Now in its third season, the German Studies Newsletter has many exciting news to share with you from the past academic year! From the excellent academic, extracurricular, and professional accomplishments of our students (both in and outside of the classroom), the semester-long celebration of the German Campus Weeks, Germany: Making Choices!; to the “dance-and-sing-along” concert with the fabulous band EINSHOCH 6 from Munich - our German students contributed to another vibrant and successful year of Deutsch 4U @ AQ!

Therefore, HERZLICHEN DANK to all German students for your hard work and dedication to the program! The visible presence of “all things German” can be felt both on and off campus through your active contributions in your class work and research, in the German Student Club, the Delta Phi Alpha German Honor Society, your German study abroad semesters, and your work in or with German businesses and organizations in the Grand Rapids community!

THANK YOU also to the many AQ faculty and staff members, business partners, collaborators and friends whose continued support helps to promote and further the study of the German Language and Culture at Aquinas College! Your hard work, dedication, and contributions to the German program MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD!

Mit freundlichen Grüßen
Katharina Häusler-Gross, Ph.D.

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CONGRATULATIONS, GERMAN MAJORS!

Morgan Meredyk
B.S. International Business & German Studies
Outstanding German Senior in the Department of World Languages
Delta Phi Alpha '15
Tübingen '15

Paul Sommerville
B.S. Business Administration/ Sports Management & Translation / Interpretation with a German Concentration
AATG Award for Excellence in German
Delta Phi Alpha '15

Michael Maxwell
B.S. Translation / Interpretation with a German Concentration Minor: Economics
Goethe Institute Urkunde für Hervorragende Leistungen in Deutsch
Delta Phi Alpha '18
Tübingen '16

2018 German Majors & Minors

Selma Hodzic
Psychology & German Minor
Magna Cum Laude | Delta Phi Alpha

Nicole Killeen
Dual Major: Business Administration/ Music & German Minor

Michael Maxwell
Translation & Interpretation in German & Economics | Delta Phi Alpha

Morgan Meredyk
Dual Major: International Business & German
Cum Laude | Delta Phi Alpha

Paul Sommerville
Dual Major: Business Administration/Sports Mgt. & Translation & Interpretation in German
Magna Cum Laude | Delta Phi Alpha

Wir behalten von unseren Studien am Ende doch nur das, was wir praktisch anwenden.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe deutscher Dichter (1749 - 1832)

Von dem, was du erkennen und messen willst, mußt du Abschied nehmen, wenigstens auf eine Zeit. Erst wenn du die Stadt verlassen hast, siehst du, wie hoch sich ihre Türme über die Häuser erheben.

Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche deutscher Philosoph (1844 - 1900)
CONGRATULATIONS
to all new *Delta Phi Alpha* members of the Aquinas College *Tau Epsilon* Chapter!

Selma Hodzic  
Karissa Lantz  
Michael Maxwell  
Lilia Thomas  
William Uecker (z.Zt. in Lüneburg / D)

**CONGRATULATIONS**
to all new *Delta Phi Alpha* members of the Aquinas College *Tau Epsilon* Chapter!

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The *Goethe Institut Urkunde für Hervorragende Leistungen* was also awarded to four German students at the Freshmen, Sophomore, and Junior level. The students received the award for their high academic achievements, and their extracurricular activities in the German Studies program.  

*Allen Gewinnerinnen – Herzlichen Glückwunsch!*

Dr. Susan Hojnacki, Karissa Lantz, Michael Maxwell, Lilia Thomas, Selma Hodzic, Dr. Katharina Häusler-Gross

Dr. Stephen Barrows (Provost), Michael Maxwell, Lilia Thomas, Dr. Kevin Quinn (President), Selma Hodzic, Karissa Lantz, Dr. Katharina Häusler-Gross

Emma Kemink  
(Freshmen)  
Kaelyn Devereaux  
(Freshmen)  
Kelsey Hall  
(Sophomore)  
Lilia Thomas  
(Junior)
2018-2019 Armen Oumedian Fellowship awarded to German & International Business Major

Congratulations to Junior LILIA THOMAS (German/Int'lBusiness ’19) who was awarded the 2018-2019 Armen Oumedian Fellowship to complete a 14-week summer internship as a marketing and customer support intern with the German company Eisele Connectors, Inc. in Grand Rapids, MI.

