



Letter from Salzburg, July 2020

By Graduate Students **Mason Wirtz** and **Alexandra Brinkman** (2019-20)



Mason Wirtz



Alexandra Brinkman

Only a short while ago the AYA Austria 2019-2020 came to a close, which this year was punctuated not by the typical exhausting flight back to the USA, but rather by a

soft click as the laptop closed. We believe that faculty, students, and staff will agree that the past semester was nothing if not extraordinary. Keeping with this trend, what better way to end an extraordinary year than with an extraordinary "Letter from Salzburg," authored this year by two students rather than the program director.

The first semester was filled with excursions, including the group trip to Vienna, snowshoeing in the Nationalpark Hohe Tauern, a jaunt to Golling an der Salzach to witness the infamous Perchtenlauf, a visit to the Salzburg ORF studio as well as a thorough tour of nearly every church in Salzburg. In October, an AYA alumnus, Erich Hise (1980-81) invited the group to dinner at Augustinerbräu. As in the previous year, AYA alumnus Daniel McMackin (2009-10, M.A. 2011), a sales manager for PFM Medical in Cologne, gave a presentation in which he discussed integration into the German-speaking workforce. Dan subsequently permitted three students to shadow him in his work environment. The first semester also brought with it new ideas and motivation.

Grad student Mason Wirtz designed and implemented the first AYA Schnitzeljagd, which encouraged undergraduate students to mingle with University of Salzburg (PLUS) students (particularly Austrians) and answer targeted questions regarding the German/Austrian language and culture. Students then described their experiences in a blog, with each weekly post authored by a different student – in German! Read about their experiences here: <https://bgsusaltzburg.blogspot.com>.

When reflecting on the second semester, two particular words come to mind: Fernlehre and Flexibilität. By the third week of spring semester, most students had already returned to the States because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and continued their study abroad experience digitally. Thanks to the quick reactions of the AYA instructors, each course was migrated to an online-learning platform and taught

(Continued on page 2)



To the left:
AYA alum Eric Hise
(1980-81) (orange shirt)
treats the group to dinner
at Augustiner Bräu. On
his right, Director Dr.
Bettina Muehlenbeck

To the right:
Apparently still on good
terms with the Percht!



Guest Editor: Dr. Margy Gerber

WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

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either synchronously or asynchronously. On opposite sides of the ocean, students and faculty worked together to ensure the academic success of the semester. For this reason, we would like to extend to the AYA instructors our deepest gratitude, as they overcame the impossible and adeptly shaped a program which offered students the sense of studying abroad while sitting at home.

This semester had its ups and downs, twists and turns, advantages and disadvantages, but each student will surely remember it as the experience of a lifetime. Study abroad, in its essence, not only teaches one to become interculturally competent, but also aids the student in developing functional strategies to overcome diverse challenges. This often means acting flexibly

and adapting to continuously evolving situations. We strongly believe that – despite the pandemic – each student was not only able to expand his/her intercultural and linguistic competencies by completing the assigned coursework but learned to overcome difficult and even overwhelming circumstances, such as returning to the U.S. with only a few hours' notice.

In closing, we extend once more our heartfelt thanks to the wonderful, adept and outgoing instructors of the AYA program as well as to our fellow students, all of whom were instrumental in mastering the challenges of developing and executing a digital study abroad program.

Schöne Grüße!

On the Mönchsberg



Dr. Philip S. Peek

How does the future look for AYA Austria?

Dear AYA Salzburg Alumni, Colleagues and Salzburg Supporters,

As the world adjusts and adapts to the new COVID reality, so do we here at BGSU. As you know, study abroad is on hold for this fall. It has also been put on hold for the spring. We are looking forward to travel opening back up when we obtain a vaccine.

At many institutions of higher education, study abroad has been lost due to downsizing. It makes me smile that BGSU remains committed to maintaining study abroad and our excellent program in Salzburg. BGSU's continued support is in no doubt due in large part to the engaged support of all of you. The selfless giving of your time and the generous offers of financial support make a difference. So does the support from the AYA Salzburg Alumni group under the strong leadership of Brett Porter. We recognize how incredibly valuable and transformational the study-abroad experience is, perhaps even more so now as the entire world struggles.

