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AYA Director's Report

Dear friends of the Academic Year in Austria,

As this year's director, I'm pleased to say the program is thriving in its thirty-fifth year. Although our group is a little smaller than usual, numbering eight undergraduates and eight graduates, it is a spirited and helpful crew. This year marks significant changes in the program's staffing. Dr. Manfred Mittermayer, who has taught German literature and language to our students for many years, has taken over the position of Resident Director, since Prof. Dr. Helmut Pellischek has retired. Our new local director is ably supported by Prof. Stuppnik-Bazzanella, who is making housing arrangements. Our history instructor Dr. Nicole Slupetzky took over the graduate course on "Austria Today" from Dr. Pellischek last year.

The high water that had threatened Salzburg's Altstadt in the summer was only a memory when the students arrived on Sept. 30. We continued the tradition of starting the semester with a city tour led by Mag. Fritz Baier, our geography teacher. It was gray and rained off and on, and so the students got a realistic introduction to Salzburg in the fall. We had fine weather, however, for our Gaisberg hike, which this year involved a walk around the mountain at the level of the Zistelalm and a bus ride to the top. Prof. and Mr. Stuppnik, their new puppy, Dr. Mittermayer, and Mag. Hannes Baumgartner joined the hike. By the next week, the unusually cold, wet October weather had returned when we went to the open-air museum in Grossgmain. So we made our tour short and topped it off with a visit to the recently opened inn in the museum. Coffee, tea, and soup are especially good when you've been tromping through the rain.

Students got a glimpse of Austria's troubled past when Dr. Slupetzky led trips to the concentration camp memorial at Mauthausen and to the Salzburg city museum Carolino Augusteum for the current exhibit on "Jews in Salzburg." Our spirits were lighter, though, as we took the annual trip to Vienna, staying as usual in the venerable Hotel Wandl right off the Graben. On Friday evening we went to a Heurigen in Neustift am Walde. Not only the students and directors attended; we were also able to welcome two alumnae of our arrangement with Fulbright, Imelda Rohrbacher and Heide Kunzelmann, along with Heide's parents and our recent writer in residence Gerhard Kofler and his wife Hannelore. AYA alumnus Tyler Beck, who is a teaching assistant in Linz this year, was also "mit von der Partie."

We had an unorthodox tour of Vienna's Innenstadt that included some less-visited sites and emphasized women's history, and we all experienced a good performance of Alban Berg's modernistic opera "Lulu" at the Staatsoper on Saturday. On Sunday we had a treat when we viewed a special exhibit in the Upper Belvedere of the landscapes of Gustav Klimt. With our last bit of energy we were guided through the rooms of Maria Theresia and Franz Joseph and Empress Elizabeth at Schoenbrunn.

Our traditional Thanksgiving dinner was well attended again, with over a hundred guests. AYA alumni were there, including Lisa Pietras ('98-'99), now a teaching assistant in Alt Aussee, the aforementioned Tyler Beck ('00-01), and Erin Baudendistel ('98-'99). Many Austrian alumni of Bowling Green were able to come, including Michael Brachtl, Andrea Roeck, Werner Dietl, Klemens Winkler, Reinhart Geiger, and Verena Strobl, who was attending with this year's American lecturer at Salzburg, also from BG, Brad Klypchak. Among the faculty and friends of BGSU who were present were our Academic Liaison and former Dean of Humanities Prof. Leo Truchlar, current Dean of Humanities Prof. Wilfried Wieden, the chair of the English department, Prof. Karl Hubmayer, former English chair Prof. Dorothea Steiner, Prof. Stan Ford of the Mozarteum, Prof. Bernroider from psychology, and Mrs. Bernroider.

Now the advent season has begun, and Salzburg is sparkling with lights and packed with busloads of Christmas tourists from Italy, Germany, and other neighboring countries. It seems like there's a Gluehwein stand in every available space, and besides the traditional Christkindlmarkt on the Domplatz there are markets on Mirabellplatz and the (finally completed) Bahnhofplatz. In spite of visibly increased commercialization, Salzburg is still a charming place to spend the holiday season.

