

*November 2006 AYA Salzburg
Alumni Newsletter*

<http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/greal/NewAYA/welcome.htm>

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A Letter from the Salzburg Director

Greetings to alumni and friends of the AYA Salzburg program!

A lot has changed in Salzburg, but the things we love about it remain the same.

Technological progress seems to go hand in hand with Americanization; students now pre-register for the University of Salzburg on-line, receive their student ID in person, and then pay fees at a computerized “ServicePoint.” Gone is the paper “Studentenausweis” with the photo pasted in and a nearly-transparent “Stempelmarke” purchased at the Tabak-Trafik; instead, students now received a credit-card-sized, laminated ID embedded with a “QuickChip,” which they can load and use as a copy card. Similarly, the student insurance from the “Gebietskrankenkasse” no longer requires students to pick up a “Schein” for each doctor’s visit; instead, they receive an “E-Card” with a chip that contains all their information. The semester-long bus pass also comes in credit-card format now—labeled “s’COOL-Card.” At least the residence permit—also in credit-card format, to be carried along with the passport—still bears the German title “Aufenthaltsbewilligung.” But by far the most popular modernization among the students is the fact that ALL of the dormitories now provide Internet access to each dorm room; for those painful first weeks before the students received their access codes, they can choose from dozens of Internet cafes that seem to have sprung up on every street corner.

Amidst all these changes, mostly positive, the beauty of Salzburg remains, as does the excitement of a new school year with a new group of students. This year’s group is “all-American,” for the first time in several years. The program has benefited from new agreements with the University of Delaware and with Elmhurst College (Illinois); both schools have sent several students this year. This year’s undergraduate group includes one college freshman and one sophomore (both doing better-than-fine); the graduate group includes one “returnee” (Brandy Carr) as well as students who have studied in Heidelberg, Passau, Bonn, Vienna, Leipzig/Halle, and a host of other places. Our freshman, Amanda Scherer, is a second-generation AYA participant; those on the program in 1984 may remember her parents, Kimme and Mark Scherer.

Although it’s only the end of October, the students have seen quite a lot in and around Salzburg, starting with a walking tour of the Mönchsberg with Dr. Mittermayer. Mag. Fritz Baier got us all started off on the right foot with a walking tour of the city, and has also led trips to the Freilichtmuseum and up the Gaisberg. It was a good thing we took the bus this year, as a heavy downpour started just as we reached the bus stop. The students may not say much during the trips, but they post a lot of beautiful pictures on their Internet sites. The latest mode of undergraduate communication is something called “Facebook”; it is also frequented by grads and occasional faculty members (you can see my pictures at the link below):

<http://bgsu.facebook.com/album.php?aid=2062845&id=20916529&l=c3b9f>

After many years of service to the program, Dr. Dorothea Klein retired as our literature teacher this year. Her husband, a Shakespeare scholar at the University of Salzburg, has retired, so they are now both free to visit grandchildren and travel at will. I am now teaching the undergraduate literature course and have hired a “real” Austrian, Mag. Elke Renner, to teach contemporary Austria (“Österreich aktuell”). Ms. Renner is currently a “DaF” teacher on the staff of the “Sprachenzentrum” at the University of Salzburg, but she also brings a fascinating “previous life” as a former businesswoman in Brussels. Another exciting addition to the faculty in Salzburg is Dr. Wilfried Schaber, an art historian who has written a book about Hellbrunn castle and gardens. The students and I were very impressed when all the attendants greeted him by name on our recent tour of Hellbrunn! (He got us a good entrance price, too—and managed to build up our trust and then splash us all during the water fountains portion of the tour!) Dr. Schaber’s town guide to Salzburg is available from Amazon.com in both German and English.

The Bowling Green-Salzburg family continues to grow. Although I’m without my personal family this year (my husband was already committed to teaching at BGSU), I am sharing the director’s apartment with three-time “Wahl-Salzbürgerin” Courtney Johnson, who has returned as a lecturer in the U of Salzburg English department this year. Best wishes and “alles Gute” to you and yours!

Kristie Foell
AYA Director, 06-07

Thank You!

