, led to the possibility of the students witnessing the mysterious process of producing Leberkäse and Wurst at the local Metzgerei Kraft, now operated by Albert’s son Robert. It turned out that the Krafts had partially donated the Leberkäse eaten by the students on their visit to the Holzkirchen Schützenverein (sharp-shooters club). When I thanked the Krafts for their generosity, I asked if the students might actually see how Leberkäse is made. The Krafts invited all the students to come to the butcher shop—in two groups—and don white coveralls required for food preparation and watch while a batch of the Bavarian delicacy was made (the secret ingredients may not be disclosed—but it contains neither liver nor cheese). Following the preparation of the Leberkäse, the students and their instructors were invited to a Brotzeit—a mid-morning snack of sausages and Leberkäse with a large soft pretzel and a cool beverage of the student’s choice.

The photo shows one group of happy students and Prof. Keel at Metzgerei Kraft in Holzkirchen.
Faculty News

In July 2015, Marike Janzen presented a paper titled “Wo ist der Autor in der Weltliteratur?” at the Technische Universität Dortmund as part of Professor Sigrid Nieberle’s seminar, “Gastlichkeit.” At the GSA this fall, she presented a paper titled “The Fate of Socialist Institutions in Post-Socialism: The Anna Seghers Preis and Multi-Cultural Internationalism.” At the University of Kansas, she participated in the Hall Center for the Humanities Seminar on “Rethinking Citizenship in a Global Age” and presented a paper titled “Berlin’s International Literature Festival: Globalizing the Bildungsbürger.” She also contributed a chapter to the volume Teaching Human Rights in Literary and Cultural Studies (eds. Alexandra Schultheis and Elizabeth Swanson Goldberg), published by the Modern Language Association in the series “Options for Teaching,” 2015.

At the 39th Annual German Studies Association Conference held in October in Washington, D.C., Ari Linden delivered a paper entitled “The Structure of Clouds: German Readings of Aristophanes,” intended to be a section of the opening chapter of his book project on satire in the modern German context. In this talk, he analyzed three philosophical approaches to the Greek playwright Aristophanes’ dramatic lampoon of Socrates, Clouds (423 B.C.): G.W.F. Hegel’s, Søren Kierkegaard’s, and more recently, Leo Strauss’. Given that each of these philosophers treated Aristophanes as a “serious” comic poet, Ari Linden identified this drama as a “philosopher’s comedy.”

This fall, Leonie Marx presented a paper entitled “Partners in Exile: The Challenge of Acculturation” at the conference of the North American Society for Exile Studies, held at Michigan Technological University. The conference was devoted to the theme of “Family and Partner Relationships during and after Exile.”

After completing her first year as language coordinator for the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Andrea Meyertholen spent the summer teaching and travelling in Germany as director of the Summer Language Institute in Eutin. In October she attended the annual conference of the German Studies Association in Washington, D.C., where she presented in the “Socialism Networks” panel series. Entitled “Beyond the Pages of Pergamon: Effecting Real Resistance through Affective Ideals in Die Ästhetik des Widerstands,” her paper explored how, in her estimation, author Peter Weiss implemented the principles of collage in constructing his monstrousity of a novel in order to create the very aesthetics of resistance sought after in his book.

Nina Vyatkina was invited in September to Emory University (Atlanta, GA), where she gave a public lecture and conducted a workshop on using electronic corpora for language learning. In November, she presented a peer-reviewed paper as part of the panel “Digital Humanities and German Studies” at the Annual Convention of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) in San Diego (CA).

Undergraduate Students
By Lorie Vanchena

Madison Sargent, a student in GERM 136: The German Transatlantic Experience, constructed this timeline to depict her grandmother’s migration in 1960 from Germany to the United States. Madison’s creative approach to her research project allowed her to frame the personal story within its broader historical and cultural context. A freshman in the School of Engineering, Madison took GERM 136 because of her abiding interest in her family’s ethnic history. Taught by Professor Lorie A. Vanchena, the course explores the migration of German-speaking Europeans to North America from the 17th century to the present and aims to help students explore the diversity of human experience in the United States.
Researchers building digital archive on WWI poetry by American immigrants
By Christine Metz-Howard of KU News

LAWRENCE – A research project at the University of Kansas will create a digital archive of World War I poetry that captures the wide-ranging sentiments of American immigrants, including those who found themselves living in a country headed to war with their homeland.

For the past six months, KU students have been identifying, encoding, transcribing and annotating poetry about World War I written by American immigrants, particularly those from Germany. So far the project includes more than 300 poems.