The Oumedian Fellowship supports a substantive experiential learning opportunity that an AQ Business Program student undertakes. Under the guidance of her faculty advisor, Dr. Häusler-Gross, Ms. Thomas’ academic and professional focus during this internship will include the development of her linguistic and intercultural skills in the areas of German Business Communication, Intercultural Communication, International Business Culture, and German Business Etiquette.

THE GERMAN TRANSLATION PRACTICUM: An Authentic Work Experience that Develops German Language, Culture and Business Skills

Seniors Paul Sommerville and Michael Maxwell, are part of the first cohort of German students who will graduate with a B.S. in Translation & Interpretation with a German Concentration in May 2018. During their spring semester, they participated in a unique opportunity - completing their translation practicum with the German firm ETO Magnetic Corp. (ETO Gruppe), a company that develops and produces innovative electromagnetic products and delivers these custom solutions to manufacturers of passenger cars, commercial vehicles and industrial applications in Grand Rapids, MI. Having visited the company as part of their GN 413 Business German course in Spring 2017, both students translated a variety of business documents and materials from German into English while being guided by Mr. Michael Ignazcak, president of ETO Magnetic (Grand Rapids), who also served as on-site supervisor of the team.

"The German Translation and Interpretation practicum was more than just another class or even a capstone. It was a real work experience that gave me insights to the ever-growing world of the international automotive industry and how it adapts to the domestic workplace. The work was not the only item that came with challenges and new experiences; interactions with both German and domestic personnel created unique, professional relationships. All of these aspects helped me apply and grow both my German and business skills unlike any other internship or professional development opportunity that I have completed during my studies at Aquinas." (Paul Sommerville, ’18)
I am excited and ready to apply the knowledge and skills gained through my German Studies courses and my time abroad – both professionally and personally.

After graduation, I will be working at the German company Lach Diamond, Inc., where I believe my skills and background knowledge of the German language and culture will be a great asset and resource for the US subsidiary of “Lach Diamant”.

As a German Alumna, I will continue to stay connected with the AQ German program, and I may even join a German language group in the Grand Rapids area to further and develop my intercultural skills.

Of course, I am also very interested in heading back to Germany one day! But until then I will continue to share my knowledge and love for the German culture and language with those around me.

I am forever grateful to Aquinas College and the German Program for the many opportunities to flourish in this field of study.
GERMAN STUDENTS PRESENT INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECTS AT AQUINAS 10TH RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

On April 25, 2018 GN 401 students Karissa Lantz and Paul Sommerville presented their research projects at the 10th Aquinas Annual Student Research Symposium. Under the guidance of their faculty advisor, Dr. Susan Hojnacki, they connected their German research topic with their second major (International Studies and Business Administration/Sports Management), their study abroad, internship, practicum, or experiential learning experience, and shared their scholarship with an engaged and interested audience!

Karissa Lantz
(German Studies & International Relations)

Putin, Merkel, and Crimea: The Effects of a Cross-Cultural Diplomatic Relationship Following the Annexation of Crimea

This capstone thesis project brings together the two academic fields of International Studies and German Studies. The research seeks to provide a possible understanding of events that occurred between Russia and Germany following Russia’s annexation of the Crimean Peninsula in eastern Ukraine. Based on the Social Constructivist approach to International Relations and Germany’s reluctance to be involved in foreign conflicts after World War II, the project focuses on the actions and reactions of Russian President Vladimir Putin and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. The thesis concluded that the relationship between a German woman, who grew up in East Germany, and a Russian man, who was a KGB officer stationed in East Germany, affected the outcome of events after the annexation of Crimea.

Paul Sommerville
(German Studies & Sport Management)

Sport in the GDR: A Structural Analysis of the Communist Development Program. Lessons Beyond Doping.

