
Meet Your Departmental Student Advisor!

Megan Bauer
German

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Hometown: Royal Oak, MI

Majors: German and Political Science

Study Abroad: Kenya

Favorite Ice Cream Flavor: Moose Tracks (or good old chocolate)

Best Adjective to Describe You: Curious

In 10 words or less, why should someone want to be a part of this department?

Germans and German culture are everywhere.

When did you know you wanted to study this area? What pathway led you to this department?

I have been learning German since middle school which gave me a “leg up” and I didn’t want to waste all the work I had already done. When I came to “K” I was also considering being an engineer, and German is the language to know in that field. Especially if you’re from Detroit, like me.

What is the best way to get (and stay) connected to this department?

The professors are what make this department so good. They are knowledgeable and love students, so talk to them. If you think something is cool, or want to know more about it or need help with an idea they will be enthusiastic. And they are very approachable.

What would you miss the most if you were no longer a part of this department?

I would miss the atmosphere of the department and the connections to the rest of society that are everywhere and that I’m always learning about.

What are your career aspirations/next steps after K?

My career directions are nowhere near firm. I am thinking of taking some time to work for a year or two while I decide if I really want to go to law school or in what capacity I want to go back to school. The aforementioned intermediary work will hopefully be with a social justice-oriented non-profit, or perhaps for a green lobby group. Ideally, I’d like to find a job in Germany for that time to continue improving my language skills.

What has been the biggest surprise you have encountered at K?

Every year I am caught off guard by the fact that you can never really think too far ahead. I used to think that I was being overambitious or over realistic about my dreams and consequently downsized them—I thought it would be better to just focus on the ‘here and now’. But every year I realize that I could never have thought too far ahead and that I needed to start planning yesterday—as opposed to today—for the things I want to do tomorrow.

How does your department connect to your other interests and activities?

German and Germany are major players in history and they are major players in today’s politics. German culture infiltrates our culture everywhere, and other cultures as well. Even studying abroad in Kenya my knowledge of Germans grew, and in ways I would not have expected.

What has been your favorite class at K? Why?

Tim Kailing’s Life Is Liquid because it connected my science-minded brain with my political background and learning at a practical level. Or Dr. Jennifer Einspahr’s Feminist Political Theories because it taught me a lot about the power structures I now see everywhere and it helped re-ignite my forgotten feminist roots and belief in myself.

What is your SIP?

In some capacity it will discuss the validity of Germany’s reputation as environmentally progressive. It is in the political science department.
