

**AYA**

SUMMER 2019

# AUSTRIA

ACADEMIC YEAR ABROAD



## Letter from Salzburg, June 2019

In another few weeks, AYA Salzburg 2018-19 will come to a close. I would love to say to this moment in time: "Verweile doch, du bist so schön!" (Yes, we went to see Faust I at the Landestheater!) It has been another wonderful year in Salzburg, my eighth and last year directing the AYA program.

The year was filled with excursions, often led by our geography instructor Fritz Baier, including orientation walks through Salzburg and daylong excursions into the countryside, e.g. to the Dürrnberg salt mines and Keltic museum in Hallein and to the Nationalpark Hohe Tauern, where we went snow-shoeing. In the fall we went to Vienna for the traditional week-end stay. This year we celebrated Thanksgiving at St. Sebastian and resumed our old custom of inviting the instructors and friends of the program. The students prepared dinner with turkey and all the trimmings in the dormitory kitchen for some 50 guests. Another highlight of the year was our five-day trip to Berlin at the end of May.

New this year was the introduction of European career sessions with presentations by AYA alumni who live and work in Austria and Germany. Dan McMakin (M.A. 2011), who is a district sales manager for PFM Medical

*Fritz Baier with students on the Mönchsberg*



in Cologne, gave the first of two presentations. He explained what he does and how he used his degree and study-abroad experience to find a job in Germany. Subsequently Dan graciously allowed several of our students to shadow him on business trips to Vienna and Munich. At the second European careers session Kimme Scherer (M.A. 2005), who lives in Salzburg, spoke about her experience as a translator in Austria.

Extremely gratifying for me this year has been having so much contact with former AYA participants, first in summer 2018 – at the 50-year celebration and during the Salzburg summer program, which I directed – then throughout the year as many alumni travelling through Salzburg stopped by. To name a few: Amy Young (M.A. 1994), Jenn Hesse (M.A. 2011), Brian Pfaltzgraff (dual M.A. German/Music 1994) and, most recently, Kenneth Sponsler (AYA 1977-78).

We are now at the end of the year in Austria, and it is a pleasure to reflect back on how much ground we've covered as a group – through the courses, excursions, internships, and through the friendships and personal travels. There were certainly ups and downs; life abroad is hardly a walk in the park... which is, after all, the point.

I would like to end this letter by thanking the wonderful team of Austrian colleagues in our AYA Program, who continue to give tirelessly of themselves inside and outside the classroom. I would also like to thank this year's enthusiastic and kind group of undergraduate and graduate students for a fun and smooth year in Salzburg! I wish everyone a relaxing summer and the students a good transition back to life in the USA!

Herzliche Grüße aus Salzburg!

Christina Guenther

*In the Nonnberggasse*



Guest Editor: Dr. Margy Gerber

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COLLEGE OF **Arts** and **Sciences**

**BGSU**

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY



# Student Comments | Experiencing Salzburg

## Here is a sampling of comments from students in this year's program:

"The city of Salzburg is one of the most beautiful cities I've seen. You can see the Alps from the university building. Universität Salzburg has an incredibly diverse student population, and I have made friends with people from all over the world – Hungary, Germany, the Czech Republic, Finland, to name a few. My internship at a local bakery has made me feel more in touch with Austrian culture and the language, and the locals are all incredibly kind in helping me better my German. One of my favorite excursions took us to the National Park Hohe Tauern where we snow-shoed through the hills and valleys. Others have told me, and I know myself, that this year has been a huge personal growth experience for me. Studying in Europe is very different from in the U.S. in that the students are much more independent – there is also no centralized campus. I feel more confident about my decision making, which was very difficult for me before this year."

–Monona Martin

"I've really enjoyed learning about the differences in culture here. But above all else, I appreciate what I've learned about myself throughout this experience [...]. I feel that people in the US are cut off from the rest of the world in a way, and we don't really realize it until we step outside of our little corner of the world. Although all of us are human, we're so different from each other, sometimes in the most unexpected ways, and it's so much fun to have the opportunity to interact with these differences."

–Calli Randolph

"Salzburg is a little city, so it feels quickly like home – you run into classmates everywhere and recognize people at the supermarket or on the train. It's easy to get connected through the university's Buddy System, the DaF courses and the dorms. Internships are a great opportunity to use German in a work environment, and to meet and network with people working in a field that you want insight into. During my internship at the university's International Office I got to attend meetings regarding the new Austrian visa requirements, advise Austrian students going to the US, help design an ERASMUS survey, give a presentation for the university's International Day, translate and edit part of the university's website, and help organize a photo exhibit!"

–Taylorann Lenze

"It is important to experience culture shock at least once. It gets you out of your comfort zone and really challenges you to develop perseverance. Being here gave me the chance to reflect on myself and learn what about me is valuable and admirable – what makes me different. I learned and did a lot of planning, budgeting, and contingency planning. And I got to see beautiful places. I had mishaps, some really bad homesickness, which eventually taught me how to keep my chin up and evaluate and appreciate my wins."

–Zoe Oswald

*Homemade pies for Thanksgiving*



*A pensive moment at the Wall Museum in Berlin*



*And here we are in Vienna!*



*In the glass dome of the Berlin Reichstag*





# Announcing the 2019 AYA Salzburg Reunion at BGSU during Homecoming: Sept. 14, 2019

Last year we started the tradition of an annual AYA reunion during BGSU's Homecoming Weekend. This year's date is Saturday, Sept. 14.

The day will start at 10 a.m. with a "Meet and Greet" brunch on the porch of Shatzel Hall on the old campus – an opportunity to meet old friends and make the acquaintance of AYA alumni from other groups and current BGSU students in the German Club.

A leisurely walk through campus to the Homecoming tents sponsored by Arts and Sciences and the Office of International Programs/Partnerships is planned for the early afternoon. German Club guides will point out/explain new buildings and other campus changes along the way.

For football fans, the game BGSU vs. Louisiana Tech begins at 3 p.m. Those not wishing to attend the game can relax with fellow AYA alumni, have coffee (and Kuchen) at Grounds for Thought on Main Street or raise a glass at the BG Beer Works (a new local brewery on N. Grove Street), or simply visit old haunts on campus or in town.

In the evening, AYA alumni are invited to dinner "chez Landgraf," at the home of Dr. Edgar Landgraf and his family.

We hope to see you on Sept. 14! Bring along snapshots from your year(s) in Salzburg!

To better plan the reunion, we have prepared an RSVP form for the day's events, which you can access and return at: <https://www.bgsu.edu/arts-and-sciences/world-languages-and-cultures/languages/german/study-abroad-salzburg/register.html>

**For more information about the reunion, please contact Dr. Edgar Landgraf ([elandgraf@bgsu.edu](mailto:elandgraf@bgsu.edu))**

**For tickets to the game and hotel information, see the BGSU Homecoming Site: <https://events.bgsu.edu/homecoming>**

*AYA Homecoming reunion 2018.*

## AYA Austria Alumni Reunite at BGSU Homecoming

### Lisa Lipcamon's Report on the 2018 Homecoming Reunion

The AYA Austria Alumni Reunion at BGSU's 2018 Homecoming was a rousing success! The weekend kicked off on Friday evening at AYA Austria alum Eric Hise's Bar in Genoa, Ohio (near Bowling Green). Beer, wine, and pizza were very generously on the house; a good time was had by all. On Saturday morning the "Meet and Greet" on the porch of Shatzel Hall moved indoors due to the chilly temperatures. At this well attended gathering Dr. Raymond Craig, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, addressed the group. He shared memories of his own experiences abroad and expressed his strong support for study abroad programs. The university's new degree program, the MA in European Studies, was also introduced by German Professor Dr. Edgar Landgraf.

Linda Van Blaricom, Adjunct German Instructor and past Summer Program Director presented Dr. Craig and Dr. Landgraf with AYA Austria Celebrating 50 Years Polo-shirts on behalf of the alumni. A campus tour and lunch at the Homecoming tents sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences and the Office of International Programs and Partnerships showcased changes around campus.

After several hours of independent exploration/free time during which some attended the football game, while others visited a coffeehouse, brewpub, etc., the group reconvened at the Landgraf residence.

The pièce de résistance, an amazing dinner spread prepared single-handedly by Angela Landgraf, awaited.

As the evening wound down the alumni entrusted a framed copy of the Salzburger Nachrichten's article about Bowling Green and Salzburg to Dr. Landgraf with a mandate to display it at Shatzel Hall.



# ALUMNI NEWS 2019

We received some 125 questionnaire responses from AYA Austria and summer program alums. Only 4 of the 50 groups since 1968 are not represented. And even these 4 years have been represented in recent AYA Newsletters. Thank you! This time the questionnaire asked about skills acquired abroad that have been useful in later life. As you will see, there is uniformity in the answers: adaptability, tolerance, accepting difference, empathy reoccur, as do gaining a global perspective, independent thinking and self-reliance. That is, precisely the goals we set for the AYA Austria program!

## Summer 1967 (BGSU's first summer program in Salzburg) Director Dzidra Shllaku

**Larry Snavley** lives in Clifton Park, New York. Before retiring, he was vice-president for government and community relations at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, after having filled administrative positions at Syracuse University and the University of Toledo. Larry earned B.A. and M.A. degrees at BGSU and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Toledo College of Law. He is a member of "die Gruppe" – mostly comprised of alumni from the first summer program and the first AYA program – which founded the Dzidra Shllaku Scholarship Fund. This close-knit group will hold their next biennial reunion in Texas in February 2020.  
E-mail: lsnavley@nycap.rr.com

## 1968-1969 (First AYA Group) Director Walter Morris

**Jill Saunders** now lives in Spanish Fort, Alabama. Before her retirement she worked as a medical technician in Miamisburg, Ohio. Remarking on skills she learned studying abroad: "Self-confidence to take care of myself in almost any situation." She would love to hear from others in her group.  
E-mail: jillsaunders731@gmail.com

**Bill Weis** lives in Seattle, Washington, where he is professor of management at Seattle University. He holds a Ph.D. degree in business administration from the University of Washington. Every summer Bill takes grad students to the Dolomite mountains in Südtirol for a course in emotional intelligence (EQ); they engage in EQ building exercises while hiking in the mountains and being exposed to German. In regard to skills learned during his

own study abroad in Salzburg, Bill writes: "I think the skill of adaptation is critical – as is being able to maintain some equanimity in the face of uncertainty." Bill is a member of "die Gruppe."  
E-mail: billweis@seattleu.edu

## 1969-1970 Director Ursula Lawson (Ohio University)

**Dale Knepper** is retired and living in Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan. He previously owned a guest lodge in Canada, where he used German with guests from German-speaking countries. "They were always surprised to find someone who could speak their language, and it always surprised me how much German I remembered."  
E-mail: dale.knepper@yahoo.com

**Karen May** lives in Nanuet, New York and is a retired IT professional. Since retirement she and her husband have been travelling extensively. In regard to life skills gained abroad in Salzburg: "Learning the skill of being in a new place – being adventurous, going beyond where I might stop, and being comfortable in a strange situation." She especially remembers her daily walk across the Salzach on the footbridge with a stop at the bakery before her next class. "I know, and I knew then, that Salzburg was a defining moment in my life."  
E-mail: karenleemay@optonline.net

**Joyce (Long) Stewart** is a retired teacher, living in Nashville, Tennessee. She began her career as a paraprofessional in the area of learning disabilities; in her 40s she returned to university studies to get a master's degree in teaching and Montessori elementary certification, and taught for over 20 years. A few of her retirement activities: learning Spanish, playing in a steel drum band with other seniors, tutoring a Vietnamese woman. Important skills learned in Salzburg: "A broadening of perspective and acceptance of other cultures."  
E-mail: joyces2000@yahoo.com

## 1970-1971 Director Herbert Gauerke

**Barbara (Citino) Hans** lives in Salem, Ohio. Now retired, she taught high school German in Beloit, Ohio for 37 years, only to have her successful program (100 students/4 levels) dropped from the curriculum after her retirement. She is still in contact with Robert Hazel und Charles and Joellen Brugger.  
E-mail: barbarahans68@yahoo.com

**Steve Harris** (Fall Semester) lives in White Stone, Virginia. Trained as a lawyer (J.D. and L.L.M degrees), Steve has long pursued his love of polka and waltz music and since 2013 is the owner of the Vitak-Elsnic Company, America's main publisher of music in the polka genre. He plays trombone in the Vitak-Elsnic Band. About his stay in Salzburg: "I gained a whole new

*Bill Weis (r.) hiking with students in the Dolomites*







Steve Harris playing his trombone

appreciation for the world – some cultures may be different from mine, but ‘different’ does not mean ‘wrong.’” Steve is one of the founders of “die Gruppe”, which established the Dzidra Shllaku Scholarship Fund in 1998.  
E-mail: sdharris01@aol.com

