The Max Kade German House

at

The Ohio State University

You are cordially invited
to the
dedication of

The Max Kade German House

at

The Ohio State University
141 West Eleventh Avenue
Columbus, Ohio

Friday, October 11, 1996
5:00 p.m.

Reception will follow immediately
after the dedication.

Please RSVP to 292-1882.
German House builds fluency

11-3-72
By Mary Wachowiak

It's a custom in Germany, not to mention the remainder of Europe, to always greet a fellow person whether you know him or not.

If any students walked into the German House (184 E. 15th Ave.), on the first day of Autumn Quarter, hesitant to express friendship through the German language to their fellow housemates, they've lost that feeling by now.

"Guten Tag. Wie geht es Ihnen?" (Hello. How are you?) is the familiar phrase heard today throughout the house, and German students not only help each other with work or problems once in a while, but continually express interest in other housemates in everyday life, according to Michael Steve, head resident of "Das Deutsche Haus."

"The main purpose of the German House is to have students live the German language by speaking it as much as possible," Steve said.

In order to accomplish this, students needed a central place as a living area, for which the house, formerly a boarding house for women, provided the solution.

Last year, the German students occupied two suites in Lincoln Tower. Speaking German was no problem in the confines of the suites, but once students stepped into the hall, the pressure of having to continually speak English with non-German students defeated the purpose of living the German language, according to Steve.

Furthermore, German students had no arrangement to eat together in Lincoln Tower. In the house, students have one kitchen where groups of five or six eat at alternate times still conversing in German.

The 184 E. 15th Ave. address was chosen as the ideal house to suit these needs because of its central location, large rooms, spacious kitchen, sturdy construction, numerous fire escapes and abundance of windows and natural light, which gives it a German atmosphere, according to Steve.

The house is presently occupied by 22 students and is coed, with women living on the first and third floors and men on the second floor. The group is mostly undergraduates and has two native German speakers: an exchange student from Bonn and a graduate student emigree to the United States.

Prerequisites for living in the house include being a registered student at the University, submitting an application, a personal interview and having the willingness to "live and speak the German language on a day-to-day basis," Steve said.

Members from the German House constantly entertain faculty members and friends with their proficiency in German. Steve said. The most recent event was an October festival with a native German dinner of potato salad, sausages and beer, along with rap sessions and games.

"The great advantage of these activities is that even those visitors who have never heard a word of German before they stepped into the house have picked up some German phrases and thrown them back to us when they've returned," Steve said. "It's good practice for all of us."

Students in the house are enthusiastic about the German living experience. Richard Comstock, a sophomore from Dover, said he was nervous about making mistakes when he first began to speak German in the house.

Now, he ad-libs in English when he can't think of a German word and fellow housemates help out by providing him with the correct word.

Louis Marrero, a sophomore from Akron, sees the German experience as beneficial in terms of future usage.

"Communicating every day with others in German will be helpful for those students who will one day go to Germany. They'll be able to carry on a normal conversation with the native people," he said.

The only problem confronting the German House is the need to develop an identity for itself on campus. Steve said
Kade House helps immersion

By Shelly Rashid
Lantern staff writer

Ohio State students who want to be totally immersed in German culture have a home.

Student's living at the Max Kade German House, 141 W. 11th Ave., all share a common bond, learning the German language and culture.

The house, which is the only campus sponsored cultural and language house at OSU, is in its second quarter of existence.

"German is a huge thing we have in common," said Anwyn Eriksen, a sophomore majoring in German, who lives in the Kade House. "We all speak German around the house. That's the idea."

The nine students living in the Kade House are either German majors or minors. One is a graduate student in German.

"About half of us have been to Germany and we wanted to live here to fix our rusty skills," Eriksen said. "The other half wants to go Germany. This is their practice."

Jon Byrd, a senior minoring in German, said living in the house is an extension of the skills learned in class.

"You get more of the daily expressions in German like, 'Hurry up and get out of the bathroom.' Things you would not learn in the classroom," he said.

The house is also the center for many events sponsored by the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, said Heath Hughes, a sophomore majoring in German, international studies, and political science.

"It is here for us, but open for the German Department to have activities," he said.

Included in these activities is the German Club's Kaffeestunde, or coffee hour, that is held on the first Wednesday of every month.

German art and photography is also displayed in the house and many German natives have spoken at the house, Hughes said.

Byrd said the house also has film showings and sponsors German Club receptions.

The once privately owned house on south campus was bought last year by OSU, said Bernhard Fischer, head of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures.

The department then asked the Max Kade Foundation of New York City to fund the renovation of the house. The foundation donated $240,000 to the house, Fischer said.

Max Kade was a prominent German-American businessman in the early 1900's, Byrd said.

"He left an endowment for things of this nature. Things that would strengthen German-American relations," he said.

The Max Kade Foundation was begun in 1944 and there are currently houses or centers at Penn State, the University of Wisconsin, the University of Southern California, Colgate University, the University of Massachusetts, Indiana University and Oberlin College.

To live in the house, the students had to submit an application.

All of the students must have completed at least the first three German classes at OSU and also had to write an essay stating why they wanted to live in the house, Byrd said.

Byrd is currently creating a website on the Internet about the house and foundation.

The students currently living in the house range in ages from 18-25 years old.

The house was dedicated in October of 1996 and the students moved into the house.