

William G. and Elke Durden Dickinson Program in Bremen, est. 1985

Annual Report 2018-19

Dickinson



This year, our program welcomed eight students. (Three at the beginning of October and five at the beginning of February.) They arrived in Bremen, after taking a four-week summer language course in another German-speaking city. We started the winter semester with a two-week-long orientation, thoroughly introducing the University of Bremen and the program. The students also had enough time to attend the Orientation Week of the University of Bremen and some student-organized first-semester events, such as a *city tour* and a *pub-crawl*, which helped them find friends. We counseled them extensively on their course selection and made sure beforehand that they would receive credit for them from their respective home departments.

Academics

Our students were majoring and/or minoring in German, International Studies, Environmental Studies, Biochemistry, and English. Aside from advanced language courses and sports courses, they took the following classes:

- ❖ *Political Science*: Introduction to the Political System of the Federal Republic of Germany; Introduction to Marx's Critique of Political Economy; Integration Policy: Players, Institutions, Processes; Authoritarian Regimes and Democratic Decline; German Foreign Policy; The Crises of the EU; Theories of Freedom; Social Movements and Protest; Lies, only Lies?! Bullshit, Propaganda and Ideology; Introduction to European Integration; Foreign Policy Analysis: Theories and Cases; Theorizing Capitalism from the Margins; War Crimes and Their Challenge to Legal Policy and the Politics of Memory
- ❖ *Public Health*: Introduction to Medicine
- ❖ *History*: Moral Markets, Moral Food in the 20th Century; Introduction into Modern Jewish History
- ❖ *Ecology*: Environmental Risk and Ecotoxicology
- ❖ *Cultural Studies*: Postcolonial Transformation in Namibia and Germany; Campus TV News
- ❖ *German Studies*: Constructions of Femininity in Children and Youth Literature; Introduction to Syntax
- ❖ *English-Speaking Cultures*: Key Topics in Literature: Contemporary Crime Fiction
- ❖ *Religious Studies*: Religious-Political Negotiation Processes of the German Islam Conference from 2006 to Today
- ❖ *Geography*: Project Seminar "Wollepark": Urban Gardening in Deprived Areas – A Place of Encounters and Possibilities
- ❖ *European Studies*: What is Europe and Who Is It? Findings and Methods; Global Economic Governance
- ❖ *German 340*: Comparative Cultures: USA – Germany: Every Fall, all program students take this seminar together with German students. In this course, we reconstruct and evaluate important stages in the more than 300 years of history of German-American relations. We ask in which way both cultures have mutually influenced each other. This year's edition featured: German Emigration in search for the American Dream, Anti War Protests, the Roaring Twenties, and Women's Rights Movements.

Student's comment: "When I first enrolled into the course, I was skeptical at what we would be discussing, because as an American raised in the 21st century, I've never had to think much about Germans in the context of American culture. I appreciated the way this course was able to go through every major era in U.S. history, speaking about the German presence in each. I also enjoyed hearing more about the German perspective on America (as I've never really thought before what Germans think of us... I had no idea how Americanized Germany is, but it makes sense considering the U.S. occupied Germany for many years). It was nerve-racking to complete a presentation 'auf Deutsch,' but I'm grateful I was able to get some practice before completing presentations in other classes. Overall, I feel like I learned a lot from the course and enjoyed it very much." >Liz Bodenman '20<

In addition to intensive counseling during the whole semester, we also organized a time management workshop and another one, in which our students were introduced to the specifications of the German academic system by a professional, who also explained how to prepare, research, and write a paper (called "Hausarbeit"), including correct citation styles. Some of our students had a so-called "study buddy" in one of their courses; others had tandem partners focusing on German language acquisition.

Excursions

Once again, the group went on excursions to Berlin and Vienna. We visited various museums, the Stasi archives, a Stasi prison, the German Office of the Federal Chancellor in Berlin, and Mozart's house, the Sigmund Freud Museum, castles, plus the United Nations Office Vienna. We ate cake with the last living student of Bertolt Brecht: theater director, author, and translator B.K. Tragelehn, in his Prenzlauer Berg apartment and saw the play *Mephisto* in the world-famous Viennese Burgtheater. A detailed list of those activities can be found in previous reports and on the Blog. Student's comment: "In Vienna, we learned a lot about the history of Austria and by extension Germany. My favorite part of the trip was learning about the Hapsburg dynasty, and visiting the castle in which they lived. I also enjoyed visiting Vienna's many churches. One of my other favorite parts of the trip was the day in Bratislava. I knew basically nothing about Bratislava and Slovakia, and I enjoyed learning about the city and its history." >James Moore '20<



Stasi archives



Meeting with theater director B.K. Tragelehn



German Historical Museum

5th Dickinson College Public Lecture (DCPL)

On June 5, 2019, Andy Wolff, Political Science Professor at Dickinson and Resident Director of the European Studies Program in Bologna, Italy, gave the fifth Dickinson College Public Lecture. Prof. Wolff's talk posed questions about the current state of the transatlantic approach to the security of Europe. The lecture took place in the tower hall of the Bremen Cotton Exchange (Bremer Baumwollbörse) in front of Bremen citizens. Prof. Wolff's lecture was preceded by comments of our distinguished guest Richard Yoneoka, U.S. Consul General in Hamburg. The subsequent discussion was moderated by Prof. Dr. Ulrich Franke, member of the Institute for Intercultural and International Studies at the University of Bremen.