“For German immigrants in America, their heritage overseas and their identity as Americans came into conflict,” said Andrew Crist, a senior in economics and math who is part of the team researching World War I poetry. “These are timeless questions. Even the immigrant question today reflects some of the issues we see in this poetry.”

Tied to the 100th anniversary of World War I, the digital archive project is a collaboration between KU and Kansas State University. The KU team is supported by a seed grant through the KU Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities. The archive will include American poetry and poetry written by other immigrant groups as well, such as Mexican-Americans.

“World War I has long been in the shadows of World War II. This is part of an effort to demonstrate why World War I is relevant for us today,” said project leader Lorie Vanchena, associate professor of German and academic director of the European Studies Program.

The digital archive of American World War I poetry will fill a gap in World War I scholarship, Vanchena said. Eventually the poems will be available online, so academics, teachers, students and the general public can access them. The digitized poems will include contextual information for historical, cultural and political references.

While “In Flanders Fields” is perhaps the most well-known poem about World War I, poems were frequently published in newsletters, newspapers, journals and books during the war years. Studying them today provides a more nuanced view of how the war touched everyday lives, the student researchers said.

“In the history courses I have taken in the past, we have learned about the mechanics of war, the soldiers and the politics involved,” said Caelan Graham, a sophomore in environmental studies and European studies who is also studying for a minor in German. “But this project has allowed a glimpse into how the war affected everyone.”

Among the immigrants most affected by the war were German-Americans.

“As an ally of Britain, Americans looked down on the German-Americans, which is interesting because today if you have German heritage it is a very celebrated thing,” said Janelle Fox, a senior in history and Latin American & Caribbean studies.

In the 1880s, the United States had a mass migration of immigrants from German-speaking lands. By 1910 about 2.3 million German-born immigrants lived in the United States.

“You had Germans here who had strong sympathies for their homeland, often because they still had family back in Europe and German-Americans loyal to their new homeland who returned to Europe to fight against those who hadn’t migrated,” Vanchena said. “We are seeing poetry along all points of that political, historical and immigrant spectrum.”

So far, much of the poetry identified has come from German and German-American newspapers and newsletters that were published in the 1910s and housed at KU’s Max Kade Center for German-American Studies, which has a long tradition of research on German-American exile literature.

Some of the poetry expresses pro-German and anti-British sentiment, such as “English Kultur,” a poem that points to the hypocrisy of the English notion of the barbaric German. Others are pro-American, neutral or anti-war, such as a poem by a wounded German soldier who spent time at an Allied medical camp. In it, he writes that for the people on the ground, there was no quarrel.

“These short, little poignant poems can really get the point across effectively,” Crist said.

[Video produced by KU News]
**Lawrence – Eutin Connections**

**Partner High Schools**

Natalie Aaron Wolfe, M.A. in German, University of Kansas, and teacher of German at Lawrence High School until fall 2015, guided high school students to Eutin and shares her perspectives from this past summer.

**The Magic of an Exchange Experience**

By Natalie Aaron Wolfe

After months of meetings, it was finally time to board the plane. The nine students from Lawrence High and Free State were quieter than usual. For many of them, it was their first trip without a family member and for a couple of students, their first time on an airplane. My teacher instincts were satisfied when I heard some of them practicing their German with the flight attendants and on our layover in Frankfurt. As we arrived in Hamburg, we were greeted by our exchange partners, welcome signs in hand. I waved and smiled encouragingly as the students were ushered off by the families with whom they would spend the next month.

We spent the next week getting familiar with Eutin, our partner high schools and the rhythm of life with our host families. We were welcomed at city hall along with the students from KU and enjoyed our traditional coffee and cake on the boat ride around the big Eutin lake. One evening we also went to a student performance of the musical based on *Sister Act* at the Voß school. After the week was over, many students were eager to share their observations about German life and school with me and the others. The exchange experience was starting to work its magic.

Our group took a number of day trips during our stay. Many of the German students were excused from school to accompany us on these excursions. Our first trip generously was sponsored by the Friends of Lawrence. They paid for our train tickets to Lübeck and our museum entry fee. The president of the group, Martin Vollertsen, gave us a tour of downtown. The students were impressed by all of the brick facades and city gates. Afterward we visited the brand new Hanse Museum. There we learned about maritime trade, merchant culture and how the economic alliance affected life in Lübeck. Of course no trip to Lübeck would be complete without visiting the Niederegger store for beautiful marzipan creations.