Sincere thanks to the donors on the following page for supporting the Dzidra Shllaku Scholarship Fund. If you would like to donate to the fund, please just visit the following website:

<http://giving.bgsu.edu/development/index.jsp>

*Prefer to send a donation? Please indicate that the donation is for the **Dzidra Shllaku Scholarship Fund** and send to:*

*BGSU Foundation, Inc.
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Bowling Green, Ohio 43403*

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One of our current graduate students, Heidi Schmoll, is conducting a survey for thesis research on the effects of study abroad. Your completion of the survey will be a great help in her investigation of study abroad influences. The survey can be found at:

<http://www.bgsu.edu/surveys/IR/studyabroad/studyabroad.htm>

Thank you!

Heidi Christine Schmoll
Bowling Green State University
Masters Candidate; Graduation May 2007
Dept. of German, Russian and East Asian Languages
Phone: 419.372.3073
Fax: 419.372.2571

The new AYA Salzburg website is now online!

To take a look, use the following Internet address:

<http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/greal/NewAYA/welcome.htm>

(Please note: the website name is case sensitive!)

Please feel free to have a look at what is going on in Salzburg as well as the alumni pages, which are currently being worked on and updated on a regular basis. If you are interested in finding an online copy of older newsletters, they can also be found on the alumni website under “previous newsletters” on the left side of the webpage. We have newsletters from 2002 to the present. If you have any recommendations, questions, or concerns about the new website, feel free to contact the current webmaster at jjavors@bgsu.edu.

Due to the number of AYA alumni, the AYA program is currently looking into creating a group on a community website (Facebook, MySpace, or something similar) for all alumni members to share their memories, experiences, and pictures. We’ll keep you updated on our progress via the alumni page.



Alumni News

1978-1979 Dr. Joseph L. Gray and Dr. Helmut Gutmann, directors

**Ruta (Zemaitis) Bloomfield; 20048 Shadow Hills Court; Saugus, CA 91390-1293
(661) 297-2934; kenandruta@sbcglobal.net**

I entered a Doctor of Musical Arts program in Historical Performance Practices at Claremont Graduate University. My first harpsichord recital for the degree is this fall.

1982-1983 Dr. Helmut Gutmann, director

**Heather (Watkins) Burke; 307 Ridgpoint Circle; Waterville, OH 43566
(419) 878-0808**

I gave birth to my second child in May 2005. Ryan is 4 and Megan is 1. They are a lot of fun. We figure having kids at this stage in life ought to keep us young.

Heather is the Director in Customs Clearance at BAX Global. Deutsche Bahn bought BAX Global earlier this year. The other forwarder they own is Schenker and we are in the integration process now. I was in Germany recently and was happy to still be functional in German, although the meetings were conducted in English.

1992-1993 Dr. Christina Guenther, director

**Glenda Caudill; 609 S. 27th St.; Lafayette, IN 47904-3213
(765) 446-2182; g_caudill@hotmail.com**

I'm Assistant Director of the Office of Programs for Study Abroad at Purdue University. Previously I worked in International Education at CDS International and Central College.

I just bought a house in summer of 2005.

Because I work in study abroad, I use my cross-cultural skills and knowledge on a daily basis, but seldom German.

**1995-1996 Dr. Margy Gerber, director
1997-1998**

**Karen (Gedeon) Hamilton; 204 Wolf Avenue; Wadsworth, OH 44281-1675
(330) 334-2410; KarenLynn25@hotmail.com**

My husband, Chuck, and I welcomed our first child, a beautiful baby boy, in 2005. Jacob Andrew Hamilton ('Jake') was born on December 8th. It's hard to believe he's already almost a year old. I was on maternity leave starting at Thanksgiving time, but will return to work in the

fall of 2006. This year Chuck accepted a position teaching American History at Wadsworth High School after teaching six years of World History at the middle school. He was also selected as the high school's head JV baseball coach after serving for three years as a volunteer assistant coach. I also had a stroke of good luck in April 2005 by winning a trip-a-day radio contest. I also won this last year and we flew down to Aruba for a week. As of this writing, Karen and Chuck hadn't decided where they would go this past summer, but were looking forward to their first trip with Jake, as a family.

Karen is a German teacher at Cuyahoga Falls High School, as well as a private German tutor.