**Karlyn (Korsgaard) McPike** lives in Edgerton, Ohio. A retired German and French teacher, she frequently led student groups to German-speaking countries. Today she leads adult groups to Europe, and travels extensively with her husband. She remembers walking around Salzburg with the art history instructor, who wanted them to look at only one style of art or architecture on a given day: “He would tell us to look away or cover our eyes. We must have looked like a strange group.” An important Salzburg lesson: “I learned how to be a considerate and adventurous traveler. Love making new acquaintances and friends. We try local cuisine and activities.” Karen and her husband came to Salzburg for the 50-year reunion in June 2018.  
E-mail: mcpikek@edgertonchurch.com

**John Thrash** lives in Hampton, Georgia. With undergrad and graduate degrees from BGSU (Ph.D. in higher education management), John is retired from his position as Dean of Students at Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale campus. In Salzburg he learned: “that, despite being from different cultures, people across the world are essentially the same in respect to hopes and dreams. I was dean of students to students from more than 150 countries. Having been an international student myself gave me perspective not taught in graduate leadership classes.” A Salzburg remembrance: “Being heckled in the Getreidegasse by a racist old woman and having a whole slew of Austrians, whom I did not know, come to my defense, chiding the old woman as ‘eine alte Hexe.’ I actually felt sorry for the old lady, because I’d received worse in my own country.”  
E-mail: jthrash42@gmail.com

### 1971-1972

#### Director Paul Krauss (Ohio University)

**Richard Hermerding** lives in San Jose, California, where he works as a certified public accountant (in Silicon Valley). He holds a M.B.A. and a M.A. in Indonesian from Ohio University. While in Salzburg he learned and perfected skiing; he was a skilled enough skier to be able to join the National Ski Patrol at North Lake Tahoe when he moved to California. After the AYA program, he stayed on hitchhiking around Europe. “Salzburg is by far my favorite city. Just loved my time there!”  
E-mail: hermerding@msn.com

**Galen Koepke** lives in Oak Harbor, Ohio. Galen owns a crop insurance agency and operates a 500-acre grain farm near Oak Harbor. He and his wife Katja recently established a scholarship fund to support BGSU students studying in Salzburg (see scholarships section below). “My stay in Salzburg encouraged me to travel throughout the world.” The Koepkes were in Salzburg last year for the 50-year celebration.  
E-mail: galen@protectmycrops.com

**Dave Schrader** lives in Hermosa Beach, California. He holds a Ph.D. in computer science from Purdue University and, before his retirement, worked in high-tech development and marketing. He frequently used German at work, especially after he went into marketing: “My use of German at sales meetings with customers like Lufthansa, Metro, and A1 Telekom helped make me ‘part of the team’.” A skill learned in Salzburg: “The ability to have no fear with foreigners. Many Americans are reluctant when travelling to try interfacing with the locals – not me! Living abroad gave me a greater sense of the world which counters the America-centric view that pervades American society.”  
E-mail: drdaveschrader@gmail.com

**Sig (Siegfried) Weinhold** lives in Parma, Ohio. Before retiring, he worked as a government documents librarian. His use of German is limited to listening to his wife and mother-in-law: “They always speak German together. Nothing gets by me!” The highlights of Salzburg as he remembers them: “Wienerschnitzel, Gulaschsuppe, Bosnas, Leberkäse, Apfelstrudel, Bier und Wein.”  
E-mail: meinwein@cox.net

### 1972-1973

#### Director John Stickler

**Kathleen (Foreman) Dobson** lives in Fredericksburg, Ohio. She retired in 2013 after teaching German for 30 years at Hiland High School in Berlin, Ohio. The well-developed 4-year program was dropped after her retirement. Kathleen lived in Germany and Austria for 3 years. “It enriched my life beyond measure and gave me a world outlook.” She remains close friends with 3 others in her group: Rita (Myers) Wieringa, Kari (Strasser) Pokorny and Ann Beth (Holthaus) Fogelsong.  
E-mail: kdkdobson4@gmail.com

*Rita Myers Wieringa with her husband Glen and dog Clark*



**Rita (Myers) Wieringa** lives with her husband in Erie, Colorado. Until her retirement she worked as an ED nurse in New Mexico, where she occasionally had the opportunity to speak German with patients. “One lesson I learned living abroad was how important it is to immerse yourself in the language of the country in which you are living. I used that knowledge when I taught ESL; I tutored several students in the USCIS citizenship course.” Rita is still in contact with Kari (Strasser) Pokorny and Kathy (Foreman) Dobson. “I still reminisce about my time in Salzburg. It was truly one of the highlights of my young adulthood.”  
E-mail: wirehanger5@comcast.net



# ALUMNI NEWS 2019 *continued*

## 1973-1974

### Director Barry Thomas (Ohio University)

**Marta Fordos** lives in Fairview Park, Ohio. Before her retirement she worked as a general and medical transcriptionist. Since then she has worked as a medical records clerk in Georgia, as secretary for her son-in-law and now as a caretaker in Pittsburgh. "I love Salzburg!" "Dr. Barry Thomas and the year there was so memorable!" Marta is still in contact with Vickie Sherwood and Peggy Jaegly.  
E-mail: martaforados1@gmail.com

**Michael Hessenauer** lives in Dublin, Ohio. He owns and operates a real estate brokerage in Columbus: the Hessenauer Corporation, Brokers and Managers of Commercial Real Estate.  
E-mail: mrh@hessenauer.com

**Randi (Topping) Simon** lives in Oak Brook, Illinois and Carlsbad, California. She is a retired teacher and housewife. In regard to skills learned in Salzburg: "We were on our own in a foreign country. That is the best tool for independent and resourceful living!"  
E-mail: msimon7572@aol.com

## 1974-1975

### Director Boris Matthews

**Jane (Crist) Linden** lives in Troy, Ohio. She is a stay-at-home "mom" caregiver of her son, who has autism. The year in Salzburg "remains a happy memory for me, one that has brought satisfaction through all these years. I still love all things Austrian!"

**Susanne Rall McWhorter** lives in Roswell, Georgia. She works for Delta Airlines as an international flight attendant and uses German regularly on Delta flights to Germany. "Developing an appreciation for other cultures, norms and



*Usually Sue Rall McWhorter is in the cabin of the airplane!*

comfort zones has proven helpful in many facets of my career." Sue was in Salzburg for the 50th anniversary of the AYA program: "Great fun for all, once again enjoying Stiegl beer and Salzburger Nockerl."  
E-mail: sue.mcwhorter@gmail.com

## 1975-1976

### Director: Klaus Schmidt

**David Dieball** lives in Parma, Ohio, where before retiring he worked as a registered nurse. David is frequently the organist for the German services at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Cleveland and recently began singing with the Cleveland STV Bavaria Choir. A skill learned abroad: "Having to function in another culture helps one learn to adapt."  
E-mail: deogratias789@gmail.com

**Carol (Barr) Orlosky** lives in Surry, Maine. She is a retired high school teacher of German and French. A special Salzburg memory is climbing the Gaisberg at the beginning of the year. She is in contact with Larry Kalb.  
E-mail: ocarolbarr@gmail.com

## 1976-1977

### Director Margy Gerber

**Suzan (Corbacioglu) Arrer** lives in Adnet, Austria. She works as an administrator and lecturer in English at the Fachhochschule (University of Applied Sciences) in Salzburg. She spent this past academic year (2018-19) in Tirana, Albania, where she taught English at the university. She enjoyed her stay so much that she plans to regularly return to Albania in the winter months. Suzan is in contact with Brian Pavlac and Gayle Godek, and reconnected with Larry Hansgen and Jim Singh at last year's 50-year reunion in Salzburg.  
E-mail: sarrer@aon.at

**Ned DeLamatre** lives in Akron, Ohio, where before his retirement he taught social studies and, in the past, German in the Akron public school system. Ned has an M.A. in history from John Carroll University. He recently spent three weeks in Madrid improving his Spanish skills. In September he will travel with his wife and German friends to Austria, Slovenia and Croatia.  
E-mail: ndelamatre@gmail.com

**Larry Hansgen** lives in Dayton, Ohio, where he is a radio announcer at WHIO Radio. He hosts the morning show and broadcasts University of Dayton basketball and football games. In recent years he

has started performing stand-up comedy. Larry recently had a chance to use his German: "I was broadcasting a University of Dayton basketball game at Davidson College. Davidson has a player from Austria, and a writer for an Austrian basketball magazine was in attendance and seated next to me. He was quite surprised when I engaged him in conversation auf Deutsch." About his stay in Salzburg: "That year in Salzburg made me the man I am today. I learned independence, tolerance and the courage to take risks." Larry returned to Salzburg for the first time last year to take part in the 50-year celebration.  
E-mail: larry.hansgen@cmgohio.com

**Dawn (Preisung) Klena** lives in Tega Cay, South Carolina. Skills gained in Salzburg: "It was a maturing process as I learned to cook, make travel arrangements and handle my budget, which are all necessary life skills. Confidence and independence came with these skills." A Salzburg memory: "It was Christmas break and I was teaching Suzan C. in Haus Wartenburg how to waltz because she was going to a very special dance. I told her she had to look into the eyes of her Prince Charming and not at her feet as she was the Princess. It would be a magical moment. She later married that Prince and is now Suzan Arrer."  
E-mail: dawnklena@gmail.com

**Carol (Barr) Orlosky** (grad, see undergrad year 1975-76)

**Brian Pavlac** lives in Kingston, Pennsylvania. He is professor of history at King's College in Wilkes Barre and an Episcopal priest. He uses German constantly in his research and teaching. His most recent publication, written with his wife Elizabeth S. Lott, is in press – *The Holy Roman Empire: A Historical Encyclopedia*. Brian is also the educator in an animation on the TedEd educational website about the witch hunts, particularly the one in Noerdlingen in the 1590s. A Salzburg memory: "Schnitzel on the little back patio of Grauer Bär, then the walk home from Augustiner Bräu."  
E-mail: bapavlac@kings.edu

**James Singh** lives with his family in Hong Kong, where he works in hedge fund management. He met his Austrian wife in Salzburg during his AYA year. They maintain a second home in Eugendorf near Salzburg. "My oldest daughter married last summer in Salzburg (at Schloss Mirabell with the reception at Schloss Leopoldskron). I did the father's speech in both English and German, since many of our guests were local." As Jim wrote in an article in the 2018 Newsletter, spending a



year in Salzburg “helped me immeasurably with my cultural adaptation skills (as well as language learning skills),” especially important since he has spent most of his career outside the US – in London, Tokyo, Hong Kong. Jim came from Hong Kong to attend the 50-year celebration last year. E-mail: jesingh@gmail.com

### 1977-1978

#### Director Helmut Gutmann

**Kathy Best** lives in Bowling Green. She is an instructor of German at the University of Toledo, to which she recently returned after a long sickness. Kathy is planning to retire next year. She is a founding member of the AYA Salzburg Alumni Group, which met for the first time at BGSU last April. In the past, she met with Christine Peterson and Peggy Gleim in New York City. Her Beagle mix and best friend, Laika, died in March 2012.

E-mail: thebestkathy@yahoo.com

**Susan Hoehing** lives in Perrysburg, Ohio and is a lecturer in English and ESL at the University of Toledo. Her ESL students are mostly Chinese and Arabic speakers, undergraduate foreign students. Susan listens occasionally to podcasts in German. She thinks fellow AYA alums might enjoy “Servus, Guezi, Hallo” featuring a Tyroler, a Schweizer and a Berliner who discuss current issues in the Alpine region.

E-mail: 21psam@bex.net

**Kenneth Sponsler** lives in Twinsburg, Ohio. He works as an editor for a Sunday school publisher in Cleveland that produces quarterly booklets for Sunday school teachers and students. He has used German off and on as a side activity and is the resident “expert” when colleagues come across German phrases or longer passages. In May, Ken and his wife Sally visited in Salzburg, meeting Christina Guenther and several students in the 2018-19 group. Ken remembers that he and several other fellows in his group regularly donated



Ken Sponsler and his wife Sally

blood at the local Red Cross, thus earning 150 Schillings, which they spent for Wiener Schnitzel at the Bärenwirt.

E-mail: ksponsler54@yahoo.com

### 1978-1979

#### Directors Joseph L. Gray/Helmut Gutmann

**Ruta (Zemaitis) Bloomfield** lives in Santa Clarita, California, where she is a professor of music at The Master’s College and a professional harpsichordist. She has released two CDs of harpsichord music (Bernard de Bury and J.S. Bach) and published a critical edition of the music of de Bury. Skills learned in Salzburg: “Problem solving, negotiating a foreign country, and learning German in a way that keeps me fluent to this day.” “My AYA was life-impacting.” Ruta has three grandchildren (5, 3, 18 months) who are “the lights of my life.”

E-mail: kenandruta@sbcglobal.net

**Leslie (Kosel) Eckstein** (grad) lives in Tampa, Florida, where she is an associate professor of English for Academic Purposes (ESL) at Hillsborough Community College. Leslie lived and worked in Austria for 7 years before returning to the US and continued to work there in the summer for 5 more years. “My years abroad are the major part of my personality. The knowledge and skills I learned while living abroad affect everything I do, from the way I teach, and vote, and cook, and, well, think. One of my students recently asked me what country I was from. I told her America. She replied, ‘You don’t act very American.’ I take that as a compliment.”