We also took day trips to Hamburg and to the open-air Viking Museum Haithabu in Schleswig. In Hamburg, we visited Miniatur Wunderland in the historic Speicherstadt, took a stroll around the new urban district HafenCity and took a bus tour of the city. The German students also gave us an introduction to all the shopping that Hamburg has to offer. One American student particularly was impressed by Hamburg and wants to study there in college. Unfortunately, our trip to Schleswig was plagued by rain. We made it through our tour of the old Viking settlement with ominous clouds but missed our bus into town. It was then that the skies opened up on us. Drenched and hungry for lunch, we decided to walk back to the train and eat lunch in Kiel. The Schleswig cathedral and the Norse goddesses on its ceiling will have to wait for another trip.

This year I decided to extend our trip to Berlin to four days. Directly off the train, we started on our self-guided walking tour.
The next two days we visited the Pergamon Museum, the Bernauer Straße exhibits, and the East Side Gallery.

We toured the Reichstag, hung out at the Neue Heimat ice cream market, stopped by Checkpoint Charlie and found treasures at the Mauerpark flea market. We all were exhausted by the end of our trip. One host parent told me their exchange student slept for fifteen hours when we got back. I suppose four days was all we could handle!

Besides our trips, we had many fun things to do in Eutin, as well. We had terrific weather and a beautiful setting for our German-American evening this year. Martin Vollertsen performed on his guitar and even added some fun Low German songs to the mix. During our last week, we visited one of the elementary schools in town. The students loved interacting with the kids, being roped into playing tag at recess and helping them with their class work. Besides being fun, this experience gave us a fuller picture of the German school system. We hope that some of those children will participate in the exchange one day!

We are grateful to all of the people who helped make our trip possible. We received extra funding from the Max Kade Foundation, the German-American Partnership Program and Lawrence Sister Cities. Without their support, the majority of what was described here would not have been possible. This exchange program is an eye-opening experience for Lawrence teens. The friendships they form continue into adulthood and the tolerance, curiosity and confidence that they gain change their lives forever. Several of them already are working Germany into their plans for the future.
SISTER CITY NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF EUTIN

FRIENDS OF EUTIN PLAN TO SUPPORT A PERMANENT “GARDEN OF FRIENDSHIP” COMMEMORATING THE SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LAWRENCE AND EUTIN

By William Keel

Eutin will host the State Garden Show (Landesgartenschau) in Schleswig-Holstein from the end of April until the beginning of October 2016. The Friends of Lawrence in Eutin have proposed a Garden of Friendship (Freundschaftsgarten) with flora representing the state of Kansas as part of the exhibit. This garden will commemorate the over 25 years of partnership with educational and cultural exchanges between the two sister cities. The Garden of Friendship will be located in the Seepark along the shore of the Greater Lake Eutin. The Seepark is one of several venues for the Landesgartenschau. Following the conclusion of the show in October 2016, the Garden of Friendship will become permanent, similar to the national German-American Friendship Garden in Washington, DC.

The Friends of Lawrence in Eutin are quite excited about this opportunity to display plants, grasses and other flora representing Kansas in Eutin. They have also committed to maintaining the Garden of Friendship following the close of the State Garden Show. Our German partners envision a rectangular bed featuring prairie grasses typical for Kansas as well as traditional sunflowers, the state flower of Kansas. A walking path with benches as well as metal silhouettes of animals such a bison and prairie dogs will add to the Kansas motif.

To support this project on the American side, the Lawrence city government has already allocated a contribution of $2,500. Additionally, Friends of Eutin in Lawrence plans to conduct private fundraising during the winter of 2015-2016 to raise additional financial support for the project. Persons who may be interested in contributing should contact Professor Keel for more information: wkeel@ku.edu

In addition to the garden project, Friends of Eutin continues to support our sister-city relationship with Eutin through the annual high school student exchange, now in its 26th year. This past summer 9 Lawrence students traveled to Eutin for the month of June with teacher Natalie Wolfe (KU MA alumna). Lawrence then hosted 12 students from Eutin in October with their teacher Katharina Billker. The Eutin visitors presented Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little with a formal document from the City of Eutin commemorating the 150th anniversary of the University of Kansas.

The 2016 exchange will continue under the leadership of Arne Scholz, now the German teacher at Lawrence High School. Arne chaperoned the group of Eutin students to Lawrence in 2013, fell in love with Lawrence resident Kelly Henderson, married her last fall and earned his teaching license for Kansas last spring. We are pleased to have Arne who is familiar with the school systems now in both Eutin and Lawrence! Additional exchanges include the business internship program managed by Jim Morrison as well as the participation of the KU School of Music in the annual Sommerfestspiele (Summer Opera Festival) in Eutin.

Katharina Billker presents Chancellor Gray-Little Commemorative Document from Eutin
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!
Elizabeth Kowalchuk, 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](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 website. For information on other opportunities to assist the Department, please contact the Chair, Liz Kowalchuk, at kowalchu@ku.edu or (785) 864-9171.

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