

## Students enjoy grand tour of **Berlin**



At Right: Richard Schade, third from left, took a group of 10 students to Berlin for a bit of cultural immersion. Photos by Eli Mock

“Berlin bleibt Berlin!” (“Berlin remains Berlin”) the saying goes, and it continues to be the annual goal of the German Studies Department’s students. Founded in 2001, the program’s group of 10 hit Unter den Linden for two weeks of experiential learning.

Richard Schade made the street corners and plazas the classroom each day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., often noting points of interest with instructions like, “to your left, this!” and “to your right that!” It’s a walking city, and they walked and talked – from Kreuzberg to Charlottenburg, from the Eastside Gallery to the splendid Reichstag, from East to West and all around the town.

Students saw posters of Pope Benedict XVI, announcing his upcoming visit to the city. The heisse Phase of the Berlin elections was in full swing, and at one point Chancellor Merkel walked within arm’s length of the students. A side trip to Dresden and culture-filled nights rounded out the experience. Near departure, one student was heard to say, “Why am I going back to Cincinnati?”



## Do you ‘do Deutsch’? Tell us how

By Richard Schade



During fall quarter, everyone was “doing Deutsch” in turquoise T-shirts with bright orange “do Deutsch” logos. The German Embassy selected UC as a partner university to highlight all things

German. An official visitor from Washington, D.C., was greeted by 100 or so students in the Max Kade German Cultural Center at around-table organized by the German Club.

Students told of why they “do Deutsch.” Some international co-op returnees, for example, talked about their positive experiences work-ing in Germany for German companies, explaining how important it was for them to have learned to speak the language and to understand the culture. All participants were invited to help themselves to one of the more than 300 T-shirts generously provided by the German Embassy.

Other events included a visit to the Berlin Wall segment recently installed at the downtown Freedom Center as well as another roundtable about living in the GDR. A former elite GDR javelin star (now a UC track & field coach) told of her youth in training, and Richard Schade presented on his experiences in small-town GDR in days gone by.

When next in Cincinnati, drop in and tell us why you “do Deutsch.”



Department of German Studies  
University of Cincinnati  
PO Box 210372  
Cincinnati, OH 45221-0372

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# EXTRABLATT

A publication for the alumni and friends of the Department of German Studies

## DAAD delivers



DAAD professor Tanja Nusser recently joined the Department of German Studies. Photo by Tom Robinette

### SAVE THE DATE!

The McMicken College of Arts & Sciences requests the pleasure of your company at the 4th Annual McMicken Alumni Gala.

Join us for dinner and dancing as we honor the 2012 McMicken College Distinguished Alumni:

• **Joseph E. DiGenova**  
(‘67, BA, Political Science)

• **William** (‘74, PhD, Geology)  
and **Linda Harrison** (‘70, BS;  
‘72, MS, Geology)

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Two years ago the Department of German Studies received funding from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for a visiting professorship. The program serves to strengthen the internationalization of the educational experience for scholars as well as the students at the host institutions. With these professorships the DAAD wants to cultivate the relationships between Germany and other countries. DAAD professors are German academics who work at North American universities for up to five years at departments of German studies, political science, history, anthropology and philosophy. Currently 16 such professorships exist in North America and the University

of Cincinnati has one: Tanja Nusser. Nusser works with students who would like to go to Germany for a research trip, study abroad experience or internship. As a DAAD representative she can describe the different programs the DAAD offers on the undergrad and graduate level; on the PhD and the post-doctoral level; and for faculty members and researchers.

For more information about the DAAD programs, visit <http://daad.org/> or contact Nusser directly at [tanja.nusser@uc.edu](mailto:tanja.nusser@uc.edu).

**McMicken**  
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# From the Head

Dear Alumni,



Greetings from the University of Cincinnati and the Department of German Studies. A number of exciting things have happened during the past year. In our last newsletter I reported that the department won a grant from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) to invite a long-term visiting professor to our campus. In the meantime, we have welcomed our new faculty member, Dr. Tanja Nusser, to the department. Nusser, who was chosen through a highly competitive selection process, joined our faculty this past fall. She is an expert in modern German literature and culture, with a special interest in film. In the few months that she has been here, she already has begun to build a German film collection in the university library. You can read more about her in this newsletter. Dr. Nusser is currently teaching a graduate course on the German TV-series “Tatort” (Crime Scene), which garners rave reviews from the students.