The German Democratic Republic, or East Germany, was able to build a world class, state-endorsed sport program with minimal resources and a limited population. National teams were not just able to compete, but rather defeat the world’s best, including the United States and Soviet Union, at the Olympic level. Speculations of performance-enhancing doping clouded the success and were finally exposed after the Berlin wall fell. My research examines the financial and administrative structure of GDR sport. Where did the money come from, and who made the decisions? What unique processes were in place that set them apart? How did the rigorous training affect the athletes’ experience? Where did they go wrong and what influenced those decisions? I will use my research to identify processes from the system that could positively influence current sport organizations, such as national governing bodies and intercollegiate athletic departments.
WHERE IN THE WORLD \textit{(literally)} ARE OUR GERMAN STUDENTS?

Impressions from our \textbf{Global Ambassador, Noelle Gauss, an AQ Junior who is pursuing a major in Translation & Interpretation with a German concentration.}

In 2017-2018, Noelle set out on one of the biggest adventures of her life: studying the German Language and Culture with the \textit{Academic Year in Freiburg} program at the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität in Freiburg/ Breisgau (Baden-Württemberg). In addition to taking a wide variety of advanced-level German classes - from Applied Linguistics, German History from Unification (1871) to Reunification (1990), German Composition and Conversation, Going Digital: Chances and Challenges of Digital Humanities, and Children’s Literature and the Media - Noelle not only enjoyed and thrived in the Schwarzwald Region (Black Forest area), but decided to take on the world and travel across the globe: from Germany, France, and the Netherlands ... all the way to South Korea and Japan!

\begin{itemize}
\item Best ice cream in Freiburg?! Eiscafe Portofino - natürlich 😊!
\item Chanukah Lichterfest in Freiburg
\item Burgruine Schneeburg im Schwarzwald
\item Beautiful walkways and paths are abundant in and around Freiburg.
\item Herzliche Grüße aus Berlin, der Hauptstadt Deutschlands! Besuch beim Berliner Reichstag!
\end{itemize}
In 80 Days (or less!)
Around the World!
From the Palace of Versailles, to the Eiffel Tower in Paris, on to Tokyo, Japan and Seoul, South Korea … and back to Europe!
Just in time for the Tulip Festival in the Netherlands!

“Studying in Freiburg was the best decision I could have made for myself. I learn something new every day, and my German language skills have gotten better than I could have imagined last year.

I travel now more than ever before, and being in Germany (especially in the beautiful Black Forest region) allows me to see gorgeous places easily.

The best part of my study abroad is how much not only my language skills have grown, but how much I have myself. Freiburg is my favorite place in the world, from the sunny afternoons to the Bächle.”
William Uecker, a Business Administration/Theater and German Major, is finishing his junior year at Leuphana Universität in Lüneburg, Germany, where he completed advanced-level courses in German Language, Literature, History and Culture. Also having a passion for travel, soccer, and art, Will shared the following impressions about his semester in Germany.

“Living and studying in Germany has been a wonderful opportunity that helped expand my knowledge of the German Language and Culture. This experience has allowed me to grow academically, increase my German proficiency, and helped me to become more independent.

One highlight of my study abroad semester in Germany was being able to experience a different university culture and being immersed in a different campus environment, study habits and a different social life!

Another interesting feature is Germany’s infrastructure and transportation system: not only was it very easy to get around in Lüneburg, but it’s also easy to throughout the whole country and through Europe.

“You will never remember the nights you went to bed early.”
Last summer, the Aquinas College German Studies Program received a grant from the German Embassy’s German Information Center to sponsor a series of events with the theme “Germany: Making Choices” throughout the 2017 fall semester. The award supported programs that promote a greater understanding of Germany and its relationship with the US among high school and college students and their communities.

The main goal of the German Campus Weeks was to preserve the friendship between our two nations. Therefore “Germany: Making Choices” focused on economic, cultural and political perspectives that presented an image of modern-day Germany.