I cannot thank you enough for all you do to maintain Salzburg Study Abroad. At some point we will adjust to our new reality and study abroad will resume. I hope to have Salzburg back up and running as soon as we can. In the meantime, know that you and Salzburg remain a priority program for me, the faculty, and BGSU.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Dr. Philip S. Peek
Chair, World Languages and Cultures

BGSU

**World Languages
and Cultures**

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

News from the AYA Salzburg Alumni Group



By Brett Porter (AYA 1983-84)

Looking back, I find it hard to believe that more than a year has passed since the founding of the AYA Salzburg Alumni Group. During this time, the essential administrative steps were taken and the founding documents are now in place. A description of the Alumni Group and a list of the main organizational positions can be found in the 2019 issue of the Newsletter.

The purpose of the Alumni Group, as stated there, is to support the AYA Salzburg program: to help with fundraising for scholarships, to organize on-campus events, to increase contact with alumni of the program and to aid in recruiting students for study in Salzburg.

The Alumni Group administers the BGSU AYA Salzburg Alumni Facebook page, which currently has over 400 members. We urge all AYA alumni, young and old, to join. All pertinent announcements are posted there. And alumni can check the membership list for other participants in their group(s) and contact them directly. The site has also proved to be an effective platform for alumni discussions.

Information on donating to the three AYA Salzburg scholarship funds can also be found on the AYA Salzburg Alumni site. The level of donations has risen significantly due to our expanded web presence. See the descriptions of the scholarship funds and donation instructions further down in the Newsletter.

While the recruiting of students for the AYA and summer Salzburg programs is primarily the responsibility of the German faculty in World Languages and Cultures, the AYA Alumni Group has taken on the role of publicizing the

programs on the high school level. We are reaching out to high school German programs and clubs in Ohio and beyond, as a way of encouraging students with an interest in German language and culture to later enroll as university students in our Salzburg programs. The Alumni Group also works closely with the AATG (American Association of Teachers of German) to inform high school teachers about BGSU's Salzburg programs and the advantages of studying German at BGSU.

In addition, the Alumni Group assists the German faculty in locating internship, volunteering, and other opportunities for AYA students during their study abroad experience and employment opportunities upon graduation.

The Alumni Group recently selected its first honorary board member, Dr. Brian Pavlac (AYA 1976–77, 1978–79), distinguished professor of medieval history at King's College in Pennsylvania (see his interview with Dr. Howes). We foresee honoring other AYA alumni who excel in their professions. The criteria for selection include an impressive career, longstanding support of the AYA program and the willingness to lend a guiding hand to the Alumni Group.

Despite the devastating consequences of the corona virus, the AYA Salzburg Alumni Group remains steadfast in its commitment to the increased growth and continued success of the AYA Salzburg program! Now, more than ever, it is imperative to support the program and to demonstrate the necessity and viability of our 50-year-old program.

Join us! There's a lot to do. We welcome your ideas!

Making a Difference: Supporting the AYA Austria Program

In his letter (p. 2), Dr. Philip Peek, the chair of World Languages and Cultures, assures us that **"BGSU remains committed to maintaining study abroad and our excellent program in Salzburg."** And he goes on to say that it **"is in no doubt due in large part to the engaged support of all of you. The selfless giving of your time and the generous offers of financial support make a difference."**

The "you" in Dr. Peek's letter includes the numerous **AYA Salzburg alumni** who continue to demonstrate their dedication and commitment to the AYA Salzburg program. For example:

- The 70 alumni who, at their own expense, travelled to Salzburg to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the program in June 2018
- The more than 400 alumni who are members of the AYA Salzburg Alumni Facebook page

- The AYA Salzburg Alumni Group that actively promotes the Salzburg program both on and off campus
- The organizers of the AYA reunions held during BGSU's Homecoming weekend in 2018 and 2019
- The organizers of the three group reunions that took place this spring online (Zoom) or in person
- The 90 alumni who responded to this year's questionnaire for the 2020 AYA Newsletter
- The 20 alumni who have volunteered to be the contact person for their group, to locate and reach out to fellow participants for whom we have lost contact

And last, but certainly not least, **the many AYA alumni who donate to the three scholarship funds** to help present and future students to study in Salzburg.

A big and wholehearted **"Thank you"** to the many alumni who have made and are making a **"difference."**

The Three AYA Salzburg Scholarship Funds

DONORS

The Department of World Languages and Cultures gratefully acknowledges the donors to the three AYA Austria scholarship funds during the 2019-20 academic year.