There are comings and goings this year in the department. Professor Sara Friedrichsmeyer has retired after many years of service at the University of Cincinnati. She has had a long and distinguished career here as professor and department head, and we wish her well for the future. Fortunately for us, we do not have to do without her quite yet. She continues on as a Mc-Micken professor and teaches several classes for us every year in the spring. We are currently in the process of hiring a new tenure-track faculty member in the field of film and media studies. We had a stellar applicant pool and are certain that we will be able to add an outstanding teacher and researcher to our group. The new faculty member will join us in the fall, and I will introduce our new colleague in the next newsletter.

The department would like to thank Sandra Berg, daughter-in-law of former student Phyllis Berg, for the donation of the six lovely framed prints from the medieval Codex Manesse which are now on proud display in the department’s seminar room. Phyllis Berg, who fled Nazi Germany as a young woman, completed her PhD with professor Guy Stern in 1976 on a topic of German-Jewish literature, returned to Germany later in life and contributed to the better understanding between Germans and Jews. A plaque in honor of Dr. Phyllis Berg will soon be mounted.

This year’s Distinguished Max Kade Visiting Professor is Dr. Tanja van Hoorn from the Universität Hannover. Dr. van Hoorn is an expert in 18th century literature, in particular the connection between medicine and literature, as well as on contemporary German writers. We look forward to having her here in the spring. She is our 13th visitor sponsored by the Max Kade Foundation. We are grateful for the foundation’s continued support of our department.

Do stay in touch! If you are in town, please stop by and visit us. If you cannot come by, send us an email or call. We are always eager to hear from you.

Katharina Gerstenberger  
Professor and Head  
katharina.gerstenberger@uc.edu  
(513) 556-2751

## Honor Roll of Donors

We thank the following individuals for their generous donations to the department from Feb. 1, 2011, to Feb. 29, 2012. These gifts fund scholarships, attract and retain the finest faculty, and enrich the experiences of our undergraduate and graduate students.

Ms. Suzanne M. Asmus  
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## Meet DAAD Professor Tanja Nusser

By Tanja Nusser

In September 2011, I joined the Department of German Studies as the new DAAD Professor.

I have studied philosophy and German literature at the Freie Universität Berlin and at the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin. While working on my dissertation on German filmmaker Ulrike Ottinger, I had a research fellowship at the University of California, Berkeley.

I returned to Germany after my fellowship year at Berkeley. I was so impressed by the fellowship, I found that for years afterward I missed the Bay Area and the American academic environment. However, I chose to remain in Germany to finish my dissertation. Afterward, I worked as a Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin (assistant) at the Universities of Greifswald and Bielefeld.

In 2009 I completed my second book (which Germans call “Habilitationsschrift”) about depictions of artificial reproduction in literature and film since the middle of the 19th century. Since completing my “Habilitation,” I held visiting professorships at the University in Münster and the Free University in Berlin.

When I saw the ad for a DAAD professorship at the University of Cincinnati, I immediately decided to apply and to go back



Tanja Nusser talks with graduate students. Photo by Tom Robinette

to the United States and the American academic system. It’s a decision that’s made me very happy. I especially value the size of the department. In comparison to German Departments in Germany, the departments in the US are smaller. The smaller size makes better contact and interaction with students possible as well as closer teamwork with colleagues across the departments. This situation, I believe, supports the quality of my teaching and research in a major way.

## Student sends greetings from Austria

By Kathryn Porter

*Kathryn Porter, a master’s student, is on a Fulbright teaching fellowship in Austria. She files this report:*

For the past several months I have been braving the wilds of Tyrol. As an American studying German, life in a small village in the middle of the Alps (Wängle, located in the Bezirk Reutte, an area known as the “Außerfern” in northern Tyrol) poses a unique set of challenges—the rather unique dialect, which is almost unrecognizable as even a distant relative of High German; harsh winter weather; and the daily challenges of life in a small village, not to mention the daily Alpine hikes that seem to be expected of all residents.

Despite the challenges, my time in Tyrol has provided me with valuable language and life experience—not to mention daily views of scenery straight out of “The Sound of Music”!

My presence in Austria can be owed to the Austrian-American Education Commission (AAEC) and the Fulbright Commission, with funding from the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture. The AAEC places around 150 Americans in schools across Austria to work as English teaching assistants. For students of German, Austria may not be the first destination that comes to mind for a year abroad, but the AAEC provides a well-organized program that gives students a chance to gain valuable language and teaching experience. Assistants are given the option to teach in schools in small villages or in large cities, such as Vienna. I would highly recommend this program to any students of German seeking an experience abroad, and I would recommend a visit to Austria (yes, even the Außerfern) to anyone seeking a vacation destination in Europe.