If you're ever in Bowling Green or Salzburg, please stop by and look us up. As the family of those with fond memories of their time in Austria grows, we want to keep in touch with everyone and hear about you and your families and friends. My colleagues in the Academic Year Abroad Program, Dr. Foell, Dr. Guenther, Dr. Landgraf, Dr. Rippey, and Ms. Sidor, join me in wishing you and yours all the best for 2003.

With best regards,

Geoffrey C. Howes

AYA Director 2002-03, 1998-99, 1993-94, 1989-90

Salzburg Scholarship Donations

“Die Gruppe”

Steven Harris (KPMG Peat Marwick)

Lana Chadwick

Diana Hamidinia

Timothy Rericha

Eric Moore

Dallas Hull

Sue Mendizza

Larry Snavley

William Weis

S P O N S O R S

Lois Phillips

Gayle Godek

Heather Watkins

Paula Sliefert

Mrs. Dorothy Price

David and Joy Lubeck

C O N T R I B U T O R S

Beverly Everett

Amy and Brad Wexler

F R I E N D S

Dave Schrader

Emma Kelly

**Kay Michel
Sherry Lo Wagner**

**ON-CAMPUS
GREAL Faculty and Staff Members**

**On deposit with the BGSU Foundation: \$21,891.96
Amount available for 2003-2004 scholarships to be determined in June**

“Die Gruppe” Begins Celebration of the 35-Year Anniversary of BGSU Salzburg Study Abroad

Members of “Die Gruppe” (the name used by the students who attended the Salzburg summer study course in 1967 and any other person who shares the value and memory of the Salzburg experience) met in Naples, Florida to begin the celebration of the 35th anniversary of the 1967 summer program in Salzburg, Austria. These former Bowling Green students are actively seeking the whereabouts of other members of the 1967 group to encourage them to participate in not only the social functions of “Die Gruppe” but also to enlist their assistance (and that of any other former Salzburg veteran or Dr. Shllaku student) in contributing to the Dr. Dzidra Shllaku Scholarship fund. This fund was established in honor of Dr. Shllaku, who all the members consider to have been a major influence on the program and in their personal development. Anyone who desires information of any upcoming activity or is desirous of participating in the scholarship fund should make contact with Ms. Sharon Hanna, Major Gift Officer, Bowling Green State University, Mileti Alumni Center, Bowling Green, OH 43403-0054. Ms. Hanna has graciously agreed to forward information to the appropriate individuals who can be in touch with the location of the next get together of “Die Gruppe”. Likewise, anyone who would rather steer clear of the sometimes rowdy “Gruppe” activities (they call it “Gemutlichkeit”), but are desirous of contributing to the Shllaku Scholarship Fund may also contact Ms. Hanna directly.

**Members of “Die Gruppe” take time out from reunion
to attend Swamp Buggy Races in Naples, Florida**

(left to right)

**Larry Snavley, Lana (Smucker) Chadwick, Mascot, R. Eric Moore,
Steven Harris, Swamp Buggy Queen, William Weis, Timothy Rericha,
Diana (Hartzog) Hamidinia, Sue (Sommer) Mendizza**

AYA Salzburg Alumni

1980-81 - Dr. Margy Gerber, director

**Karin Nitsch; 3641 Medina Line Rd.; Richfield, OH 44286
(330) 659-3534; knitsch@adelphia.net**

We recently incorporated our business and plan on expanding the business (The Natural Source Company) throughout the Great Lakes Region. We are still very active in our local German Club where the children attend a German Language School, dance with the Jugendgruppe and Kindergruppe, and participate in the Ski Club.

My language skills and cultural expertise have been invaluable throughout my career life, particularly in the last five years. We have been working with an Austrian company, importing their products and selling them throughout the U.S. We travel to Austria to attend conventions and meetings and it is very helpful to be able to conduct business in German.

1984-85 - Dr. Klaus Schmidt, director

1986-87 - Dr. Helmut Gutmann, director

**Laurie McLary; 5000 N. Willamette Blvd.; Portland, OR 97203
(503) 240-5601; mclary@up.edu**

I'm entering my fourth year as assistant professor of German at the University of Portland and

will be considered for tenure this fall. My daughter Fiona turned 1 1/2 this summer (2002). I was formerly an assistant professor at the University of Mississippi.