DONORS TO THE DZIDRA SHLLAKU SCHOLARSHIP FUND 2019-2020

Mr. Todd Ahrens, Mrs. Amy Ahrens
Mrs. Heather E. Burke
Ms. Tara Campbell
Ms. Dana Deal
Mr. Eric Hise
Ms. Beverly Everett
Dr. Margy Gerber
Mr. Larry Hansgen, Mrs. Laura Hansgen
Ms. Inara Martinsons
Mr. Daniel McMackin
Mrs. Karlyn McPike, Mr. James McPike
Mrs. Sue Mendizza, Mr. Mark Mendizza
Dr. Brian Pavlac, Dr. Elizabeth Lott
Mrs. Debra Peters, Mr. James Peters
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Dr. William L. Weis, Mrs. Marilyn Roy
Dr. Michael Westerhaus, Mrs. Rhonda Westerhaus

DONORS TO THE FOELL INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GRANT FUND 2019-20

Ms. Amy Bruckner
Ms. Dana Deal
Mr. Darrel Foell, Mrs. Sally Foell

DONORS TO THE KOEPKE STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP FUND 2019-20

Ms. Dana Deal
Dr. Margy Gerber
Mr. Galen Koepke, Mrs. Katja Koepke

DESCRIPTIONS OF 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 Shllaku 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 approximately \$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 approximately \$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, approximately \$1,800 was distributed.

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

AYA STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM AWARDS

In the 2019-20 program, 14 students received scholarships for study in Salzburg:

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)

HOW TO DONATE

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. The page Support BGSU Students (in bright orange) will come up. In the upper right-hand corner (in small print) you'll see: Other Funds. Click on this to get the form to fill out. When asked to name the fund you want to donate to, type in the number. The software program takes you step-by-step through the process. It's quite easy.



† Dr. Dzidra Shllaku

BGSU professor emerita Dr. Dzidra Shllaku passed away on March 29, 2020 in her home in Rossford near Toledo, Ohio. She was 97.

Dr. Shllaku was born as Dzidra Glazovska in Jelgava, Latvia in 1922. After high school – at the beginning of WWII – she first studied at the University of Riga (Latvia) and then in Freiburg, Germany, where she had received a scholarship. Because of the Soviet occupation she didn't return to Latvia after the war, but instead went on to Italy, to a refugee camp in Bologna. There she met her future husband, Ndoc Shllaku, a medical student from Albania. She received a doctorate in language from the University of Bologna, from which he received his medical degree.

The couple emigrated to the United States in 1951 and to northwest Ohio two years later. He became the first resident physician at St. Charles Hospital in what is today Oregon, Ohio. And Dzidra Shllaku joined the language faculty at BGSU.

Dr. Shllaku taught at BGSU from 1959 to 1994. She retired in 1985, but taught part-time another nine years. Over her career, she taught German, Russian, and Italian at the University. She introduced her many students to European culture, to music and art. In 1959, she introduced Russian as a language offering at BGSU. In the summers of 1965 and 1967, she led groups of BGSU students to Salzburg to study German. The summer programs in Salzburg were so successful that in the fall of 1968 the first BGSU and Ohio University students began their year-long studies in Salzburg: the beginning of the AYA Salzburg program and its collaboration with the University of Salzburg. The 50th anniversary of the AYA program was celebrated in Salzburg in June 2018.

The summer 1967 group was very close-knit, with Dr. Shllaku as its heart. Many of the students have remained in close contact, holding regular reunions. They became known as "Die Gruppe" and in honor of Dr. Shllaku they established the Dzidra Shllaku Scholarship Fund in 1998, which in the more than 20 years of its existence has helped dozens of BGSU undergraduates have their own "Salzburg experience."

Over 50 of her former students responded on the Salzburg Alumni FB page when the notice of her passing was posted; others wrote directly to the Newsletter. Here is a sampling of their condolences.

Larry Snavley (summer 1967)

She had a profound impact on all of us. The best way to describe it is she helped expand our horizons. Students had classes at the university, but Dr. Shllaku joined us for meals and added her voice to the singalongs at our favorite bars. I was a 19-year-old right off the farm. To go to Europe to study and to have a cosmopolitan and loving friend like her to be our chaperone meant a lot. It was a great part of our growth.

Lana Chadwick (summer 1967)

I have so many wonderful memories of Dzidra after spending the summer of 1967 with her and the other students in Salzburg. The one recurring memory is of her in any of the frequently visited Weinstuben, singing Italian love songs with a Latvian accent, sipping a glass of Moselblümchen. After that summer in Salzburg when we were settled back in BG, she remained a friend and an important part of all our lives. She possessed a certain charm that made us all want to be with

her. Dzidra was our "mother away from home" and we loved her and respected her.

