Dear Reader,

Welcome to our very first issue of Lobo Welt: German News for SSU!

With this newsletter, we hope to bring a little bit of culture from the German-speaking world to our campus here in Sonoma County, California. In today’s world, we see evidence each day that shows us how crucial understanding and respecting other cultures is to developing an inclusive society. Hopefully, within these pages you will gain a new appreciation for the German-speaking world, without having to learn the language! Or, if you are interested in learning to speak German, check out our German pages! We have translated our articles with help from native speakers and German students at SSU.

Enjoy!

Rebecca Meier (Editor-in-Chief, Fulbright FLTA from Germany, AY 2017-18)
Wylie Winheim (Assistant Editor)
Holly Lyon (Assistant Editor)
Andrea Aviles Cigarrostegui (Assistant Editor)
**Past Events**

**Cotati Octoberfest**
SSU's German Club *Gemütlichkeit* had planned to attend and contribute to the Cotati Oktoberfest, which was scheduled for October 14th, 2017. Due to the severe impact of the fires in Sonoma County, the event had to be cancelled. The German Club sympathizes with members of the community who were/are affected by the fires.  
#sonomastrong

**Happy Birthday!**
The Goethe-Institut in San Francisco celebrated its 50th anniversary on August 26, 2017 with an open house. This group from SSU enjoyed spending time at the event listening to German classical music by the Senior Orchestra of the German International School of Silicon Valley and the famous German poetry slam artist Julia Engelmann.  
Check out:  
www.goethe.de  
www.juliaengelmann.de

**Mini Conference at SSU during International Education Week (Nov 13-16, 2017)**

- **Monday, 11/13/2017, 2-3 p.m., 1000A Zinfandel:** “Empathy: Where Integration Starts and Islamophobia Ends?”  
An open lecture by FLTA Rebecca Meier from the University of Paderborn, Germany.

- **Tuesday, 11/14/2017, 7:15 p.m., 101 Ives Hall:** “Willkommen bei den Hartmanns” (2016)  
Fulbright FLTA Rebecca Meier will screen this hilarious and thought-provoking blockbuster on how Germans reacted to the refugee crisis.

- **Monday, 11/27/2017, 5 p.m.: Deadline for the Campus-wide Essay Contest**  
Students select one out of two topics: “The EU and USA: Partners or Competitors?” or "A Critical Look at Integration Efforts of Refugees in Germany and in the USA.” 3-4 pages, 12 pt. font, double-spaced  
Prizes: Wolfbucks with value of $300, $200, and $100.  
Check out this website for more events during the Mini Conference and detailed information:  
www.sonoma.edu/modlang/events

**Kaffeestunde**
Practice your German and learn about German culture. Everyone is welcome!  
**Tuesdays 12 - 1 p.m.**  
Charlie Brown's Café.

**DVD Dienstag - Free!**
German films with English subtitles  
Every other Tuesday,  
7:15 p.m., 1028 Stevenson  
With the help from the Center for International Education (CIE), many students have had the opportunity to study German language and culture abroad. These are their stories:

**Joe Paulukonis**

- 21, Senior
- German Cultural Studies
- Special Major
- Studied in Heidelberg for 1 Year
- Favorite German Word: der Schmetterling (butterfly)

I came to Sonoma State already planning on taking some German courses as I thought it would be interesting to learn a new language in college. After the first semester I realized how fun and rewarding it was to see my own ability to speak this new language skyrocket. I decided part way through my Freshman year of college to become a German major and study abroad during my university career.

**Josie Ockrassa**

- 21, Senior
- German Cultural Studies
- Special Major
- Studied in Tübingen for 1 Year
- Favorite German Word: der innere Schweinehund (the inner evil voice)

My time spent in Germany really accelerated my understanding and practical use of the language. Because you are required to read and write and speak in German in most facets of daily life, you are constantly immersed in the language. I became way more fluent in German during my year in Heidelberg than I could have with just taking German classes in college!

I definitely think that living in Germany improved my language skills. You have to quickly adjust to be able to communicate for your basic needs. My first month was spent living in an area where the people I spoke to daily had very little English comprehension. It helped that I had been taught the basics of the language here so I could at least navigate in my daily life.

I lived with LTA Alin Muskat here on campus, and she encouraged me to sign up for my first German class and apply to study abroad in Germany. I had never thought about studying another language or moving abroad but I did it and I grew to love and appreciate the language and culture!
If you are interested in studying abroad in Germany, contact Prof. Dr. Michaela Grobbel at grobbel@sonoma.edu and check out www.sonoma.edu/cie/study-abroad

**Features**

- **22, Grad Student**
- **German Cultural Studies Graduate**
- **Studied in Tübingen (2014/15), currently working on her Masters in Germany**
- **Favorite German Word:** Vesper (like a snack to go; Schwabisch word pronounced “Feshbahr”)

Sandra Arjona

Now life is a bit more “ordinary” or normal. It’s not a “Whoa I’m in Europe!” feeling but this is my life now, and I love it!

Since moving back to Germany, what has changed compared to your first year abroad?

Separating my trash is now second nature and when I visit my family I also try to bring some order. Also, the brunch game in Germany is on point! Even though I also enjoy the American breakfast, the style, variety, and feeling of brunching with friends in Germany is lovely.

What is specific to German society or culture that you find yourself doing outside of that sphere?

I don't believe my German would be at such a good level if I had only stayed in the US. I learned pretty much all my German in Germany. It significantly helps being confronted daily with the language. There is just no real substitute for good old-fashioned language immersion.

Has studying abroad helped your language skills?

Has studying abroad helped your language skills so far?