E-Mail: lkeckstein@yahoo.com

**Cathy (Johnson) Holman** lives in St. Marys, Georgia, where she works as a realtor. She uses German to advertise in German-language newspapers in Florida and has listings in German locations.

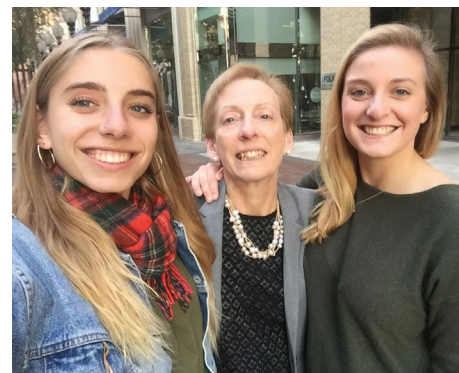
E-Mail: cathy15@comcast.net

**Brian Pavlac** (grad, see undergrad year 1976-77)

**Mary Russell** lives in Washington, D.C., where she has worked as a librarian and administrator at the Library of Congress for 22 years. She uses German occasionally at work for reading, acquisitions, ordering, cataloging, and now and then giving a tour to a German-speaking visitor. She has 2 grown daughters, who also love Salzburg. She especially remembers the group trip to East Berlin, East Germany and Czechoslovakia in 1979.

E-mail: mary.bucknum@gmail.com

*Mary Russell and her daughters Annamarie and Katharina*



**Christopher Zerull** lives in Twinsburg, Ohio and works as an accountant.

E-mail: czerull@gmail.com

### 1979-1980

#### Director Klaus Schmidt

**Ellen (Ferguson) Broadwell** lives in Oberlin, Ohio, where she works as a librarian (Collections and Acquisitions) at Oberlin College. She occasionally uses German in her work. About her time in Salzburg: “The most important thing I learned from being abroad is that Americans are part of a global community. Even though Austrians and Americans may look at world events from different viewpoints, we can still be friends.”

E-mail: ebroadwe@oberlin.net

**Anita (Reiser) Fjeldstad** lives in Avon Lake, Ohio as a retired federal worker. She frequently used German in her professional life: She worked as a German translator in New York City for 8 years and taught German at a private language school for 10 years. “The independence and self-confidence I gained during my Salzburg year have followed me throughout all of my adult life. The experiences one acquires, especially outside the classroom, are transformative.”

E-mail: anitafjeldstad2@gmail.com

### 1980-1981

#### Director Margy Gerber

**Kathy Best** (grad, see undergrad year 1977-78)

**Manfred Brockmann** lives in Milford, Pennsylvania and commutes to Wayne, New Jersey, where he is the chief compliance officer of Valley National Bank. “Dealing with different cultures while living abroad has helped me in dealing with the diverse customers and employees of a bank located in a multi-cultural part of the country (just outside of New York City).” Salzburgmemory: “The Thanksgiving dinner that Rhonda Westerhaus and I (plus many helpers)



# ALUMNI NEWS 2019 *continued*

cooked for the group brings back fond memories. Especially the little Oma that owned the Gasthaus pouring Schnaps in my Beerstein every time she passed me. Needless to say, by the time dinner was served I was already under the table. Great friends and great fun." Manfred's youngest child Brittany will be a freshman at BGSU this fall. Manfred returned to Salzburg last year for the 50-year celebration of the program.  
E-mail: mbrockmann@valleynationalbank.com

**Marta Fischer** lives in Naples, Florida. She works as an office administrator for a local builder, which brings her into contact with German tourists. In regard to living abroad: "I find that my experience in Germany and Austria broadened my horizons, opened my mind to the world of politics and increased my understanding of and compassion for other cultures." "I keep in close contact with many German and Austrian friends." Marta took part in last year's 50-year AYA celebration in Salzburg.  
E-mail: mfischer706@gmail.com

**Heidi (Pillar) Gajoch** lives in Strongsville, Ohio and works as a commercial real estate loan officer for the Huntington Bank.  
E-mail: jgajoch@gmail.com

**Eric Hise** lives in Genoa, Ohio. A retired surety bond agent, Eric runs a neighborhood bar, the Bharmacy, in a late 19th C. pharmacy which she restored. It was one of the venues of the AYA Homecoming reunion last fall. In June 2018, shortly after returning from the 50-year celebration in Salzburg, Erich was involved in a nearly fatal auto collision from which, after numerous operations, he has slowly recuperated.  
E-mail: erichise@aol.com

**Jan (Brozic) Kinch** (grad) lives in Edinboro, Pennsylvania, a retired professor of English at Edinboro University. She has a doctorate in

English from BGSU. Jan had already lived/worked in Austria before joining the AYA program as a graduate student. In regard to her experience abroad: "Extensive travel experience has helped me every day of my life. I have a very great and deep appreciation of other cultures, their art, architecture, and customs, among other things." Jan's partner and husband of many years, Tim, died in April, 2018 after a series of long illnesses.  
E-mail: jcbkinch@aol.com

**Joe Kroboth** lives in Whitehall, Pennsylvania. He is a global leader of commercial payment at Dun and Bradstreet. He uses German when dealing with partners in Germany and Switzerland. "Although English is the primary language used, it is very helpful to be able to speak German with business partners." "Communication and travel skills learned abroad have been extremely useful in business." Joe is still performing with his popular band ([www.josefkroboth.com](http://www.josefkroboth.com)), which specializes in Austrian, Czech/Slovak and German folk music.  
E-mail: Sepkroboth@gmail.com

**Ed McKenna** lives in New York City and works as a travel procurement consultant. Most of his international business is conducted in English, "however, the ability to speak German in critical negotiating phases can help in getting better terms." Ed is still in contact with many members of his group – "most touching for me are the deep friendships I developed in Salzburg that are stronger than ever 40+ years later." Ed returned to Salzburg last year for the 50-year celebration.  
E-mail: ed\_mckenna@yahoo.com

**Ellen (Manning) Nagy** lives in Fremont, Ohio. She is assistant professor of German and administrator at Heidelberg College. Ellen holds a Ph.D. in German language and literature from

*Joe Kroboth with family and graduating daughter*



Ohio State University. In regard to her first year in Salzburg: "That undergrad year changed my life."  
E-mail: nagy.ellen@gmail.com

**Jessica (Eberhardt) Rathke** lives in London, U.K. She is a translation industry sales consultant. Jessica describes the language industry (translating/interpreting, language technology/software, sales and management a.o.) as the "oil" of global business, and today's companies are "globally minded." She sees the language industry as set to grow by "leaps and bounds." Jessica's work, which has taken her to some 40 countries, has enabled her to "achieve my life goal of facilitating communication across cultures." Her years in Salzburg "reinforced my desire to have an international career, made me more open to other ways of doing things and appreciating/learning from those differences. It's the spice of my life." Jessica participated in the 50-year celebration in Salzburg last year.  
E-mail: jessica\_rathke@yahoo.co.uk



*Eric Hise (l.) and AYA alumni at the Bharmacy*



*Jessica Rathke in the hills that are alive...*

**Linda VanBlaricom** (grad) lives in Bowling Green, where she taught German at the high school for 30 years. Since her retirement in 2012 she has been an adjunct German instructor at BGSU and has twice directed the BGSU summer program in Salzburg. Over the years, she has spent much time in Austria, Germany and Switzerland, participating in Goethe Institut seminars, singing with choral groups and bicycling. Linda attended the founding meeting of the AYA Salzburg Alumni Group in April 2019 and has assumed responsibility for assisting in advertising and recruitment for the program (see separate article). She was on hand for the 50-year celebration in Salzburg last year.  
E-mail: lindav@bgsu.edu

**Michael Westerhaus** (grad) lives with his wife Rhonda in Pratt, Kansas. Before his retirement, he was associate professor of biology and administrator at Pratt Community College. He holds a Ph.D. in biological sciences from BGSU. About his year in Salzburg: "The study abroad experience enhanced my personal world view, which was an invaluable asset during my years of college teaching and administration." The Westerhauses returned to Salzburg for the 50-year celebration.  
E-mail: mdhaus@outlook.com

**Rhonda Westerhaus** lives with her husband Michael in Pratt, Kansas and teaches German and education at Pratt Community College. For 5 years she accompanied students on their exchange trip to Preetz, near Kiel, Germany. Rhonda has also participated in numerous summer programs in Germany. She plans to retire next year and looks forward to more travel, more reading and more German films. Skills gained in Salzburg: "The ability to adapt to a new culture, modes of transportation, food and more have made me more interesting."  
E-mail: omaopa215@gmail.com

### 1981-1982

#### Director Helmut Gutmann

**Gene Aufderhaar** lives in Bluffton, Ohio. He teaches German at nearby Van Wert High School. In early summer he led a tour organized by CETA with students and parents through Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein and Switzerland. Gene is the current president of the Ohio branch of the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) and has assumed an active role in the new AYA Salzburg Alumni Group (see separate section). Gene and his wife Kathleen attended the 50-year celebration in Salzburg last year.  
E-mail: eaufder@gmail.com

*Gene Aufderhaar in Rothenburg with students and old friend*



**Matthew Garrow** lives in Morenci, Michigan. He is a certified financial planner. In 2006 he and 2 associates founded the financial planning and wealth management firm Engler, Garrow & Roth, Ltd. in Maumee, Ohio. He remembers his AYA experience as "one of the funnest years of my life! I made life-long friendships." As a result of studying abroad he has "a more worldly view on issues."  
E-mail: matthew.garrow@egrfinancial.com

**Frank Lovering** lives in Yakima, Washington, where he is a realtor. From 1986 to 1991 he worked on a German factory processor ship on the Bering Sea with a largely German crew, and from 1991 to 1996 he worked for a German food-processing manufacturer in Lübeck, Germany. His time abroad "gave me a better perspective of how Europeans view the United States, which in turn continues to help me understand our culture."  
E-mail: franklovering@gmail.com

**Kathy (Bleier) McQuate** lives in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. She is currently "semi-retired." Until last year she was employed as a litigation paralegal for a local law firm. When she first graduated from college, she worked for the Bayerische Vereinsbank in Cleveland and in New York City. From there she went to work in the legal department of the German chemical company Henkel near Philadelphia. Here she was hired specifically because of her knowledge of German. "I think the experience of spending a year abroad has enhanced my life immeasurably. Immersion in the German language and getting to know people from another country/culture was an incredibly enriching experience."  
E-Mail: kmcquate@aol.com

**Reiner Mueller** lives in Strongsville, Ohio. He works as a business financing consultant. Reiner is active in the German community in Cleveland, plays in a German brass band – the Deutscher Musik Verein of Cleveland, Ohio – and is a member of the local chapter of DANK (Deutsch Amerikanischer National Kongress), which helps promote German-American relations. His wife Monika is the sister of Anita (Reiser) Fjeldstad (AYA 1979-80). Reiner is organizing a reunion of the 1981-82 group in 2020.  
E-mail: reindogger@sbcglobal.net

**Anne (Chalupa) Taylor** lives in Cincinnati, Ohio. She works in Human Resources.  
E-mail: anne.taylor431@gmail.com

### 1982-1983

#### Director Helmut Gutmann

**Gerrie McManamon** (grad) lives in Columbus, Ohio. Before her retirement in 2017, Gerrie taught German in Toledo public schools and Columbus city schools for 12 years. Since then she has been subbing for German teachers – this past year and next year for teachers on long-term leaves. Gerrie still regularly performs in reggae bands, sitting in with the Cleveland band Dubflex when they are in Columbus and otherwise with the Dougie Simpson and the Faith Band in Columbus.  
E-mail: gmcmamanon@att.net

**Brett Porter** lives in Dublin, Ohio. He is a registered nurse. Brett often speaks German with older German patients in his care. He was instrumental in founding the new AYA Salzburg Alumni Group and is its coordinator (see separate section). Brett and his wife Katherine recently travelled to Warsaw, Tallinn, Helsinki, St. Petersburg and Berlin, where they met up with Dr. Margy Gerber. They also attended the 50-year reunion in Salzburg last year.  
E-mail: ayasalzburgalumgroup@gmail.com

**Jessica (Eberhardt) Rathke** (grad, see undergrad year 1980-81)



# ALUMNI NEWS 2019 continued

## 1983-1984

### Director John Erikson

**Kristina (Heider) Guensche** lives in Olathe, Kansas. She teaches at a small K-12 classical Christian school in Kansas City. She teaches German using an immersion/conversation method (no grammar and 100% German). Her husband Raimund is a German national from Wertheim who works for SwissRe, a reinsurance company with headquarters in Zurich. Kristina lived in Germany for 12 years before moving back to the USA. E-mail: kguensche@gmx.net