With the use of exhibitions, discussions, films, music and more, the multiple events in this series offered AQ students and community participants the chance to explore the German election process, understand Germany’s commitment to European integration, get to the heart of its migration policies, and look at the mutual benefits of transatlantic trade and the development of a skilled workforce. The transatlantic relationship remains fundamental to Germany, and the more Americans know about Germany and its political, economic and cultural aspects, the better!
On October 3, German Unity Day, German Students from Aquinas College and three area high schools (Hudsonville HS, Grand Rapids Christian HS, and Grand Haven HS) spent a wonderful day in Frankenmuth, Michigan to celebrate Germany's National Holiday.

At the Frankenmuth Historical Museum, students learned about the German roots and the life of German immigrants in the area from our fantastic (and entertaining) guide, Mr. Charlie Kaufman.

They also made a quick stop at the Weiss Centennial Farm, visited Bronner's Christmas Wonderland, and strolled through the picturesque town of Frankenmuth, admiring Bavarian-style architecture and exploring some of the quaint, little shops that are dotted along main street.

In the evening, the students were invited by German Honorary Consul of Michigan, Frederick W. Hoffman, to join many other guests from Michigan and Germany to celebrate German Unity Day at a food- and fun-filled reception in the Bavarian Inn.

Thank you to all the wonderful sponsors - the German Embassy, the German American Chamber of Commerce Midwest, many German and Michigan companies, and Aquinas College - for making this German Unity Day an unforgettable event for all participating students!
Nearly to 350 high school and college students attended the German Career Day that was hosted at Aquinas College on October 4, 2017. This event was sponsored by Aquinas College and the Goethe-Institut, Germany’s cultural institute that promotes the study of German abroad, and encourages international cultural exchanges for students and professionals.

As in previous years, the German Career Day featured a mix of presentations, panel discussions, mini-workshops, and information booths. Students had the opportunity to receive personal career advice from professionals working for German companies, learn about study-abroad, internship, scholarship, and job opportunities, and also participated in mock interviews with representatives from local German firms.

"I would say [the most exciting part was] to see the kind of opportunities for careers. I found the engineering part of it really cool because I like engineering stuff, and it was really cool to see the opportunities that...were [available at Aquinas] for going to college or taking German as a language.”

(Nadene, Clarkston HS)

"There were a lot of people to talk to and it was cool to be able see the college and all the opportunities for taking German. There were also a lot of different opportunities for internships and possible jobs.”

(Nadene, Clarkston HS)

"While I was there I found out about this internship program in Germany. They give you two months of extensive German training to get you up to speed, no matter what level you’re at and you spend 10 months in a German city that has a lot of opportunities for...someone who works with languages.”

(Lilly, Clarkston HS)

"[It was interesting to] learn how German skills can give [us] a career edge, and [we] got helpful resume writing tips as well.”

(Student, Plymouth Christian Academy)
A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU!
EIN GROSSES DANKESCHÖN
TO OUR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS!

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CURRICULAR NEWS FOR FALL 2018

A new course, WL 310: Special Topics in German Studies, entitled *Voices from the Margin: Minorities in German Films*, will be offered in Fall 2018 by Prof. M.-Niclas Heckner, Visiting Adjunct Professor of German in the DWL. While open to all students enrolled in the German Studies program, the interdisciplinary nature of this course makes it also an interesting choice for students from other disciplines, such as history, psychology, sociology, film studies, or Women’s studies.

German 310 will expose students to voices often un- or overheard in mainstream media. Filmmakers speaking from a place of ethnic, cultural, religious, sexual, physiological and other difference have enriched German cinema for decades, yet, in order to discover them, we must often travel off the beaten path and turn to independent and avant-garde filmmaking. Students will examine how minority filmmakers choose and address their audiences, and learn how to analyze films in which the lines of autobiography and fiction are frequently blurred. Another aspect will explore how minorities are portrayed in mainstream vs. independent films and documentaries. Finally, the overarching goal of this course is for students to apply their insights and empathy gained from engagement with German minority cultures to that of the political and social landscape of the Western world in its current state.

LOOKING AHEAD ... SPRING 2019!

