



# USAC Lüneburg Fall 2015





## Arrival, Move-In, and Orientation

The fall USAC students arrived on September 3rd in Hamburg tired, but excited to finally be in Germany. After a bus ride to Lüneburg, it was time to move into housing. The students were either brought to their apartments by local students, or picked up by their host families. The next morning, the semester officially began with a guided walking tour of Lüneburg, during which the students were given an overview of the 1000-year-old Hanseatic city and its rich history. Orientation continued at Leuphana University, the students' host university for the semester. The students went on a tour of the campus and learned about German culture, the city, the program, and dealing with cultural differences.



Sarah Hoffman (Denison University) and Justine Nader (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo) check in with Resident Director Dr. Stefanie Seewald



The students get a guided tour of Lüneburg



Kyle Kao (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo) meets his host family.



Loren Deer (Wright State University), Emily Garrett (Boise State University), Owen Kays-Erdmann (Washington State University), and Damien Yarlott (Boise State University) play a game during orientation

## Welcome Reception

This semester, USAC held a potluck-style Welcome Reception for all of the students and host families. Host families brought a variety of dishes, and students were asked before departure to bring a typical American candy. The students enjoyed trying the dishes the German families made, and the German families enjoyed trying American delicacies such as Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, Laffy Taffy, and Candy Corn. It was a great opportunity for the students and families to get to know each other, and an event USAC is excited to continue in the future.



Ryan Tracy (Loyola University Chicago) and Reece Gibb (University of Nevada, Reno) speaking with a host family



Thomas Aggeles (College of Charleston) talks to one of the host fathers

## Orientation Field Trip: Hamburg



As the final part of orientation, the students went on a field trip to the nearby city of Hamburg, a thriving city of 1.8 million. The city was busier than usual partly due to the Blue Harbor Festival happening that day, but the students were still able to enjoy a guided tour of the city as well as a few hours of free time to have lunch, enjoy the weather, and see the sights.

Left: A group of USAC students in front of the fountain of the Hamburg town hall.



## Field Trip: Bremen



Cameron Hallin (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo) with the Bremen Musicians

One of the USAC-organized field trips in October was to the nearby city of Bremen, known for its association with the Brothers Grimm fairy tale, *"The Town Musicians of Bremen,"* in which a donkey, a dog, a cat, and a rooster set out for Bremen to become musicians.

Bremen also hosts a historic market place with the town hall and statue of Roland (UNESCO World Heritage Sites), an impressive medieval quarter with twisting narrow streets, and various museums. The students received a guided city tour, had some free time to explore the city and eat lunch, and then visited the Bremen House of History, where actors perform chapters of Bremen's history.



Reece Gibb (University of Nevada, Reno), Emily McNamee (Boise State University), Corinne Harvey (University of Iowa), Sandra Walker (Boise State University), and Lucas Gallup (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) in the Bremen House of History



Jacob Cortez (Boise State University) poses with Bremen's century-old windmill



Kelly Tiedemann (Loyola University Chicago) and Alison Eubanks (University of Toledo) listen on the guided tour of Bremen





## Field Trip: Celle

USAC's organized field trip in December was to Celle to visit the castle, the Christmas market, and see the red and white half-timbered houses in the Altstadt. The students were given an interactive tour of the Celle Castle and had free time in the city to explore the various stalls at the Christmas market – festive treats and drinks, traditional German handcrafts, and plenty of Christmas decorations and gifts filled the streets with holiday cheer.



Thomas Ageles's  
(College of Charleston)  
crowning moment in the  
Celle Castle



Sarah Maier (University of Nevada, Reno)  
and Jayme Schlimper (University of  
Houston) enjoying a treat at the Christmas  
market



Sandra Walker (Boise State University), Corinne  
Harvey (University of Iowa), and Emily McNamee  
(Boise State University)



Astrid Miller  
(University of  
Nevada, Las Vegas)  
and Liz Schoppelrei  
(Wright State  
University) in front  
of the Celle Castle



Emma Satterfield (University of Idaho), Bethani Meeks (University of  
Idaho), and Sarah Hoffman (Denison University) practice their curtsies

## USAC Classes and Class Activities

This semester, in addition to intensive German language courses, students were allowed to enroll in a variety of different German and European Studies courses: *German Conversation*; *German Cinema*; *Introduction to German Literature*; *Ethnic Conflict and Diversity in Europe*; *German-Speaking Europe and Its Cultures*; *The European Union: Processes, Dynamics, and Structures*; *International Affairs since 1945*; and *In Search of German Roots: Tracing Your Family Genealogy*.

Many of these classes had field trips throughout the semester. The *International Affairs* and *European Union* courses had the opportunity to visit the headquarters of *Der Spiegel*, one of Germany's largest weekly news publications. The students received a presentation about journalism and the history of the magazine.



Lauren Irick (California State University, Chico), Erika Hahne (Adrian College), and Sarah Gaddis (Loyola University Chicago) at *Der Spiegel*

The students in *German-Speaking Europe and Its Cultures* visited an integration course for immigrants and refugees at the local



In the Lüneburg Museum

Volkshochschule. The USAC students were able to ask the participants in the integration course about their experiences in Germany, their reasons for moving, and any challenges they have faced. The students in this class also visited the new Lüneburg city museum. The students led the tour through the museum themselves, as each student in the class presented a different aspect of Lüneburg history.