**Ellen (Manning) Nagy** (grad, see undergrad year 1980-81)

**Gerrie McManamon** (2nd year grad, see 1982-83)

## 1984-1985

### Director Klaus Schmidt

**Gene Aufderhaar** (grad, see undergrad year 1981-82)

**Laura McLary** lives in Portland, Oregon, where she is professor of German and associate dean at the University of Portland. Laura holds a Ph.D. in German from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she wrote her dissertation on the Salzburg poet Georg Trakl. The University of Portland has a year-long, non-German immersion program in Salzburg, as well as summer study abroad programs in German, which Laura has frequently directed. E-mail: mclary@up.edu

*Laura McLary with bookmarked Trakl edition*



**Tim Moehlman** lives in Lodi, Italy, where he works as a research chemist. His first position at the company for which he works was in Munich, where he lived for 5 years in the 1990s before moving to Italy. He recently entered a civil union with his Sicilian partner, Alessandro. E-mail: lodibaer@libero.it

## 1985-1986

### Directors Margy Gerber/Klaus Schmidt

**Tim Moehlman** (grad, see undergrad year 1984-85)

## 1986-1987

### Director Helmut Gutmann

**Ellin Iselin** lives in Jacksonville, Florida, where she is professor of humanities at Florida State Community College. In 2018 she received her Doctor of Arts degree for writing and producing the 50-minute science fiction film *Soul in the Machine*, which explores a family's attempt to save the mother from her bodily demise. Aside from the main themes of soul and immortality, the film examines issues such as love and memory. E-mail: ellin\_iselin@hotmail.com

**Laura McLary** (grad, see undergrad year 1984-85)

## 1987-1988

### Director Klaus Schmidt

**Mark Gustafson** (grad) lives in Bedford, Texas. He is a senior human resource information systems (HRIS) analyst for American Airlines. German has been important in his career: "American Airlines hired me in 1989 for the International Department at Chicago O'Hare because I spoke German. I used it everyday at the airport, working the flights to Frankfurt, München, Düsseldorf, Zürich. Now I often communicate with my HR colleagues in Frankfurt in German." Mark often returns to Salzburg and was there for the 50-year reunion in 2018. E-Mail: weaintgotdat@sbcglobal.net

**Eva (Schott) McMasters** lives with her family in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she has taught high school German since 1992. She also helps organize the school's summer exchange program to Dingolfing, Germany. Skills gained from her time in Salzburg: "Taking myself out of my comfort zone and experiencing life outside of the Midwest has been invaluable. I have found it easy to adapt to many different types of people, cultures, religions, political views and lifestyles, which is absolutely a direct result of my time in Salzburg." Eva's daughter is learning German. Both Eva and her daughter came to Salzburg for the 50-year reunion last year. E-mail: schott\_e@ohlsd.org

*Eva Schott McMasters and daughter in Salzburg*



**Kate (O'Leary) Ross** lives with her husband Kirk (AYA 1998-99) and their children in Swanton, Ohio. Kate is a homemaker; she and Kirk homeschool their 3 daughters, the first of whom recently graduated from high school. E-mail: katiespadiva@hotmail.com

## 1988-1989

### Director Margy Gerber

**Amy Bruckner** lives in Parma, Ohio. She works as a buyer/planner of automotive electronic components, and uses German "almost daily in corresponding with our suppliers in Germany and Austria, as well as with my colleagues at our German sales office." Useful skills learned in Salzburg: "I learned that adjustments are difficult, but once you acknowledge the fact that things are different, you can really learn a lot and have fun!" Salzburg memories: "I remember the kitchen at Schwarzes Rössl, playing cards with Johnny, cooking and making Glühwein with BG students and Austrian friends. Also the Heisse Kiste at the end of Linzer Gasse and Café Sylvia and their Schoko-Sahne Torte – my favorite!" E-mail: albruckner@hotmail.com

**Laurie (Smith) Camargo** (grad) lives in Berlin, Germany, where she works at Berlitz as teacher, counselor-trainer and personnel administrator. Skills she gained in Salzburg: "Being tolerant and open-minded, using public transportation, understanding the importance of cultural differences and behavior." Salzburg memories: "Climbing the Gaisberg, going to Stieglbräu, the trips to Berlin and Prague, Vienna, getting dressed up and going to classical concerts." Laurie returned to Salzburg for the 50-year reunion. E-mail: laurie.camargo@gmail.com

**Thomas Miller** lives in Westfield, Indiana. He works in international banking at PNC Bank in Indianapolis. After being a professional ski guide for 4 years in Montana, working exclusively with German tour companies, Tom returned to graduate school and received a second master's degree in international relations and international economics, which started him in his corporate



currency career. “The skills learned studying abroad have been incalculable in my career and personal life. Study abroad changed my life for the better!” Tom and his wife Tamara were in Salzburg for the 50-year celebration.  
E-Mail: thomas.j.miller@att.net

### 1989-1990

#### Director Geoffrey Howes

**Mary Beth (Dibling) Backus** lives in Lusby, Maryland. She works as a data scientist for Zenetex, an IT network operations services company. Mary Beth was a linguist (using German) in the Air Force for 7 years immediately after graduating from BGSU, and then taught German for 2 years in a middle school in New Jersey. She recently received her master’s degree in data analytics from the University of Maryland University College. Most of the instruction was on line. Skills learned in Salzburg: “I learned to be independent and how to navigate new, unfamiliar places, which has helped me when changing careers.” “I made new friends at the AYA Homecoming reunion last fall. Amazing how we have such a connection with people who went to Salzburg decades before or after. Salzburg is a unique bond between all of us.”

**Amy Bruckner** (grad, see undergrad year 1988-89)

**Gregory Dykhouse** (grad) lives in Holland, Michigan, where he teaches history at Black River Public School and directs German language studies. He was instrumental in developing the online Big History Project course, which spans nearly 14 billion years of history. The school’s Big History approach, which they use with high

school freshmen at his school, was profiled by the University of Michigan (<https://impact.govrel.umich.edu/big-history>). In addition to his master’s degree from BGSU, Greg received a Ph.D. in theater from Louisiana State University.  
E-mail: dykhouseg@brpsk12.org

**Denise (Swartz) Friend** lives in Middleburg Heights, Ohio. She holds a Master of Education degree in TESOL and for more than 20 years taught multi-level ESL for Aspire, a grant-funded program for students aged 19 to 80+, for refugees and those who, for one reason or another, want to improve their English skills. She also founded and worked in a program in partnership with the Cleveland Clinic for foreign-trained healthcare professionals seeking work in the greater Cleveland area. Denise has just joined a much larger local Aspire program in a non-teaching capacity as adult education specialist; she works as a data specialist and supervises various aspects of the program.  
E-mail: mdfriend3@sbcglobal.net

### 1990-1991

#### Director Klaus Schmidt

**Tessa (Windt) Boone** (grad) lives in Canton, Michigan. She works as a global mobility manager; that is, she manages mobility programs that move employees around the world for various lengths of time. After graduating with her master’s degree from BGSU, she first taught German at the University of South Carolina, and then worked for BMW Manufacturing in Spartanburg, South Carolina for 15 years, speaking German most of the time. BMW sent her to Munich for 2 assignments (18 months and 6 months). “My personal experiences of living abroad, integrating into a different culture, and having to manage my

life speaking a second language – not my native language – have been invaluable in my present line of work. I am better able to understand what employees may need in order to navigate an international work assignment.”  
E-mail: tessb27@gmail.com

**Laurie (Smith) Camargo** (grad, see 1988-89)

**Shari (Poffenberger) Klein** (grad) lives in Salzburg (!) and works as an application specialist for Siemens X-ray technology. Shari stayed on in Salzburg after the conclusion of the program, married her Austrian friend Gerhard, and began her 3-year radiology training, which certified her in X-ray, CT, MRI, Nuclear Medicine and Radiation Therapy. She worked for 9 years as an X-ray technician in a radiology office in Salzburg. Now she travels around Austria and Eastern Europe teaching technicians how to use Siemens mammography machines, and showing doctors how to read the results. Her husband Gerhard is a large business auditor. They have three adult children.  
E-mail: sharilynne67@gmail.com

Shari Klein with husband Gerhard and family



**Eva (Schott) McMasters** (grad, see undergrad year 1987-88)

### 1991-1992

#### Director Margy Gerber

**Adam Bartelmay** lives in Kingsley, Michigan. He works as a news anchor.  
E-mail: adambartelmay@yahoo.com



**Paula Sliefert** (grad) lives in Maple Grove, Minnesota. She works for the Toro Company, where she is a senior marketing manager engaged in developing the market for Toro products. She occasionally uses German at work and has attended business conferences in Austria. Paula has travelled extensively both for business and adventure: "Hoping to touch all seven continents someday and enjoy all seven of the Natural Wonders." She remembers how much walking she did in Salzburg, which "has definitely carried over to my life today."

E-mail: paula\_sliefert@yahoo.com

### 1992-1993

**Director Christina Guenther**

**Tessa (Windt) Boone** (grad, see 1990-91)

**Brian Pfaltzgraff** (grad) lives in Waverly, Iowa, the home of Wartburg College, where he is associate professor of voice. Every summer Brian leads a student group to Eisenach, Thuringia – Waverly's sister city – and the Wartburg, for which the college is named. The Wartburg College Eisenach Immersion program cooperates closely with the town and the Wartburg.

E-mail: brian.pfaltzgraff@wartburg.edu

### 1993-1994

**Director Geoffrey Howes**

**Adam Bartelmay** (grad, see undergrad year 1991-92)

**Kevin Kane** (grad) lives in Tours, France. Fluent in both German and French Kevin directed BGSU's study abroad program in France in the past, and is looking for a similar position as program director.

E-mail: kanek@hotmail.fr



Brian Pfaltzgraff with students in Eisenach

### World traveler Paula Sliefert



**David Wildermuth** (grad) lives in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, where he is professor of German at Shippensburg University. On sabbatical leave 2019-2020 and with a Guggenheim grant, he (and his wife Renate – AYA 1991-92 – and their 2 children) will spend the year in Freiburg, Germany. Dave will be completing his research on a German army division during WWII.

E-mail: meademountain@aol.com

### 1994-1995

**Director Margy Gerber**

**Paul Heinrichs** (grad) lives in Katsdorf (near Linz), Upper Austria. He works in IT. In regard to skills learned in Salzburg: "Living abroad certainly assisted in my attaining a degree of independence. And (I believe) it also helped further my critical thinking skills... Money was tight, so I suppose facing daily dilemmas such as ... can I afford that beer, or should I instead buy Tortellini from Hofer ... must have helped me somehow." "My year in Salzburg was the best year of my life. Hands down. Hard to describe that 'Feeling'. Guess it's an amalgamation of just being in Salzburg. Would love to invent a time machine and relive that year again and again and ...!" Paul returned to Salzburg for the 50-year celebration.

E-Mail: heinrichsp@yahoo.com

**Michelle Jacksier** (grad) lives in Chicago. She works in internal corporate communications, creating opportunities for executives to communicate with employees, and vice versa. For 16 years she worked for two banks. In April 2019 she began a consulting position at the University of Chicago, where she is currently working in the Office of the Provost. German plays an important role in her social and personal life, and she occasionally teaches German courses for Berlitz, Inlingua, and a local Waldorf school. Skills gained

### David and Renate Wildermuth



in Salzburg: "Learning German forced me to take a close look at how English works, and as a result I'm known for my editing skills." Michelle travelled to Salzburg for the 50-year reunion.

E-mail: mjacksier@gmail.com

**Christina (Richardson) Thomas** (grad) lives in Monroeville, Pennsylvania. After teaching high school German for 14 years, she became a school counselor. Her school has a large ESL population. "Having been a DaF student at one time has helped me to understand my students and to really be an advocate for them." "I loved everything about studying in Salzburg. I will never forget falling off my bike and chipping a tooth."

E-mail: cthomas5551212@aol.com

**Amy Young** (grad) lives in Ames, Iowa, where she is professor of German at Iowa State University. She received her Ph.D. in German at the University of Nebraska. Amy is part of a team designing a NEH-funded open educational resource for first-year German language classes ([www.grenzenlos-deutsch.com](http://www.grenzenlos-deutsch.com)). She still has the book from the Lit History class in Salzburg: "And I have been surprised about how often I use it." Amy returned to Salzburg for the 50-year celebration.