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1984-85 - Dr. Klaus Schmidt, director

1987-88 - Dr. Klaus Schmidt, director

Suzanne Herwig DiPietrantonio; 138 Christy Dr.; Monaca, PA 15061

Suzanne teaches high school German.

I just wanted to take the time to thank you for the AYA special newsletter. It was very nice to read what Dr. Pellischek had to say and so much of it is very true indeed! Living in Salzburg for two years and then in Ried im Innkreis as a teaching assistant were probably the most exciting years of my life. I'd do it again!

I'm so glad the program is so successful and I wish you continued success.

1997-98 - Dr. Christina Guenther, director

**Robert Meehan; c/o IPA-ELC; P. O. Box 205; 11141 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
meehan_r@hotmail.com**

Robert continues to teach English in Saudi Arabia. This year he has taken on some administrative duties in his department, organizing the exams, midterms, and finals for the other English teachers there. All this in addition to his regular teaching duties! During his time away from school, Robert continues to be an avid world traveler. His latest trip was to Spain to visit

the former BGSU director of the Madrid program.

1999-2000 - Dr. Kristie Foell, director

Michelle Bracken; 7401 S. Woodward Ave - Apt. 205; Woodridge, IL 60517
brackenml@earthlink.net
(630) 971-8826

I recently got a promotion at work (Deutsche Financial Services, a unit of Deutsche Bank) and moved to the Chicago area. The job is going well. I'm an account manager and manage about 200 different accounts to make sure that everything is being paid on time and am the one to answer questions for the dealer and Field Service Representatives. I really love the office and the people I work with. I have such great respect for my direct supervisor and other bosses. I know I will really learn a lot there.

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2000-2001 - Dr. Christina Guenther, director

Douglas Gill; Office of International Programs; Georgetown University;
1421 P Street; Washington, DC 20057-1013

I accepted a position as an assistant director in the Office of International Programs at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. I'll be responsible for advising international students on student visa related matters. I start work on October 7th. One of the aspects that Georgetown liked about my candidacy was that I went back to grad school to pursue a master's degree in German. They liked that I also spent a year on the AYA program at the University of Salzburg! That's what set my application apart from the others, I believe. Once I get settled in and comfortable with my new job, I'll apply to the doctoral program in German there.

News from our Austrian and German M.A. alumni

1999-2000 on campus

Julia Baker (nee Gruber); julia_karen@hotmail.com

I successfully immigrated to the USA on October 3, 2002. Ron and I have been very busy looking for jobs. We found a home almost immediately. It is located in College Hill, a suburb of Cincinnati. It is an older house with lots of trees around it! I have been recommended as a high school teacher by a professor at the University of Cincinnati and am about to register as a teacher with Cincinnati Public Schools. I have been offered a full-time position at the Academy of World Languages, which will begin right away.

2001-2002 on campus

**Heide Kunzelmann; Althanstrasse 7-9; 1090 Vienna, Austria;
telephone: 011-0043-1-3193395**

I am back in Vienna and I'm now working for the OESD, the Oesterreichisches Sprachdiplom. This is a subdivision of the Austrian Ministry of Education and Science, which provides a German Language Proficiency Certificate. You could compare our language diploma with the Cambridge Certificate in England or the certificate the Goethe Institute issues. My best regards to everyone in GREAL. I miss the nice atmosphere in the department already!

Tanja Ehl; Froschbachstrasse 11a; 61137 Schoereck, Germany

First, I have to finish my Masters in Germany. I hope to be able to work as an English and physical education teacher in Germany. For that, I need a two-year internship where I will be allowed to work as a teacher.

More Alumni Information

Jane Fu (1989-1990) is office manager for DAAD in New York City.

Erik Meek (1993-94) and his wife are working teaching glassmaking at a school in a village near Innsbruck.

Laurie Smith and her family live in Germany.

Addresses

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