*Ethnic Conflict and Diversity in Europe* and *In Search of German Roots: Tracing Your Family Genealogy* visited the German Emigration center in Bremerhaven, an interactive museum in which the students learned about Germans who immigrated to the US.

Finally, the students in *International Affairs* visited the Institute for Theology and Peace in Hamburg for a presentation and discussion on the use of armed drones. The class also visited the nearby Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial.



Angie Langdon (Texas State Univ.), Kyle Leafe (Univ. of New Hampshire), Emily Garrett (Boise State Univ.), Owen Kays-Erdmann (Washington State), Ryan Tracy (Loyola Univ.), Edgar Mariscal (Roosevelt Univ.), Sarah Hoffman (Denison Univ.), and Bradley Davis (Univ. of South Alabama) at the Institute for Theology and Peace



## Outside the Classroom

### *Explore Lüneburg, Explore Germany*



Corinne Harvey (Univ. of Iowa)  
with a prize of movie theater  
tickets for playing Explore  
Lüneburg

This semester, the USAC team developed a game to encourage students to visit lesser-known sights in Lüneburg and Lower Saxony. The students were given prompts through the USAC Facebook group to complete challenges such as taking a photo with a monument or answering a trivia question. The students earned points for completing challenges and were awarded prizes such as a postcard cookbook and movie theater tickets, with a grand prize being awarded at the end of the semester to the “Weltmeister.”

### *Refugees in Germany*

Germany has been in the headlines the past few months since it opened its borders to refugees, and even Lüneburg has played its part in welcoming the refugees to the country. Leuphana University’s Bridging Program allows refugees who need to continue their university education to enroll in classes at Leuphana, and USAC was able to open its *European Union* course for a Syrian refugee, who the students were excited to work alongside in class.

USAC students were also eager to help refugees through volunteer work, and several were able to contribute their time at a clothing sorting facility in Hamburg, where they processed donated clothing and other items for refugees.



Astrid Miller,  
(University of  
Nevada, Las  
Vegas), Emma  
Satterfield  
(Univ. of Idaho)  
and Erika  
Hahne (Adrian  
Coll.) sorting  
clothes for  
refugees at a  
center in  
Hamburg



## *Activities through Leuphana*

Throughout the semester, USAC students were able to join numerous activities and groups offered by Leuphana and the International Office. For example, a few USAC students enjoyed participating in a Multicultural Lantern Festival, an old German tradition in which people walk through the streets with colorful, handmade lanterns. USAC students were allowed to go on the field trips hosted by the International Office, such as their tour of Berlin. Other students sat in on Leuphana classes and lectures in various subjects, such as *Teaching German as a Foreign Language*.

Many USAC students were able to benefit from Leuphana's Tandem program, during which a German native speaker and an English native speaker meet and speak for 45 minutes in German and 45 minutes in English. The students participated in Tandem either through the *German Conversation* course or on their own, and they each had a unique experience getting to know a local German student and practicing their language skills outside of the classroom.

As always, the end of the semester came far too quickly, but the students had a full and fulfilling semester while they were in Lüneburg.



Emma Satterfield (Univ. of Idaho)  
Erika Hahne (Adrian Coll.), and  
Sarah Maier (Univ. of Nevada,  
Reno) creating paper lanterns for  
the Multicultural Lantern Festival

Photo credits: USAC Staff

Cover Photos (from top left):

- Emily McNamee (Boise State Univ.), Erika Hahne (Adrian Coll.), Noah Conger (Boise State Univ.), Nick Ferronato (Boise State Univ.), and Lucas Gallup (Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas) on the beach at Travemünde, near Lübeck
- Anjelica Langdon (Texas State Univ., San Marcos) in Hamburg
- Sarah Hoffman (Denison Univ.) at the Christmas market in Celle
- Alexander Carrier (Texas A&M Univ.) and Josefina Cruz (Universidad Nacional Andrés Bello) finding Lüneburg's *Gradierwerk* for an "Explore Lüneburg" challenge
- USAC students in front of the Lüneburg Rathaus during orientation
- Jayme Schlimper (Univ. of Houston) and Jaime Lockard (Loyola Univ. Chicago) with the statue of the Musicians of Bremen
- Thomas Aggeles (Coll. Of Charleston) looking at the Bremen Cathedral
- Emily Garrett (Univ. of Nevada, Reno), Emma Satterfield (Univ. of Idaho), Samuel Funk (Univ. of Idaho), and Kristen Dumanski (Univ. of Nevada, Reno) on the guided tour of Lüneburg
- Gary Adkins (Ohio Northern Univ.) with his tandem partner in Lüneburg
- Students in the *International Affairs* and *European Union* classes at *Der Spiegel* in Hamburg
- Sarah Maier (Univ. of Nevada, Reno) with the Leuphana sign on campus
- Astrid Miller (Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas) looking at gingerbread hearts at the Christmas market in Celle.