E-mail: frauProfyoung@gmail.com

### 1995-1996

**Director Margy Gerber**

**Christine (Philbrook) Bayer** lives in Unterhaching (near Munich), Bavaria. She is a clinical research scientist. While in Salzburg she met her future husband (at the Traube bar) and, one year after graduating from BGSU, she moved to Germany, where she has been living ever since. She earned a Ph.D. in molecular biology from the Open University and works as team leader in

technical documentation at Brainlab AG, situated in Munich. A Salzburg memory: "Learning about Michelangelo in art class and then taking the train to Florence to experience his art live." Christine came to Salzburg for the 50-year reunion.  
E-mail: christine.m.bayer@gmail.com

**Greg Miller** (grad) lives in Placentia, California, where he is a teacher. He taught German, as well as math, in his middle school until the high school that his school feeds into eliminated German and his own program was subsequently cut. He is in contact with Luc Strobel and Mark Mooradian.  
E-mail: gmiller5020@yahoo.com

**Ann (Stevenson) Pittman** lives in Perrysburg, Ohio.  
E-mail: pittmana@hotmail.com

**Jennifer Schaffer** lives in Portland, Oregon after spending 20 years in Florida, where she did construction accounting. A recent promotion to director/supervisor entailed the move to Portland. "The best gift I received from my year abroad was learning to be self-reliant, open-minded and calm under pressure. Living in a foreign country opens your mind and eyes to new ideas, new ways of doing things." A Salzburg memory: "I remember the dialect in Salzburg being impossible to understand when I first arrived. But now when I speak German, I speak with an Austrian accent."  
E-mail: jennschaffer73@gmail.com

### 1997-1998

#### Director Christina Guenther

**Robert Meehan** lives in Silver Springs, Florida. Before retiring, he taught ESL, including 24 years in Arab countries. Now he is pursuing his many interests and hobbies: updating his French in France, singing in a church choir in Florida, attending music history lectures in Oaxaca, Mexico, a planned tour of Frank Lloyd Wright sites in Oak Park, Illinois this fall, a.o. Robert travelled to Salzburg for the 50-year celebration.  
E-mail: robroymeehan@yahoo.com

**Anita McChesney** lives in Lubbock, Texas, where she is assistant professor of German at Texas Tech University. After completing her M.A. degree at BGSU, she went on for her Ph.D. in German at Johns Hopkins University. She has been teaching university-level German since 2005. "Dr. Christina Guenther provided a wonderful model of how to mentor and guide students abroad, skills I use when I take students from Texas Tech University

to Munich on our summer study abroad program." Anita presented a paper on Robert Menasse's *Die Hauptstadt* at this year's Austrian Studies Association conference at BGSU.  
E-mail: anita\_mcchesney@yahoo.com

### 1998-1999

#### Director Geoffrey Howes

**Matt Fahlander** (grad) lives in Urbandale, Iowa. He is a stay-at-home parent. Their oldest child is taking German in high school; Matt is able to help her.  
E-mail address: fahlander@q.com

**Kate (O'Leary) Ross** (grad, see undergrad year 1987-88)

**Kirk Ross** (grad) lives in Swanton, Ohio. He is an attorney with a Juris Doctor degree from Northwestern University. Kirk has used German in most of the jobs he has had since law school. He has had clients who spoke only German. In recent years the opportunities to speak German are fewer, but sometimes he and his wife Kate still speak German at home. They met in Salzburg.  
E-mail: ekirkross@hotmail.com

### 1999-2000

#### Director Kristie Foell

**Christian Kelso** lives with his family in Dallas, Texas, where he is an attorney. He has a Master of Laws degree from Southern Methodist University. He has a few German clients and was on the board of the Dallas Goethe Center. He recently took his 5-year-old daughter to Bavaria to visit friends. Skills learned abroad: "I do a lot of settlement negotiation at work, so being able to see and understand other perspectives is very useful. I attribute much of my skill in this regard to the AYA program."  
E-mail: ckelso@christiankelso.com

### 2000-2001

#### Director Christina Guenther

**Daniel Cosby** (grad) lives in Lempäälä (near Tampere), Finland. He is in sales. The company he works for is a Finnish software house founded in 2005. When Daniel joined the company in 2014 it was beginning to make inroads into the Austrian and German markets, the so-called DACH region (Germany/Austria/Switzerland). Daniel uses both English and German in his work. Although English is the most common language for

*Daniel Cosby in front of his house in Finland*



international business, in the DACH region many customers prefer to use German. Daniel has given presentations in German and delivered German-language webinars and demonstrations on line. Daniel's wife, Kati, is Finnish and they have a son Samuel. Before moving to Finland, Daniel spent 4 years in the U.S. Army.  
E-mail: dfcosby@gmail.com

**Lisa Heinrich** lives in Akron, Ohio, where she teaches music. She just finished 2 terms as the president of the Cleveland chapter of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association. AND she received the Homer B. Smith Teacher of Excellence award for 2019. (See Special Recognition section.) Lisa uses her German to translate writings by Gunild Keetman and Carl Orff.  
E-mail: heinrich.lisa@gmail.com

### Summer Program 2001

**Norene Holmes** lives in Lima, Ohio, where she teaches English as a second language (ESOL). "My study of German has helped me better understand inflected languages and enables me to clarify some aspects of English to my ESOL students. I have also benefitted from my previous study of German linguistics and historical linguistics.  
E-mail: norene.holmes@wcoil.com



## 2001-2002

### Director Edgar Landgraf

**Justin Luedy** lives in Long Beach, California, where he works as an environmental scientist. He uses German to communicate with Austrian and German friends and reads German texts. Occasionally he is asked to translate German documents at work. Skills learned abroad: "social skills, excitement for travel and international experiences, budgeting, independence and tolerance. German also helped me with learning Spanish (a must when you live in Southern California).  
E-mail: jtluedy@gmail.com



*Justin Luedy*

## 2002-2003

### Director Geoff Howes

**Melanie (Miller) Rantanen** (grad) lives in Perrysburg, Ohio. She is a registered nurse. She has had a few German-speaking patients: "It's always a pleasant surprise when I am able to use my German in the workplace." Skills acquired in Salzburg: "The ability to interact with many different types of people and the application of my language skills have definitely helped me in life and my career." A Salzburg memory: "Taking the long way home one evening and walking up the hill near the Festung with Liz Mazur and Megan Faykosh, and arriving home sometime in the early morning."  
E-mail: mel24sunflower@aol.com

## 2003-2004

### Director Edgar Landgraf

**Lisa (Hassing) Yunker** lives in Toledo, Ohio and works in banking. She values having learned about different cultures and people during her

stay in Salzburg. "I still remember so many things so vividly – as if it were just yesterday and not 15 years ago."  
E-mail: lahassi@gmail.com

## 2005-2006

### Director Christina Guenther

**Kyle Greetham** lives in Decatur, Georgia. He works for Digital Projection Inc. as a marketing and communication manager. He is in regular contact with the company's European offices on global marketing strategies. He speaks German with colleagues in the German office. "Everyone conceptualizes things differently depending on where they are. This applies to other countries, but also to other cultures within the same country. Learning to adopt this thought process helps in making materials that speak to a bigger audience."  
E-mail: kgreetham@live.com

**Jennifer Hesse** lives in Everett, Washington, where she teaches German full time at the high school level. She collaborates with a local community college so that her students receive both high school and college credit for German.  
E-mail: fraumagistra@gmail.com

**Daniel Kline** lives in Denton, Texas. He teaches German at Ryan High School there. Next year the school will start its GAPP (German American Partnership Program) exchange. The German students will come in October, the Ryan students will travel to Germany in June 2020.  
E-mail: dkline823@gmail.com

## 2007-2008

### Director Edgar Landgraf

**Kyle Greetham** (grad, see undergrad year 2005-06)

## 2008-2009

### Director Theodore Rippey

**Tim Cable** (grad) lives in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. He works as a technical writer for the German technology company Pepperl+Fuchs, which produces industrial sensors and electrical explosion protection technology. Tim writes and translates product documentation, marketing materials and corporate communications. "It's been a great job, and I get to use German throughout the day, every day."  
E-mail: timcable@gmail.com

**Alison Kemp** lives in Mbabane, eSwatini (Swaziland), where she is a Peace Corps volunteer finishing her first 2-year term. Alison is extending her service in eSwatini for a second term. "Peace Corps prefers offering positions to people who have studied abroad for a year and have experience learning another language." And from her own experience: "Having spent time with people who do things differently than you has made the Peace Corps life much easier."  
E-mail: alison.kemp@gmail.com

## 2009-2010

### Director Christina Guenther

**Andrea (Weatherman) Kikkert** (grad) lives in Farmville, Virginia. Starting this fall she will be a visiting professor of German at Hampden-Sydney College in Hampden Sydney, Virginia. Andrea received her Ph.D. in German from Vanderbilt University. Her research interests include musical aesthetics and digital humanities, as well as German literature from the late Enlightenment through Modernism.  
E-mail: andrea\_weatherman@yahoo.com

## 2011-2012

### Director Edgar Landgraf

**Kristen Harter** lives in Lakewood, Ohio. She teaches German in a middle school, and is one of 3 full-time German teachers in her district.  
E-mail: harter\_k@shaker.org

### Alexandra (McCullum) Spradli

 (grad)

lives in Las Vegas, Nevada, where she is an English teacher.  
E-mail: alexandraspradlin@gmail.com

## 2012-2013

### Director Stefan Fritsch

**Dana Deal** (grad) lives in Jacksonville, Florida. After teaching German at a high school in Orlando in 2015-16 Dana has been adjunct faculty in German at various colleges and universities in Northeast Florida. In December 2018 she began a full-time position as office manager in the languages department of the University of North Florida. Dana is taking an online course via edX which focuses on learning theories. She plans to complete a MicroMaster's in instructional design. A Salzburg memory: "I think most Salzburg alumni will agree that the Thanksgiving dinner was a highlight of the program. It was a lot of work and a lot of fun." Dana and her father attended the 50-year celebration in Salzburg last year.  
E-mail: dana.marie.deal@gmail.com

**Renee Miller** (grad) now lives in Monclova, Ohio. In July 2018 she started a new job with the United States Coast Guard, a permanent civilian position working with maritime academy cadets and others requiring in-depth knowledge of Great Lakes geography, maritime law and international law in regard to waterways shared with Canada. She uses her German and novice French skills almost daily. Salzburg reflections: "I still consider my time abroad in 2012-13 as the best year of my life. I really grew that year as a person, learning so much about myself and life in general."  
E-mail: rmill2007@gmail.com

### Summer Program 2013

**Bruce Kwiatkowski** lives in Wiesbaden, Germany, where he is an instructor of German for the U.S. military. He teaches introductory German to military personnel on active duty (and retired) and their dependents. He will soon be returning to Bavaria, where he has taught in the past. Bruce also attended the summer Salzburg program in 2014, 2015 and 2016, and he came to Salzburg for the 50-year reunion.  
E-mail: bruce.kwiatkowski@utoledo.edu

### 2013-2014

**Directors Christina Guenther (FS) and Geoffrey Howes (SS)**

**Emily (Skorupski) Brancel** (spring semester) lives in Detroit, Michigan. After graduating from BGSU, Emily spent 2016-17 in Linz with the Austrian Fulbright program teaching English. Recently she has been travelling (Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Indonesia, Thailand). She is looking for work opportunities in the field of study abroad advising or recruitment. Skills gained abroad: "Beyond language learning, flexibility and ability to adapt quickly to new situations; equally important has been gaining empathy for others. I feel able to connect better with my international students than if I had not had the opportunity to be in a more vulnerable position myself."  
E-Mail: emilyskorupski@gmail.com

**Ann (Jennings) Haack** (grad) lives in Urbandale, Iowa.  
E-mail: annjennin@gmail.com

**Daniel Otto** (grad) lives in Jasper, Indiana. He works as a probation officer. Daniel lives in an area where German was widely spoken until the 1940s. He has been able to access old land deeds written in German. "Leading the DaF tutorial and teaching GERM 1010 on campus helped me improve my organizational and public speaking

skills, along with listening and empathy. This has all proven useful in community supervision and case management."  
E-mail: danielotto@gmail.com



*Shaydon Ramey*

**Shaydon Ramey** (spring semester) lives in Bowling Green and has completed the second year of his dual M.A. program in German and Spanish. Before beginning his graduate studies in Salzburg, Shaydon spent 2 years in Wittenberg, Germany as a Fulbright teaching assistant. Remembering his graduate year in Salzburg (2017-18): "My courses at Uni Salzburg sparked my interest in linguistics, which has been helpful since my return to Bowling Green both in classes and for my GAsip next fall. I also developed a lot of soft skills and helpful communication skills, adaptability and flexibility, intercultural understanding and tolerance, to name a few." Shaydon was in Salzburg for the 50-year reunion.  
E-mail: shaydonramey@gmail.com