1997-1998 Dr. Christina Guenther, director

**Andrea (Poulimenos) Bishop; 425 Wallace Ave.; Bowling Green, OH 43402
(419) 494-9041; alps33@yahoo.com; www.andrealeebishop.com**

My professional career is accelerating at a pace I didn't know possible. I graduated in 2000 with a B.S. in Applied Mathematics and German. Shortly thereafter, I was hired by a local software company. The Electric Quilt Company has its "international headquarters" in Bowling Green. They manufacture quilt design software and publish books for quilters. Basically, you design your quilt on your screen before you cut or sew anything. I am having a blast because our main customer base is women aged 40-70 and they are the kindest souls you will ever meet. It fits into my studies because it is partially geometry on your screen and partially art design. (I have always loved to paint, sing, and play the piano.)

I have a kind of go-to-girl position at the company. I taught myself some programming and graphic design. I created and manage the 1,000 page website (www.electricquilt.com) with forums, blogs, and a shopping cart system. I am now "the face" of the company. I have done photo shoots, over 40 quilting television shows (PBS and www.quiltersnewnetwork.com), lectured on the software around the U.S., taught software classes, and trained teachers. I've written a few software manuals and edited quilting books. I am also doing free-lance web design, computer/server builds, and other techie-stuff after work.

One of my recent tradeshow was in Washington, DC. I called up Susan Fiscus (she's teaching ESL out of Alexandria, VA) and she came over and picked me up and took me on a brief tour before we spent the rest of the evening catching up on everything. She's doing well and is happy.

My personal life is also doing really well. I met the most wonderful guy from Perrysburg, OH and we're getting married August 12, 2006. He works in the security industry doing hardware stuff and loves the arts and sciences as much as I do. We already bought a house in Bowling Green that we are fixing up (just a block from downtown). Life is good.

On utilizing German: I have been handling the majority of foreign emails for our company. I don't know how or why I can now read Dutch, Norwegian, Swedish, Italian, and French and understand it. My favorite German computer words are recht-klicken, speichern, Ordner and Piepton.

Robert Meehan; c/o IPA-ELC, P.O. Box 2005; 11141 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Meehanr2@ipa.edu.sa

Robert had an enjoyable summer visiting Turkey, Madrid, and the American West. He is still teaching at the IPA in Riyadh, where at his last writing in August it was 110 degrees! Keep cool, Robert.

1998-1999 **Dr. Geoffrey C. Howes, director**

1999-2000 **Dr. Kristie Foell, director**

2002 (spring) **Dr. Edgar Landgraf, director**

Anna Rulska; (757) 831-9627; arulska@odu.edu

Anna is a Ph.D. candidate at Old Dominion University in Virginia and serves as Editor-in-Chief for *International Topics*. She is also the president of the Graduate Society for International Studies.

In the midst of her busy schedule, an accident befell Anna on September 23, when a car struck her while she was riding her bike. When she wrote to us last month, she had just begun a long road to recovery. Her injuries were serious and we are sure that she would like to hear from friends. Anna, we wish you good health.

Emma Tatem Kelly; 3833 Baybrook Drive; Aurora, IL 60504-6598

tatemkelly@hotmail.com

I received an M.S. in Information Sciences from the University of Tennessee in May 2001. Later that month, I married Dave Kelly and moved to suburban Chicago. I spent two years in Chicago working as an elementary school librarian until we moved to Missouri in summer 2003. I have been staying home full-time since September 2003 with our two children. Emilia will be three years old in September 2006, and Liam turned one in June 2006. We are now living back in the Chicago area and enjoying being the parents of two wonderful toddlers.

My librarian job was with the Waterbury Elementary School in the Keeneyville Elementary School District 20 in Hanover Park, Illinois. I also served as Sunday Reference Librarian at the Corporate Parkway Branch of the St. Charles City-County Library District in St. Charles County, Missouri.

2000-2001 **Dr. Christina Guenther, director**

Lisa Heinrich; <http://www.lisaheinrich.com>

My husband, Terence Wei, and I have purchased a new home and moved in during May.

Pictures: <http://www.fluggart.com/galleries/1206Edwards/01.html>

Elena Medentseva; 21-34 28th Street; Astoria, New York, NY 11105

Cell Phone: (917) 379-9722; lencha77@yahoo.com

I moved this summer and now have roommates like the good old days of my student life. I am still working at E&Y.