Building on the accomplishments that students achieved with the restructured and revised course GN 413: German for Business and Professions (3 cr.), which incorporated a variety of experiential learning components, the class will be offered again in Spring 2019. All German majors and minors (declaration must be completed by December 2018!) who have successfully completed GN 301 (or the equivalent of GN 301) are eligible to enroll in GN 413.

GN 413 deploys a student-centered approach that empowers participants to take learning into their own hands and apply it in an engaging context. Through in-class case studies and discussions, by attending lectures and networking events and visiting German companies on site, and by establishing their own, unique company profile (incl. a business plan), this course aims to develop the students’ knowledge and skills through hands-on experiences, while genuinely engaging them on an intellectual, social and professional level.

The Aquinas Advantage Center in collaboration with the Department of World Languages (and other departments on campus) is currently exploring new, short-term, faculty-lead study abroad opportunities with EF Educational Tours to transform the way Aquinas students look at the world - and themselves - and to inspire the next generation of global citizens.

Given Germany’s innovative leadership in the STEM fields (engineering, sustainable living, renewable energies) and the arts (German history, music, literature, architecture, film, theater), Dr. Häusler-Gross is working closely with the AAC and EF Educational Tours to start our first tour in May 2019. Interested students should contact grosskat@aquinas.edu for more details.
FACULTY NEWS: Teaching, Scholarship & Research

Dr. Katharina Häusler-Gross will be on sabbatical leave during the 2018 fall semester, working on two interdisciplinary research projects that connect German Studies with STEM disciplines. Building on her prior work in German+STEM (German Career Day, Company Connections, German for Business and Professions), these projects promote an increasingly integrated German curriculum, while connecting language and culture learning with technology and hands-on career preparation.

Dr. Häusler-Gross’ research agenda includes the submission of her manuscript, "Forging connections between German Studies with International Business and STEM disciplines", for publication in Die Unterrichtspraxis (Spring 2019), and developing the new academic Global Engineering Certificate (GEC): Connecting German Language and Culture with STEM and Experiential Learning Opportunities (Internships/Study Abroad) at Aquinas College. The GEC will provide STEM students (in particular those with a focus on engineering) with a solid linguistic and intercultural foundation to communicate (language skills) and operate effectively in a global engineering environment (intercultural skills). The respective components of the Global Engineering Certificate (with an implementation date in Fall 2019) include:
1. A one to three-credit hour course (1-3 cr.) that develops the linguistic and intercultural skills to communicate and operate in a variety of professional STEM environments (B2-level);
2. A three-credit hour course (3 cr.) that incorporates the preparation, administration, and evaluation of a short-term, faculty-led, STEM-focused study trip to Germany (May 2019); and
3. A six-credit hour (6 cr.) internship (preparation, administration, evaluation) with a German engineering firm (or STEM-focused company) in one of the D-A-CH countries.

Dr. Susan Hojnacki, who splits her academic appointment between the German Studies program (DWL) and the School of Education, will be teaching German 101 (Introductory German), German 201 (Intermediate German), and courses in Second Language Acquisition and Educational Technology in the fall of 2018. She also continues to serve as the College's Instructional Design Liaison, leads the AQ Ed Tech Club, and offers workshops on online material development for Aquinas faculty and staff. To inform and guide her F2F and blended learning teachings, Dr. Hojnacki’s scholarship includes presentations at annual conferences including MACUL, MiWLA, and ACTFL.

Prof. M.-Niclas Heckner will join Aquinas in the fall to teach German 301 (Advanced German Composition and Grammar Review) and German 310 (Special Topics in German Studies). His research interests lie mostly in the intersection of interactive media (video games specifically) and the writing of history. He has taught a variety of classes in history, film, English, and German departments around Michigan (UMich, Alma College) since 2002, and enjoys teaching so much that he can't think of anything else he would rather do.

Explore the German Studies Program at Aquinas College! Learn about the new Major in Translation and Interpretation! Become a member of the National German Honor Society! Participate in one of AQ's German Study Abroad Programs! Engage in Internship and Research Projects! Enhance your career opportunities with a German Major!