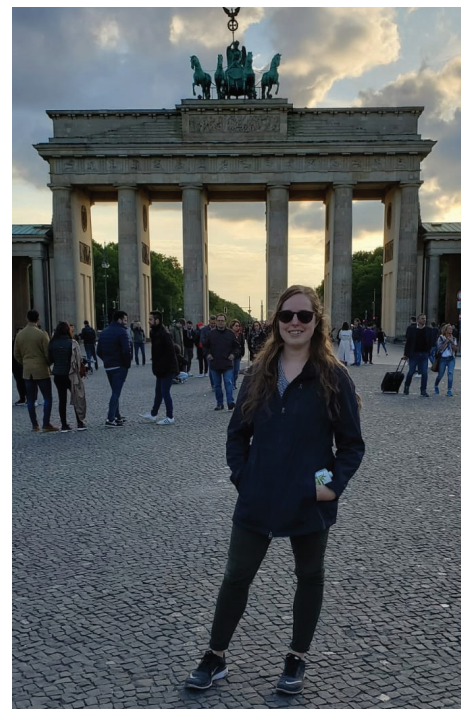
**Jacqueline Tomlin** lives in Somerville, Ohio. She works as a bank teller, which provides her with an opportunity to speak German: "There is a retired professor of German who comes into the bank frequently and who I converse with." "Studying abroad really helped me have more confidence in myself." A Salzburg memory: "Snowshoeing was great fun until Dan Otto got trapped in the snow. It was such a beautiful day and I will never forget that experience."  
E-Mail: jtomlin001@gmail.com

**Bill Whitesmith** (spring semester) lives in Westerville, Ohio.  
E-mail: ww Whites@bgsu.edu

### 2014-2015

**Director Christina Guenther**

**Molly Closson** lives in Ottawa, Ohio. She teaches German at Tinora High School near Defiance. Molly uses predominately German in all of her classes, even at the lowest levels. She values the travel experience gained abroad which "opened my mind to a new way of travel and prepared me to take students on trips abroad."  
E-mail: mollyrc22@gmail.com



*Andrea in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin*

**Andrea Haas** spent the last 2 school years (2017-19) in Berlin, where she was an English teaching assistant, the first year with the Fulbright TA program at the Albert-Schweitzer-Gymnasium, the second with the Pädagogischer Austauschdienst (PAD) at the Walter-Gropius-Schule. During her year in Salzburg Andrea did an internship at a Gymnasium, which helped prepare her for her teaching assistantships in Berlin. Andrea's mother, Lisa (Hart) Haas is also an AYA alumni (1987-88). Both mother and daughter were students in Hannes Baumgartner's Mittelstufe III!  
E-mail: amhaas@bgsu.edu

**Margaret (Selzer) Leimkuehler** lives in West Bend, Wisconsin. She currently works at Concordia University Wisconsin and Concordia University Ann Arbor, where she is concerned with international education. One of Concordia's partners is the FH Oberösterreich. Last May Concordia business students attended their international business conference. "Adaptability cannot be overrated in



international education. I also value the problem solving and decision making skills I gained abroad, and the life-long connections I made.”  
E-Mail: margaret.rose2920@gmail.com

**Sam Warner** (summer and fall semester) lives in Cleveland, Ohio. He is a software developer. “Learning another (human) language was very helpful to me in learning other (computer) languages. I had no idea I would wind up as a computer programmer – I was a German and Film Production major – but the skills, questions I know to ask, and the mindset of language learning turned out to be very transferable.”  
E-mail: its.sam.warner@gmail.com

### 2015-2016

#### Director Edgar Landgraf

**Codey Albers** lives in Boston, Massachusetts. In the fall of 2018 he moved to Boston to join Citizen Schools, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving life opportunities for middle school students. He teaches technical subjects. Living in Salzburg helped him become oriented in a new city: “Because of my time abroad, I’m now able to navigate new cities very easily and quickly. For my job I had to relocate to the East coast, and having

already been dropped into a city I knew nothing about (Salzburg), I was able to confidently and competently find my way around my new city.”  
E-mail: codeyalbers@gmail.com

**Tyler Burg** lives in Woodville, Ohio. He is the technical theater director at Lourdes University in Sylvania, Ohio. He does freelance audio engineering on the side and goes on tours with bands. He sings with the Toledo Opera Company and also performs at local bars and festivals throughout the year. “With my job I interact with many different types of people from different countries and cultures. While I never had an issue working with people different from myself, living in another country and travelling to 11 additional countries definitely broadened my world views and understanding of different cultures.”  
E-mail: tburg8@gmail.com

### 2016-2017

#### Director Stefan Fritsch

**Andrea Danziger** is presently living in Bulgan, Mongolia, where she is a Peace Corps volunteer working in public health. (See Special Recognition section.) Check out her Mongolia blog: andreadanziger.com. “German is surprisingly

more useful in Mongolia than one would expect. Germany is one of the leading aid providers in Mongolia, so I’ve been able to interact with Germans and Austrians working here. Also, all the Edeka extras seem to get exported here!”  
E-mail: andrea.j.danziger@gmail.com  
**Megan Major** (grad, see undergrad year 2011-2012)

**Bill Whitesmith** (grad, see undergrad spring semester 2014)

### 2017-18

#### Director Kristie Foell

**Liam Warren** lives in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. He graduated this spring with a B.S in Energy and Environmental Policy from the University of Delaware. He has been awarded a one-year German-American Federation scholarship to study water science and engineering at the prestigious Karlsruhe Institut für Technologie in Karlsruhe, Germany.  
E-mail: lgwarren@udel.edu

**Shaydon Ramey** (grad, see undergrad spring semester 2014)

## ‡ DR. HELMUT J. GUTMANN

Dr. Helmut Gutmann, a German faculty member of long-standing at BGSU, passed away last November. Here is the official announcement of his death:

Dr. Helmut J. Gutmann, of the BGSU German program and its AYA Austria program, died this past November 28, 2018, in Bowling Green, Ohio. He was held in high regard by colleagues, students, and others.

During his tenure at BGSU Dr. Gutmann directed the AYA Salzburg program five times: 1977-78, 1978-79 (with Dr. Gray), 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1986-87. Here is a picture of the 1986-87 group in Budapest. Dr. Gutmann is standing in the back row on the left.

Upon learning of Dr. Gutmann’s death, several alumni posted recollections of their former AYA director and professor.

“Dr. Gutmann was director during my ‘81-‘82 Salzburg experience, and patiently led our orientation class. Later I had him for Realismus;



oh, how I remember reading *Der grüne Heinrich!*”— Gene Aufderhaar

“Dr. Gutmann was also the ‘82-‘83 director. A very exacting man who demanded nothing less than 110%. I have an image of him as always being dapper with his ascot and v-neck sweaters, cigarette elegantly in hand, stroking his mustache. RIP”— Joelle Khouzam

“He was also the AYA director for my undergrad year, ‘86-‘87. He was very exacting and also very sweet. I always felt like he really cared about our well-being in Austria and wanted us to succeed. I’m sorry to hear of his passing.”— Carol Kremer

# You are invited to join the AYA Salzburg Alumni Group!

## By Brett Porter

On behalf of the Department of World Languages and Cultures, I am pleased to announce the formation of an alumni group created to support the AYA Salzburg Program.



An application to form an "Affinity" Group with the BGSU Alumni Office was submitted and accepted on May 15, 2019, making the **AYA Salzburg Alumni Group** a reality. The Alumni Group will help with scholarship fundraising, plan on-campus events, assist with the recruiting of AYA students, help maintain contact with AYA alumni, and support the longstanding collaboration between BGSU's Salzburg Program and the University of Salzburg.

Special thanks go to Dr. Margy Gerber, BGSU Professor emerita of German, for suggesting a meeting last spring and getting the ball rolling. She put out a call to alumni, faculty and friends of the AYA program within relatively easy reach of BGSU to attend a meeting at the conclusion of the Austrian Studies conference, which was

held in Bowling Green from April 11-14 (see separate report). The get-together was to be a brainstorming session on how alumni might promote the AYA Salzburg Program. The meeting was an outgrowth of discussions which began during the 50-year celebration of the program in Salzburg in June 2018.

Ten former alumni and faculty attended this initial meeting in the Shatzel Hall reading room on April 14th. AYA alumni in attendance were Gene Aufderhaar, Kathy Best, Julian Gillilan, Shaydon Ramey, Linda VanBlaricom, Rhonda Westerhaus and Brett Porter. Dr. Kristie Foell and Dr. Edgar Landgraf represented the faculty.

The topics discussed at the meeting included an annual AYA reunion at BGSU during the university's Homecoming weekend, inviting AYA alumni to campus to talk about their careers, preparation of the annual newsletter, increasing the on-campus visibility of things German, and reaching out to high school teachers of German in Ohio.

Six leadership positions have since been created within the group: Alumni Coordinator (**Brett Porter**), Faculty Coordinator (**Edgar Landgraf**), Fundraising & Scholarship Coordinator (**Lonie Moore**), Advertising & Recruitment Coordinator

(**Linda VanBlaricom**), Membership, Event & Newsletter Coordinators (**Margy Gerber & Brett Porter**) and Student Representatives (**Julian Gillilan & Shaydon Ramey**).

Priority goals moving forward will be fundraising, scholarships, recruitment and enrollment. Another goal is to draw more AYA alumni into the fold. We have contact addresses for only a large third of all AYA participants. With the help of active alumni we would like to locate more and interest them in AYA activities. We have many distinguished program alumni and hope to utilize their talents to realize our goal of program growth and revitalization.

We welcome ideas and suggestions for promoting the AYA program, which has made a very special and long-lasting impact on so many of our lives.

Please sign up to help in an area that appeals to you. The Alumni Group has its own e-mail address. You can contact us at: [ayasalzburgalumnigroup@gmail.com](mailto:ayasalzburgalumnigroup@gmail.com)

***We need your ideas and your energy!***

## AYA STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM AWARDS

The Department of World Languages and Cultures gratefully acknowledges the donors to the three AYA Austria scholarship funds. In 2019-20 program 14 AYA students will benefit from these donors' generosity.

### Donors to the Dzidra Shllaku Scholarship Fund 2018-2019

Mr. Eugene Aufderhaar,  
Mrs. Kathleen Aufderhaar  
Ms. Danea Biances  
Ms. Amy Bruckner  
Mrs. Heather E. Burke  
Ms. Tara P. Campbell  
Ms. Dana Deal  
Mrs. Katherine Drozd, Mr. Donald Drozd  
Mr. Darrell Foell, Mrs. Sally Foell  
Dr. Kristie Foell  
Dr. Margy Gerber  
Mr. Larry Hansgen, Mrs. Laura Hansgen  
Mr. Steven Harris  
Dr. Geoffrey Howes, Christen Giblin  
Mr. Daniel E. McMackin,  
Mr. James McPike, Mrs. Karlyn McPike

Dr. Brian A. Pavlac, Dr. Elizabeth S. Lott  
Mrs. Debra Peters, Mr. James Peters  
Dr. Timothy Pogacar  
Mr. Brett A. Porter, Mrs. Katherine Porter  
Dr. Klaus M. Schmidt, Mrs. Ingrid Schmidt  
Mrs. Vickie L. Sherwood  
Ms. Paula Sliefert  
Mr. Larry M. Snavely, Mrs. Ida Snavely  
Ms. Jill Sommer  
Mrs. Sherry L. Wagner, Mr. Carl Wagner  
Mrs. Anna Wein-Bradly  
Mrs. Ursula Wein-Prosen  
Dr. William L. Weis, Mrs. Marilyn J. Roy

### Donors to the Foell International Travel Grant Fund 2018-19

Mr. Darrell W. Foell, Mrs. Sally A. Foell  
Mr. John Schultze

### Donors to the Koepke Study Abroad Scholarship Fund 2018-19

Dr. Helen Cafferty  
Dr. Margy Gerber  
Mrs. Katja R. Koepke, Mr. Galen G. Koepke

### These undergraduate students have received scholarships for study in Salzburg in 2019-2020:

Eleanor Behling (Microbiology)  
Kennedy Callahan (Creative Writing)  
Shawna Gillilan-Neeley (Psychology)  
Morgan Kesler (Aviation Studies)  
Michael Maier (German)  
Harold Morton (Philosophy/Politics/Law)  
Bree Murray (Media Production and Studies)  
David "Nate" Paul (Communication Disorders)  
Reid Perry (German)  
Alexander Rudzinski (Pre-Liberal Studies)  
Brandin Sturgil (International Studies)  
Emily Suchan (Economics)  
Donovan Wheeler (Health and Human Services)  
Elizabeth Young (Creative Writing/German)



# SUPPORTING THE AYA AUSTRIA PROGRAM

## How to Contribute to the AYA Scholarship Funds

AYA Austria alumni frequently ask about helping future students participate in the program. Here is information about the three existing scholarship funds:

The oldest, the **Dzidra Shallku Scholarship Fund**, was founded in 1998 by former students of Dr. Shllaku to support undergraduate BGSU students in all majors. Endowed in 2003, the fund provides an annual spendable amount to award as scholarships. Since 1998 at least 75 BGSU students have received a Dzidra Shllaku Scholarship award for study in Salzburg. Ordinarily, four BGSU students are supported each year. The amount available for distribution for 2019-2020 was approx. \$7,700.

The **Foell International Travel Award Fund** was created by Darrell W. and Sally M. Foell in memory of his mother, Margaret Kaesmann Foell. It supports students from any university for study with BGSU's AYA Austria program and is based on merit. It awards scholarships up to \$1,500. The funds distributed in 2019-2020 totaled approx. \$ 1,900.