Farewell from Austria! (Or as we say here in Tyrol: Pfiat euch!)

### What’s new with you?

Please help us update our alumni files and let your friends know what you have been up to. Visit [www.artsci.uc.edu/alumni](http://www.artsci.uc.edu/alumni) to share your news online. The information you provide will be used in future publications. You can also update your contact information, nominate a distinguished alum for recognition, or make a gift to the department.

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## Department News

### Faculty News

**Katharina Gerstenberger** published a co-edited volume titled “After the Berlin Wall: Germany and Beyond” (2011). She gave an invited talk at Cornell University in honor of her doctoral advisor, and she presented a paper on Andreas Ammer’s radio play Frost, a story about Robert Falcon Scott’s quest for the South Pole, at the German Studies Association conference. She has begun work on a new project on “Disaster Narratives: Catastrophe and History in the German Imagination.”

**Jennifer Kelley-Thierman**, the director of undergraduate studies in the department, has spent much of the past year preparing for the upcoming conversion to semesters at UC. This radical change has given the department the opportunity to review and revamp the curriculum. She is developing a series of Freshman Seminars which showcase language and culture for new A&S students. This quarter’s seminar on the Grimm Fairy Tales (adapted from Prof. Friedrichsmeyer’s lecture course) has proven particularly popular and is also in the works for Fall Semester 2012.



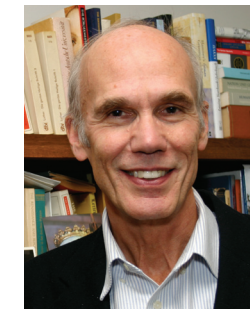
Jennifer Kelley-Thierman

Associate Professor **Todd Herzog** is a Fellow at the Charles Phelps Taft Center in 2011-12, where he is working on a book about art and life after the death of privacy. He has recently written articles on the use of counter-history in Quentin Tarrantino’s “Inglourious Basterds,” the emerging genre of English-language historical detective fiction set in Nazi Germany, and representations of Vienna and Berlin in film. In January, he assumed co-editorship of the Journal of Austrian Studies.



Todd Herzog

**Richard Schade** recently published an article in the German Studies Review on Günter Grass’s highly literary depiction of his experiences on the battlefield, and he has an article forthcoming in Colloquia Germanica on Grass’s “Die Box,” the idiosyncratic memoir of the years 1959 to 2000. He also has an encyclopedia article in press on the sixteenth-century writer Ludwig Hollonius, and he collaborated with a handpress in the bibliophile imprint of his translations of various epigrams by Lessing.



Richard Schade

**Tanja Nusser** published “Wie sonst das Zeugen Mode War: Reproduktionstechnologien in Literatur und Film” (2011). She is currently working on the depiction of animals in German literature.



Tanja Nusser

### Alumni News

**David H. Price** (MA, ’81) recently published “Johannes Reuchlin and the Campaign to Destroy Jewish Books” (Oxford University Press, 2011), that grew out of several Cincinnati experiences, including work with professor Richard Schade in 1982 and the Klau Library of Hebrew Union College. He is co-curator for an exhibition on the subject at HUC, “Miracle within a Miracle: Johannes Reuchlin and the Jewish Books Controversy.” The exhibition will then go to the Jewish Museum in Frankfurt am Main. Currently, he is head of the Department of Religion at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

**Diana Mcmenemy** (BA, ’95) attained her master’s degree in blind rehabilitation at Western Michigan University in 1997. She taught as a certified orientation and mobility specialist with students who are blind and visually impaired in the Milwaukee Public Schools. In 2004 she became outreach coordinator for the blind at the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind in St. Augustine, Fla. She is pursuing another master’s degree in assistive technology.

**Nick** (MA, ’05) and **Sabine Stollenmeyer** (nee Schmadel; MA, ’05) are teaching German at St. Paul’s School for Boys in Maryland. Nick has been at the school for seven years, and Sabine joined the faculty last year. They host many events where students are immersed in the target language and culture. Every other summer they take 15 to 20 students on an exchange to Münster in Nordrhein-Westfalen.



Nick Stollenmeyer