Definitely, not just with grammar but also colloquialisms and the slang that everyone uses. Learning a language through immersion is the best way to learn a language by far!

- **21, Senior**
- **German Cultural Studies Major**
- **currently Studying in Heidelberg**
- **Favorite German Word:** das Eichhörnchen (squirrel)

Garrett Maciel

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It is very laid back. There are no CSAs on campus to check on you. Everyone is very independent and you can do pretty much whatever you want as long as you don’t get in trouble with your neighbors.

Is there anything unique about university life?

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500 Years of Reformation

Reformation Day is a Protestant holiday that commemorates when the German monk Dr. Martin Luther supposedly nailed his proposals to the door of The All Saints’ Church in Wittenberg, Saxony, in the year 1517. These proposals, known as his 95 Theses, illuminated the falsehoods that Martin Luther found with the sale of indulgences by the Catholic Church, which granted sinners lighter punishments for their sins. Soon afterwards, Martin Luther went on to translate the Bible into German, which was distributed along with the help of the recently-developed printing press. This galvanized the spread of literacy among the common folk and also influenced the development of the standard German language. This event, along with efforts from other reformers in Europe, brought about religious and social changes throughout Europe, and later, the world.

Celebrating Reformation

This year, the town of Wittenberg celebrates the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s actions with exhibitions throughout the city, including one permanent installation established in Luther’s former home.

Unlike other years, in 2017 Germany celebrated Reformation Day as a federal holiday. At Sonoma State, the holiday was commemorated with the showing of the American-British-German film production Luther (2003) on October 31st.

“The principle behind Luther’s reformational idea is still relevant 500 years later:
To question authorities and society’s ‘norms’ is vital for fighting the exploitation of minorities and any kind of injustice.”

-- Rebecca Meier, Fulbright FLTA
German Parliamentary Election 2017

Sunday, September 24th marked an important day for the future of Germany, as citizens headed to the polls to elect a new parliament which then votes the chancellor. The conservative Christlich Demokratische Union (CDU, Christian Democratic Union) won the majority in Parliament. Angela Merkel, as the de facto leader of the Christian Democrats, will therefore most likely continue into a fourth term as Chancellor.

The far-right party Alternative für Deutschland (AfD, Alternative for Germany) was the biggest surprise, as they gained 13% of the total electoral vote and about 94 seats in the Parliament.

Experts expect the CDU to pursue the Jamaica Coalition (black, yellow, green) in partnership with the Free Democratic Party (FDP), and the Green Party.

“What I feared happened: The right-wing party Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) was voted into the German Parliament - by 13%! That amount of support is worrisome and surprising. I very much hope that the other parties as well as the German citizens will respond immediately and very clearly to any extremist and populist positions of the AfD.

We must learn from the German past and not let the democracy in Germany be undermined. We need to remain vigilant and defend our democratic values with a loud voice!”

– Prof. Dr. Michaela Grobbel

For more info check:
Deutsche Welle
Based on the eponymous novel by German author Timur Vermes, the film *Look Who’s Back* centers on Adolf Hitler, who wakes up in the year 2014 in the location of his former bunker in Berlin, the capital of Germany. Hitler (Oliver Masucci) is discovered by an aspiring journalist, Fabian Sawatzki (Fabian Busch), who hopes to land his first big story.

Sawatzki assumes Masucci to be merely a Hitler impersonator, and takes him around German cities where they interact with the public. These interactions are unscripted and filmed live, and reveal varying opinions on both Hitler and the state of politics in contemporary Germany. Masucci eventually lands roles on national television talk shows and uses his fame to once again broadcast his political agenda.

The film has received mixed reviews in the US and Germany, largely due to the controversial content. The implication that Hitler could again gain popularity in modern Germany is unsettling. Subtle humor entices the viewer to sympathize with the man who continues to call himself the Führer, but his harsh statements and cold observations encourage the audience to think more critically about him.

Seawolves can catch *Er ist wieder Da* in 20 Carson Hall on February 2nd, 2018 at 7:15 p.m. as part of the German Film Series “DVD Dienstag.”

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Mark Forster

- **Born:** Marek Ćwiertnia, 11 January 1984 in Kaiserslautern, Germany
- **Nationality:** German-Polish
- **Singer-songwriter since:** 2007
- **Hit songs:** “Sowieso,” “Wir sind groß,” “Au revoir,” “Chöre”
- **Why you should listen:** upbeat German lyrics with catchy beats!
- **Website:** www.markforster.de
Word of the Year
The word of the year in Germany for 2016 was the adjective “postfaktisch” (post-factual), especially used in the term “postfaktische Politik” (post-factual politics). “Postfaktisch” refers to those (political) statements that are based on emotions rather than facts. It is the opposite of “faktisch” (factual).

Joke:
The German teacher asks little Sabine: “Which is the grammatical case when you say ‘Studying makes me happy!’?” Sabine didn’t think for very long: “A rare case.”

In winter he is still and quiet And outside the grounds are white And when the sun begins to shine He will start to bitterly cry.

Who is he?

Kaiserschmarrn
An Austrian All-time Favorite

1. Soak the raisins in rum in a bowl for 30 mins.
2. Combine egg yolks, sugar and vanilla sugar in a bowl and mix until the mixture is a creamy yellow color.
3. Add the milk and flour to the mixture, stir to combine and then add in the raisins.
4. Beat the egg whites until stiff peaks form and then fold into the batter.
5. Heat the baking pan and add the butter until it is melted.
6. Pour the batter into the pan and bake until golden brown.
7. Turn out of the pan and dust with powdered sugar and serve. Usually served with a side of apple sauce or plum compote.
Until next time!