The newest AYA scholarship fund, the **Galen and Katja Koepke Study Abroad Scholarship**, was established by the Koepkes in 2016. It supports BGSU undergraduate and graduate students. The first scholarship was awarded for the academic year 2016-17. It awards scholarships up to \$1,500. For 2019-20 approx. \$1,800 were distributed.

We are dependent on donations to the scholarship funds to maintain and increase the stipends!

**If you would like to contribute to one or more of these funds, it is easy to do:**

**Each scholarship fund has a number:**

- Dzidra Shllaku Scholarship – #301383
- Foell International Travel Award – #301814
- Galen and Katja Koepke Study Abroad – #302504

You can donate **by check:**

Include the name and number of the fund to which you want to donate and mail to:

BGSU Foundation, Inc.  
1851 N. Research Dr.  
Bowling Green, OH 43403

Or you can donate **online:**

Go to **bgsu.edu/give**, then log in as a guest and search for the desired gift designation under "fund options." The software program takes you step by step through the process. As an additional help, the University Advancement office prepared a pdf especially for us: "How to Make an Online Gift to AYA Salzburg Scholarships," which can be accessed at <https://www.bgsu.edu/content/dam/BGSU/college-of-arts-and-sciences/World-Languages-and-Cultures/german/docs/How-to-Make-an-Online-Gift-for-AYA-Salzburg-Scholarships.pdf>

## How else can I support the AYA Austria program?

There are many useful things alumni can do to support the program other than donating money for scholarships. If you are interested in helping, the first thing to do is to join the newly formed AYA Salzburg Alumni Group (see separate section). Activities of the group have been divided into 3 basic categories: Fundraising & Scholarship (Coordinator **Lonie Moore**), Advertising & Recruitment (Coordinator **Linda VanBlaricom**), Membership, Event & Newsletter (Coordinators **Margy Gerber & Brett Porter**). You can contact them at the group's e-mail address: **ayasalzburgalumngroup@gmail.com**

We are looking for new ideas. Some of you have expertise or job experience that can be applied in the program. Everyone can help in some way.

**For example:**

### **Help with recruitment of AYA participants**

Students contemplating joining the AYA program often have questions best answered by former participants in the program, i.e., people who have gone through what they will experience. We would like to have a list of former alumni who would be willing to speak/mail with potential undergrad and graduate students. If you are interested, please contact Linda VanBlaricom or Dr. Christina Guenther: [cguenth@bgsu.edu](mailto:cguenth@bgsu.edu).

### **Advise students on advantages of knowing foreign languages in various professions, employment opportunities**

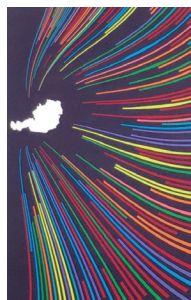
Students learning foreign languages who have never had a chance to use them in real life situations, often have little idea that they can be useful in many professions.

If you use German in your job/profession, especially other than teaching, we would like to know about it, so that we can pass this "real life" information on to our students. Perhaps you would be willing to come to campus and give a talk. Contact Christina Guenther ([cguenth@bgsu.edu](mailto:cguenth@bgsu.edu)).

### **Help us enlarge our list of past participants**

We have no contact addresses for perhaps 50% of the former AYA participants. We usually increase our list (at present, ca. 500 names and e-mail addresses) because someone knows someone who found someone on Facebook... Perhaps you can help us track down alumni who have gone missing so that we can send them AYA newsletters and bring them back into the fold. Contact: Margy Gerber or Brett Porter.

# Austrian Studies Association Conference Held at BGSU



**by Geoff Howes**

From April 11-14, 2019, the Austrian Studies Association held its annual conference in the Bowen Thompson Student Union at BGSU. This was the last event in the nearly year-long celebration of the fiftieth

anniversary of BGSU programs in Salzburg, and indeed it was a cooperative effort of BGSU and the University of Salzburg. BGSU professor Christina Guenther led a team that included the University of Salzburg historians Andreas Praher and Maija Ojala-Fulwood to organize an international conference on the theme of "Austria in Europe: Migration, Immigration, Integration: Contemporary and Historical Perspectives." Participants came not only from across the U.S., but also from Austria, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Russia, and the United Kingdom.

The current president of the Austrian Studies Association, Gregor Thuswaldner, who can be seen here greeting the conference attendees, is originally from Salzburg and once studied at BGSU as a Salzburg-BGSU exchange student. He is presently dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at North Park University in Chicago.

Our own AYA Resident Director Dr. Manfred Mittermayer, familiar to most AYA alumni, gave a keynote address on his work co-organizing the annual literary festival in the mountain town of Rauris in Salzburger Land.

BGSU alumni Dr. Anita McChesney (Texas Tech) and Dr. Nikhil Sathe (Ohio University) gave papers, as did BGSU's 2017-18 Fulbright Teaching Assistant Arua Elabd. BGSU faculty were also well represented, as Dr. Guenther, Dr. Geoff Howes, Dr. Eftychia Papanikolaou (Musicology), and Dr. Khani Begum (English) gave scholarly presentations. Dr. Margy Gerber came from Berlin to attend and moderate a panel. Dr. Kristie Foell, Dr. Edgar Landgraf, Dr. Vibha Bhalla (Ethnic Studies), Dr. Douglas Forsyth (History), and Fulbright FLTA Eva Trinkaus also moderated panels. Registration and logistics were handled by current graduate and undergraduate BGSU students.

Rounding out the intensive and extensive scholarly discussions were two film showings, a literary reading by Max Kade Writer in Residence Clemens Berger, and an Austrian hip-hop performance by YASMO (Yasmin Hafedh), sponsored by the Austrian Cultural Forum New York.



*Dr. Christina Guenther addresses the conference participants.*



*Austrian Studies Association President Dr. Gregor Thuswaldner*



*Keynote speaker Dr. Manfred Mittermayer*

On the last morning of the four-day conference, Geoff Howes joined a panel of current and past editors of the *Journal of Austrian Studies* (formerly *Modern Austrian Literature*) to reflect on its own 50 years of existence.

The conference was a high point in the decades-long involvement of BGSU German faculty in Austrian Studies. Congratulations to Dr. Guenther for organizing a very successful event!



*YASMO performing*



*Clemens Berger reads from his novel in progress.*





# Spotlight on AYA Salzburg Resident Director Dr. Manfred Mittermayer

*Dr. Manfred Mittermayer*

AYA Austria students who have participated in the program since 2002 year know him – Dr. Manfred Mittermayer – as the resident director of the Salzburg program who frequently accompanies the group on longer excursions. Graduate students will remember that he until recently (from 1997-2014) taught the program’s graduate-level survey courses in German studies. Older alumni may have been in the DaF courses he taught for some years starting in 1984.

However, his association with BGSU’s Salzburg program and his teaching at the University of Salzburg are only two of the many sides and activities of Dr. Mittermayer, who has dedicated his professional life to contemporary literature and film.

Some of you may have encountered Dr. Mittermayer in Das Kino, where, for many years, he has introduced films. Some may have heard him at readings and discussions at the Literaturhaus. But few will have fully realized the intellectual acumen and the accomplishments of our resident director.

We thought it high time to turn the spotlight on the “day jobs” of Dr. Mittermayer, with which he has established his reputation as a literary and cultural scholar. Since its founding in 2012, Dr. Mittermayer has been the director of the Literaturarchiv Salzburg, which collects and curates the literary estates of Salzburg (city and Land) authors as well as the secondary literature of Salzburg authors and documents of literary life in Salzburg.

Dr. Mittermayer is also the co-director of the unique and prestigious Rauriser Literaturtage devoted to contemporary German-language literature that is held each year in the alpine village of Rauris in Salzburger Land.



Dr. Mittermayer is a recognized expert on the Austrian writer Thomas Bernhard, about whom he has written and edited at least six books. His highly acclaimed biography of Bernhard appeared in 2006.

**Dr. Christina Guenther recently conducted an interview with Dr. Mittermayer. You can read the entire interview online at [bgsu.edu/mittermayer](http://bgsu.edu/mittermayer).**

**Christina Guenther:** You have such a range of interests that include music and art history. What prompted you to study Germanistik and English literary studies at the University of Salzburg?

**Manfred Mittermayer:** My father was a secondary-school teacher, so it was almost a

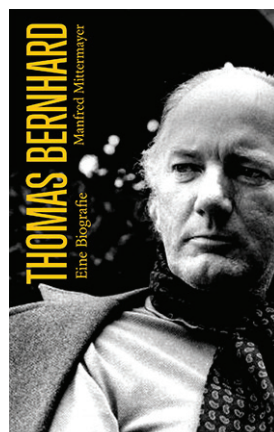
matter of course that I, too, would follow in his footsteps. I played piano and had planned to study music as my primary subject and German (language and literature) as my secondary subject. Unfortunately, a year before my entrance exam, I developed tendonitis in my left hand and could not continue playing piano. That narrowed down my options, so I chose to study Germanistik as my primary field and English as my minor. I had already been an avid reader as a child. In fact, I remember how in my enthusiasm for one of my favorite authors, Erich Kästner, I decided to write him a long letter. I was delighted that he responded to my letter with a kind, even if short, reply. That had quite an impact on me. As I grew older, I was fascinated by Franz Kafka and Samuel Beckett and contemporary authors, such as Peter Handke. I considered studying at the University of Graz for a time, but then decided on the University of Salzburg because of its reputation and Professor Walter Weiss, who helped establish one of the most innovative and exciting programs in modern Germanistik there.

**Guenther:** What kind of an image or impression did you have of the United States when you began studying at the Institut für Anglistik/Amerikanistik in Salzburg. To what extent did your contact with American students in your courses influence your impressions of the U.S.?

**Mittermayer:** Growing up in Austria of the 1960s and 1970s, I was introduced to the U.S. via films, documentaries, novels, and popular culture in



*Conversing with Karl-Markus Gaus at the Rauris Literaturtage*



## ANNOUNCING BGSU'S NEW M.A. DEGREE IN EUROPEAN STUDIES

general. I was curious about this country about which I had read so much. At university, I got to know “real” Americans. In the summer of 1986, I began teaching in the Internationale Ferienkurse under the direction of Professor Adolf Haslinger and got to know the American students rather well. My most intense contact came through the Bowling Green Exchange Program at the University of Salzburg. In fact, I had the opportunity to visit Bowling Green for the first time in 1995 when I was invited to hold a lecture on Thomas Bernhard there. Together with my wife, we combined the visit with a longer tour of the United States that included the New England states and the Midwest. I remember being impressed by the architecture in New York and in Chicago, by the small towns, the varied landscapes, and the atmosphere in general. The Americans are very friendly. It has been a pleasure to have been invited back several times to Bowling Green State University for presentations and workshops, most recently, as keynote speaker at the Austrian Studies Association Conference 2019, which focused on Austrian migration.

**Guenther:** You have served as director of the Literaturarchiv at the University of Salzburg for a number of years now. Would you describe your work as director of the archives?

**Mittermayer:** The University of Salzburg’s literary archive is relatively new. It was established in the academic year 2011-2012, and I was named director in April 2012. Stefan Zweig’s literary estate and Peter Handke’s work constitute the main focus of the collection. We work alongside the Stefan Zweig Archive here at the university to strengthen Zweig’s legacy, and this includes a close cooperation with the Daniel A. Reed Library at SUNY-Fredonia and the National Library of Israel. A major aspect of our work in the archives is digitizing our Zweig holdings in order to allow international researchers ready access to his writings.

The archive also supports the literary scene in Salzburg and the region. Thus, in 2013 I became one of the two artistic directors of the annual Rauriser Literaturtage, the major literary festival in the state of Salzburg held each year in the alpine town of Rauris. I see our job at the archive as one that involves preserving literary works and in providing access to literature and literary life in general to as many people as possible. One way, in which I have worked as mediator of literature, is as discussion leader at workshops

and literary events. I have also mounted and curated a number of literary exhibits, something that I thoroughly enjoy doing, especially when the exhibits resonate with the public. I was invited to mount and introduce my 2001 literary exhibit on Thomas Bernhard, for instance, in several European countries and even in Brazil. I have since co-organized and curated a number of Bernhard exhibits and am quite proud of my Handke and Wedekind exhibits (in Salzburg and Munich).

**Guenther:** The BGSU Program has benefited from your expertise for many decades now. You have offered our students courses and advice. More recently, you’ve provided internships at the University of Salzburg’s Literary Archive that some of our students have engaged in. Can you comment on those?

**Mittermayer:** Yes, we are always happy to accommodate students who are interested in doing an internship with us. We have very many manuscripts and materials that need to be carefully vetted and catalogued. We welcome the help of interns in that area in particular. We’ve been lucky to have had very good students. Interns have confirmed, too, that they garnered valuable work experience with us and gained insights about the literary worlds that led them beyond their literary seminars at university.

**Guenther:** You have been very active in literary and film studies for a long time now. What role do you see the field of literary studies playing here in Austria in the future?