The DCPL is organized by Dr. Janine Ludwig, Academic Director of the Dickinson in Bremen Program, and Neil van Siclen, President of the Carl Schurz German-American Club, Bremen. Also present was Angie

Harris, Associate Dean of Students, who visited the program. This was the announcement of the talk: “The transatlantic approach to providing security for Europe, i.e. American involvement through NATO and deepening European integration is being challenged internally and externally. The United States has become hesitant to lead NATO, Russia is an assertive and revanchist power, and the European Union is in danger of fragmenting. How does Germany fit into this new security environment? What policy choices does Germany have for the construction of a new European security architecture? As Europe’s politics and security become more unstable, Germany must make difficult decisions that will impact the future of Europe and the transatlantic alliance.”



Mr. Wolff and Mr. Yoneoka



Angie Harris (top left) with students



Mr. van Sichen and Dr. Ludwig with their guests

Working and Interning in Bremen

Our students were also engaged in more practical approaches to living abroad by working or volunteering for local institutions. One student interned with the International Heiner Müller Society, attended an academic conference on Müller and another one on Brecht and was able to publish articles on them. Two more students who completed internships wrote comments for this report (an extensive list of choices of jobs, internships, community engagement, grants, and independent studies can be found online on the Blog – August 1, 2017¹):

❖ *Urban Gardening in Delmenhorst* – Liz Bodenman ('20)

“Over the course of the Spring Semester, I had the pleasure of participating in an Urban Gardening course called *Projektseminar Wollepark*, in which students would travel to the nearby town of Delmenhorst once a week and participate in a project to help improve the conditions of the public park. 20 students in total, we were expected to break up into groups and come up with projects according to our interests. My group was interested in the perception of Garden Culture, and what certain people idealize when imagining their perfect garden. The idea behind this was to go to Delmenhorst and ask its residents (who are a very diverse group of immigrants and refugees) to draw what they pictured the perfect garden to be. The end result was a published photo book containing pictures of the drawings and participants, as well as a summary of our findings.

I enjoyed this course because it was a break from the university curriculum and offered an opportunity that Dickinson does not offer. I was able to go out into a community I was unfamiliar with, practice my German, and befriend other *Ausländer* like myself who were starting a new life here. It was also interesting to learn about permaculture, building structures to attract certain insects desirable for the garden, and develop a basic understanding of urban planning. In the future, I highly recommend students take this course if it is added again. Otherwise, for those with an interest in gardening, urban planning, or simply volunteering with children and the elderly, take the train to Delmenhorst and stop by the *Nachbarschaftszentrum Wollepark*. You will surely be welcomed with open arms.”

¹ <http://blogs.dickinson.edu/bremen/2017/08/01/summary-of-student-activities-jobs-grants-internships-community-service/>

❖ *Internship at Clinic – Sandi Kadric ('20)*

"I interned at *Klinikum Lilienthal* for two weeks in March and every Friday from April to July. I shadowed a nurse anesthiologist. They are very nice, and they are very helpful in explaining procedures during surgeries. I had the chance to prepare the patient before surgery such as setting up the medications, blood pressure, EKG, and IV bag. I actually had patient contact and interaction which is difficult to do in America especially in a hospital setting. Everyone spoke ONLY German with me (except for a couple of words here and there), and yes, I had to ask questions to the patients, and it helped me to learn to be confident. I learned different methods of certain surgeries. For example, patients lose more blood during knee replacement surgeries than in America. I had the option to choose what surgeries to watch, so I saw a variety of surgeries such as spine surgery, joint replacements, general surgeries, etc. I learned the differences between the German and American health care systems, and I would recommend anyone who is pre-med to do this internship because – aside from learning so much – you can receive a letter at the end and put it on your medical school application. It will help you look diverse and stand out from other applicants."



Wollepark



Klinikum Lilienthal

Other Cultural and Social Events

As always, several events took place during the year. For example, we attended a Werder Bremen soccer game; took part in a cooking workshop; and held our annual Christmas celebration with current and former Dickinson-in-Bremen students as well as future and former OSAs (Bremen students who studied at Dickinson). Additionally, the group took part in the Bremen Night Run, a 5k with a route through the inner city. During the year, the Carl Schurz German-American Club in Bremen organized two big events: We had the opportunity to celebrate Thanksgiving and Independence Day with the German-American community of Bremen – Thanksgiving is a fancy dinner and 4th of July a rather casual potluck party.

Meeting a famous politician: Finally, we had a special event this year: We visited Dr. Rudolf Seiters and his wife in their home in a small town near Bremen. Seiters had been the Federal Minister for Special Affairs, Head of the Office of the German Chancellery of the FRG under Chancellor Helmut Kohl from April 1989 to November 1991, Minister of the Interior until 1993, Vice President of the German Bundestag from 1998 to 2002, and President of the German Red Cross until 2017. Dr. Seiters discussed the events of 1989/90 with our students and shared deep political insights into the highest positions at the time.



Bremen Night Run



Autograph Session



Cooking Workshop



With Dr. Rudolf Seiters in Papenburg

For more info, impressions, and pictures, please visit our blog: <http://blogs.dickinson.edu/bremen/blog/>