2001-2002 Dr. Edgar Landgraf, director

**Peter and Beate (Knollmayr) Clayson; Währingergürtel 137/6
1180 Wien, Austria; sunflower24_3@yahoo.de**

Beate (2003-2004 on campus) and Peter (2001-2002 in Salzburg) wrote to us that they were married this summer. Congratulations!!



Peter and Beate

**Teresa Lewis; 2411 NW 58th St. #4; Seattle, WA 98107
(206) 226-5022; cougardiva@yahoo.com**

I just graduated from the University of Washington with a Master of Music in Vocal Performance and a Master of Arts in Music History. This fall I will be auditioning for agencies and opera houses throughout Germany and Austria in hopes of securing a contract for the 2007-2008 season. I will also be singing in the Tacoma Opera Young Artist Program in the winter.

Currently I am the Academic Director and a Music History faculty member at the Seattle Conservatory of Music.

I utilized my German for my thesis topic since most of the sources were in German.

**2002-2003 Dr. Geoffrey Howes, director
2003-2004**

**Sandra Marcu; 5960 McPherson Ave. Apt. A; St. Louis, MO 63112
rmarcu@artsci.wustl.edu**

I got accepted to Washington University's Ph.D. program in German Studies and Comparative Literature. I'm excited to be moving to St. Louis and to be starting a new chapter in my German studies.

I worked as a long-term substitute for four months teaching middle school and high school German in the Cleveland area. It was very hard and challenging work, which I enjoyed for the time being, but I could never do it for life...to put it mildly.

2003-2004 Dr. Edgar Landgraf, director

Jonathan Klein; JKlein@lec.edu

I have been hired as Coordinator of International Programs at Lake Erie College in Painesville, OH. Congrats, Jon.

2004-2005 Dr. Ted Rippey, director

Julie Langan de Perez; amazonqj@hotmail.com

(410) 270-2575

Here is a photo from my wedding. My husband is Cesar Pérez Bolívar. He is from Venezuela and is studying for his Ph.D. at Bowling Green in Photochemistry. We met at a party last September. There was a Salsa party at the university in October. I announced in front of him a few times that I was going. He got the hint and was there to greet me when I walked in the door. We danced all night, and I just loved how he smiled. We became engaged last December, and just got married on October 21.

I am currently teaching German at St. Frances De Sales High School in Toledo, Ohio.



Julie and Cesar

Sara Smith; 424 Wickliff Place; Arnold, MD 21012

(410) 518-9967; Cell Phone: (410) 980-5526

saraesmith@mac.com

I just wanted to let you all know that I received an internship to work in the Library at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for this summer (2006)! I am very excited for this opportunity and am looking forward to working there and gaining some experience in this field, which will hopefully open some doors into future employment or educational opportunities. We shall see!

Friends Who Studied on Campus

Julia Gruber Baker is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Cincinnati. The link is to an article in the UC Arts and Sciences magazine. Julia will be accompanying Rabbi Alfred Gottschalk back to his home town in Germany to put up a grave marker on his grandfather's unmarked grave.

http://www.artsci.uc.edu/collegemain/news_events/newsDetail.cfm?articleID=772

Anna Rodzevich enjoyed her work at Penn State and is now in the Ph.D. program at the University of Toronto.

Alexandra Strohmaier has earned her doctorate at the University of Graz and was awarded the Scholarship Prize of the Austrian Society for German Studies in 2005. See this site:

http://www.oegg.org/html/preistrager_innen.html

She is also co-editor of the Droschl Dossier volumes on Leopold von Sacher-Masoch and Veza Canetti. See: <http://222-gewi.kfunigraz.ac.at/droschl/dossier.htm>

Through the Grapevine

Jeff van Wassen teaches German at a high school in Virginia, near Washington D.C.

John Franz writes that he and April will be married on July 14, 2007. They visited family and friends in Michigan this summer.

Addresses

Marchelle Machtan

Through May 2007

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For other new addresses in 2006, please go online and visit the newsletter archives.

Tips from Alumni

“Combine German with a business major or teaching certification.”

-Emma Tatem Kelly, 1997-98

“Find an internship. Language education needs to be revamped in the U.S. and you’ll most likely never sit around discussing German Literature. Even if you do, find a job using your language skills.”

-Glenda Caudill, 1992-93