**Mittermayer:** It is my hope that literary studies will continue to play an important role in education and in the cultural life of our society. Literary studies and the humanities allow us to move beyond rigid systems, tap into our imagination as we experiment with different scenarios and perspectives, and confront the conundrums and ambiguities that challenge us. The humanities encourage thinking outside the proverbial box; they provide spaces for divergent opinions and promote critical thinking. Not everything is limited to a utilitarian mindset or the laws of the market. We will always need stories; we need to relate to them, and we need to be curious about one another’s stories.

**Guenther:** Thank you very much for your time and your candor! As always, it was a pleasure chatting with you.

After more than three years in the making, BGSU now has a Master of Arts program in European studies, the first to be offered at any Ohio university. The European studies M.A. is an interdisciplinary, skill-based program which enables students to develop expertise in Europe as a whole together with a specialization in a given European state or region. The program is based on the realization that, in today’s world, expertise in one country – be it cultural, political, economic, linguistic, or other – must include knowledge of the broader international context in which this country or region is embedded and with which it interacts. In this case, Europe and the USA.

Gaining a high level of proficiency in a (non-English) European language, a study-stay abroad and an internship are core aspects of the degree. In addition, the M.A. degree in European studies allows students to carry out individualized research and examine different aspects of Europe by making use of a wide array of interdisciplinary approaches such as history, politics, culture and/or the arts. The goal is for students to develop advanced intercultural and international competency as well as gain work experience with an international company or organization.

The M.A. in European studies is intended to prepare students for careers in international business, government, the non-profit sector (e.g. NGOs), and many other areas where international expertise is needed. There is a high demand for employees trained to work for international companies and organizations with specific interests in Europe.

Dr. Edgar Landgraf (World Languages and Cultures) is the director of the new program. The interdisciplinary advisory board includes BGSU professors Neal Jesse (Political Science), Simon Morgan-Russell (Honors College), Kara Barr (History), and Beatrice Guenther (International Studies, WLC – French)

The program has its first student: Alexandra Brinkman, who was in Salzburg as an undergraduate in 2017-18, and is now going back to Salzburg as a EURO MA student.

More information can be found on the program’s webpage: <https://www.bgsu.edu/academics/european-studies.html>.



# Putting German and the BGSU Salzburg Experience to Work

by Geoff Howes

*"I never imagined when I started learning German in high school that I would be where I am today. I am so grateful to my teachers and professors for all they have done for me. I cannot recommend AYA Austria enough!"*

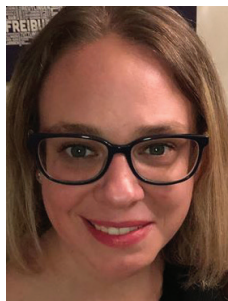
– Molly Rowland, Executive Director, German American Partnership Program



Lorena Haberern



April Hemphill



Molly Rowland



Walter Schlect



Katherine Schober



Ann-Marie Simon

Teaching is the occupation that often springs to mind when it comes to employment opportunities for people who have learned languages and studied abroad. But among the alumni of BGSU's Academic Year Abroad in Austria there are many other examples of gainful employment and satisfying careers. Here, alumni talk about their positions, which directly involve the use of the German language but do not involve teaching as such.

I interviewed six undergraduate and graduate alumni of our Salzburg program to find out about their jobs: **Lorena Haberern (2014), April (Reiter) Hemphill (2009-10), Molly Rowland (2010-11), Walter Schlect (2007-2008), Katie (Portnoy) Schober (2009-10), and Anne-Marie Simon (2007-08; 2012-13).**

Lorena works part-time for the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) in Cherry Hill, New Jersey as the Program Assistant. <https://www.aatg.org>

April has been Director of Programs at AATG in Cherry Hill, and in June 2019 started as an Assessment Specialist for ETS (Education Testing Service) in Princeton, New Jersey. <https://www.aatg.org/page/StaffList>

Molly is Executive Director of the German American Partnership Program (GAPP, Inc.), a bilateral student exchange program of the Goethe Institut. <https://www.goethe.de/ins/us/en/spr/eng/gap.html>

Walter is the Librarian at the Goethe Institut New York. <https://www.goethe.de/ins/us/en/sta/ney.html>

*Molly Rowland (r.) of GAAP meeting with Philina Wittke (BGSU 2005-06), Head of TU Darmstadt/Virginia Tech Liaison*

Katie works as a German-English Genealogy Translator at her own company, SK Translations, based in St. Louis. In addition to translating, she gives lectures and workshops on genealogy, old German handwriting, and using church records. <https://sktranslations.com>

Anne-Marie is Program Assistant for Transatlantic Dialogue at the Washington, DC, office of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, an international foundation devoted to political education. <https://fnf-northamerica.org>

## Job Satisfaction

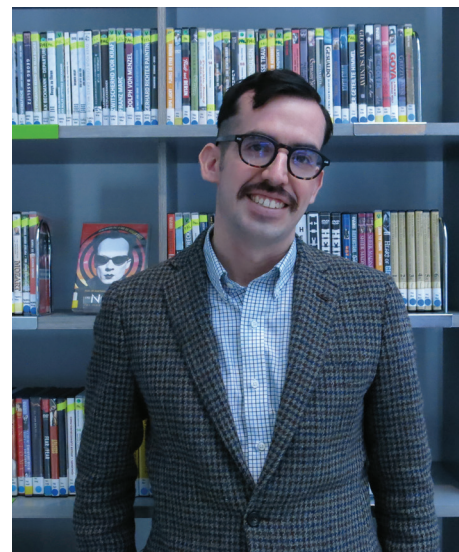
When asked about the most satisfying aspects of her work at the AATG, Lorena mentioned learning new things, experiencing "a different side of education," and speaking German and interacting with others who "share my affinity for the language [and] culture (and for Salzburg!)."



April appreciates having been able to use her "language skills and creativity to support German language learning and teaching across the US," including the AATG's Teach German and National German Day campaigns. She is inspired and motivated by knowing that her ideas and work influence other German learners.

Molly is enthusiastic about helping teachers grow their German programs by adding a GAPP program to their schools. She also loves reading scholarship applications from GAPP students all over the US. She loves being able to offer, through the generosity of sponsors, the same kind of travel opportunities she had to students who might not be able to afford it otherwise.

Walter loves the fact that his job at the Goethe Institut has so much variety. Rather than specializing, as many librarians do, he gets to "do a little of everything, including reference,



Walter Schlect in the library of the Goethe Institut, New York

*Continued on next page*

cataloging, and collection development.” He also does literary and exhibition programming, and is the point person for the Goethe Institut’s U.S. translation funding program.

Katie is glad she can combine her passions for history and languages into a career. Working with old letters and diaries, she is fascinated to see that “while a lot has changed in the world itself, the things people cared about, worried about, and laughed about were very much the same as they are today.” She also likes being her own boss!

At the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Anne-Marie gets satisfaction from meeting political professionals around the world in person, and bringing them together to discuss their ideas and different perspectives.

### Using German on the job

Since German is the official office language of the Goethe Institut, Molly Rowland and Walter Schlect can say they speak it every day. Molly also uses German at events and meetings at the German Consulate, and Walter reads a lot in German for the library’s monthly book club, where he leads discussions of contemporary German novels.

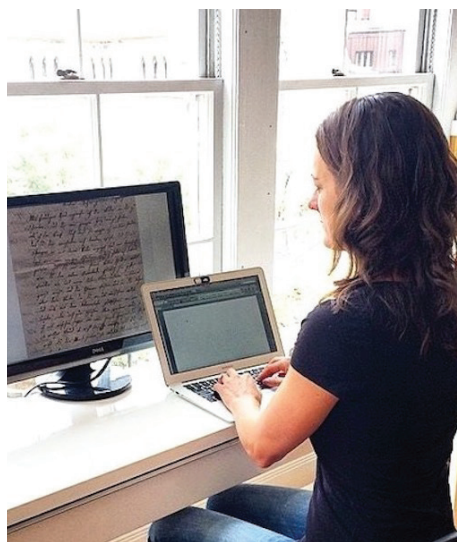
At the AATG, April Hemphill used German every day “in communicating with members and representatives of our German partner organizations, and when designing campaigns, promotional materials, and recruitment materials for our various student programs.” And Lorena Haberern finds that it helps her “understand the materials the AATG offers, communicate with members and colleagues, and appreciate the mission of the organization.”

Katie Schober translates German into English, so she uses the language on a daily basis. (Her web site also tells us that German is the primary language in her Austrian-American household.)

Anne-Marie Simon reports using German “in the office every day, with my German-speaking colleagues, with German-speaking participants on our study tours, in written correspondence as an executive assistant, and for financial and administrative tasks.”

### Job and life skills from study abroad

Apart from language skills, study abroad can prepare you for many other aspects of employment. Lorena summarizes it well: “Study



*Katie Schober at work transliterating from old German script*

abroad prepared me for working because it allowed me to be brave in getting outside of my comfort zone. There are so many new experiences when you study abroad, and pushing yourself through and having fun along the way shows you how strong and confident you really are! That confidence is so important when it comes for interviewing for jobs, taking on new responsibilities, and exploring all of the possibilities that are out there.”

April says study abroad helped her “to realize I enjoyed academia but could work to promote German language learning and teaching in other ways beyond being a professor or researcher.”

Since Anne-Marie’s job involves “organizing and implementing study and information tours for American, Canadian, and German political professionals in cities around the US, Canada, and in Germany on current political, economic and social issues” (whew!), she can apply what she learned in Austria about creating interesting

programs, “both from the perspective of a participant and from that of an organizer.”

Studying abroad in Austria allowed Molly “to use the German language in context, meet and befriend people from other cultures, and face the challenges of living in a foreign country head on. I improved my German, became more independent, and grew as an academic as well as a person.”

Walter credits his time abroad with improving his “general intercultural communication” and for “breaking me out of my shy and provincial shell. There are many different ways of doing any one thing, and it is good to live somewhere where you are forced to do even the most banal daily things differently than the comfortable way that you did growing up.”

Of course, ultimately it is impossible to separate life skills and communication skills. Katie says she became “much more confident in speaking the German language (albeit with a slight Austrian accent!) myself.” And April says it enabled her “to feel competent to speak with the many diverse German-speakers I work with, from German and Austrian educational ministry colleagues to professional partners here in the U.S.”

*Many thanks to the six alumni who agreed to interviews. If you have similar experiences to report on or advice to give that we could include in future newsletters, or if you would like to contribute an article about yourself or other alumni, please write Geoff Howes at [ghowes@bgsu.edu](mailto:ghowes@bgsu.edu).*



*Anne-Marie Simon (l.) at a Transatlantic Freedom Forum with the Washington staff of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation*



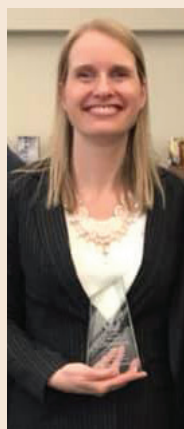
# SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Many AYA alumni deserve special recognition. These are individuals whose accomplishments we heard about:



Andrea shows us where she is stationed in Mongolia.

**Andrea Danziger** (2016-17) is a Peace Corps volunteer in Bulgan, Mongolia, now in her second year of service. She works in the area of public health. Andrea writes a blog “One Steppe at a Time” ([andreadanziger.com](http://andreadanziger.com)), in which she records in texts and videos her experiences and her reflections on the Mongolian mentality and culture and the great differences with those of the western world.



**Lisa Heinrich** (2000-01), who teaches music at Cloverleaf Elementary School in Seville, Ohio, received the Homer B. Smith Teacher of Excellence award for 2019. One teacher out of the 1,100 Medina County teachers is selected each year to receive the award. Lisa teaches general music to more than 600 students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Her work has been published in *The Orff Echo* professional journal and she has served as president of the Cleveland chapter of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association.

Lisa Heinrich holds her award.

**Alison Kemp** (2008-09) spent the last two years in Mbabane, eSwatini (Swaziland) as a Peace Corp volunteer. She is staying on in Swaziland for a second two-year term. In September, she will assume a more administrative role in a communications and monitoring/evaluation position there. In the Alumni News section she notes that the Peace Corps prefers applicants with study-abroad experience.



**McKayla Raines** (2017-18), who graduated with a major in International Studies this spring and was a student speaker at the 50-year AYA celebration in Salzburg in June 2018, has been accepted into the Peace Corps and will begin her service in Morocco in September.

McKayla speaking at the 50-year AYA reunion, 2018



## AYA Austria newsletters available online

All of the AYA Austria newsletters from 1971 through 2017 can be found online. They can be read or downloaded from the Newsletter Archive at [bgsu.edu/arts-and-sciences/world-languages-and-cultures/languages/german/study-abroad-salzburg/aya-alumni-pages](http://bgsu.edu/arts-and-sciences/world-languages-and-cultures/languages/german/study-abroad-salzburg/aya-alumni-pages)