Steve Harris (1970-71)

Dzidra was my first German prof, and what a great way to be introduced to the language and the culture. She had that rare ability to bond with everyone. She

was a demanding professor, but fun at the same time. Dzidra loved to sing, and under the guise of teaching us about German culture and history, taught us many old German folk songs, which she of course demonstrated with her beautiful singing voice. I still remember songs like "Die Lorelei" and "Heidenröslein." Through "Die Gruppe," we stayed in touch and had many more happy times together. Dzidra Shllaku showed us all how to enjoy life each and every day!

Karlyn McPike (1970-71)

I remember her inviting the Deutschverein to her beautiful home for a Weihnachtsparty. Taught me how to make Glühwein. She always taught us to act like ladies and gentlemen.

Kathy (Foreman) Dobson (1972-73)

She was a wonderful teacher. I have so many memories of her. RIP, Frau Doktor Shllaku.

Dawn (Preisling) Klena (1976-77)

She was a fantastic hostess and loved to entertain and teach while doing it. She had a huge heart.

Larry Hansgen (1976-77)

She was my first professor of a German class at BG and made a profound impression on me as a student, and a boy, yet to become a man. I too remember her parties mit Glühwein, and that she insisted that the boys/men wear coats and ties. Her stories of her youth, college days, and emigration to the USA were fascinating. I can honestly say that I would not have become a German major, spend my sophomore year in the AYA Program in Salzburg, or even be the person I am today were it not for Dr. Shllaku.

Gene Aufderhaar (1981-82, 1984-85)

Dr. Shllaku was my mentor for my first-ever teaching experience: German 101. You might say that she "softened them up for me." She also knew when to hand the reigns over to me and not take them back again, but rather let me learn how to drive. Mit aufrichtigem Beileid...

Kimberly Scherer (1987-88)

She was wonderful. One of my most memorable language teachers. I still remember her singing Russian love songs. RIP, Dr. Shllaku. You made a difference in this crazy world.



"Die Gruppe" announces the Dzidra Shllaku Scholarship Fund
Left to right: Tim Rericha, Eric Moore, Lana Chadwick, Larry Snavley, Dzidra Shllaku, Sue Mendizza, Steve Harris, DJ Hamidinia, Dallas Hull, Bill Weis)

The Second AYA Austria Reunion at BGSU Homecoming 2019

September 14, 2019, was a warm, sunny Saturday in Bowling Green, a perfect day for BGSU's Homecoming and the second AYA Reunion.

The day's reunion events began with a morning "Meet and Greet" brunch outside on the Shatzel Hall porch. A long table with wonderful cakes and other Austrian goodies awaited the group, and champagne corks popped. The chair of World Languages and Cultures, Dr. Philip Peek, greeted the group and was the guest speaker.



On the porch of Shatzel Hall



Brett Porter asks, "When do we begin?"

For the early afternoon Lisa Lipcman (AYA 1980-81), of 2018 Salzburg Schnitzeljagd fame, had planned and organized a walking/search game, a Whodunit which led alumni around campus gathering clues to solve a murder mystery.

Later in the afternoon International Programs and Partnerships and the Department of World Languages and Cultures hosted a tailgate at the IPP tent to celebrate 50 years of BGSU Study Abroad in Austria and Spain.

During afternoon free time, some alumni went to the football game, while others met in local cafes and brew pubs or strolled around campus visiting old classrooms and dormitories.

The day's activities culminated with a wonderful gathering for dinner at the home of Dr. Edgar Landgraf and his wife, Angela, who prepared a delicious spread for some 50 AYA guests including program alumni, family members, and the German faculty. It was an evening of Gemütlichkeit pur. After only 2 reunions, dinner chez Landgraf has already become a tradition.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic the 2020 AYA Salzburg reunion during Homecoming was canceled. We hope to hold the next on-campus reunion in the fall of 2021.



Our hosts, Angela and Edgar Landgraf



Chez Landgraf in the evening



It was warm enough to sit outside!

Meet the First Honorary Member of the AYA Salzburg Alumni Group: Professor Brian Pavlac



Professor Brian A. Pavlac

Brian A. Pavlac attended the AYA program in Salzburg as an undergraduate in 1976-77, and as a graduate student in 1978-79. He earned a B.A. in history and German and an

M.A. in history from BGSU, and a second M.A. and a Ph.D. in history at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. Dr. Pavlac is professor of history and was until recently the chair of the History Department and Herve A. LeBlanc Distinguished Service Professor at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Pavlac's research specialties are medieval Germany, prince-bishops of the Holy Roman Empire (including Nicholas of Cusa), and the witch hunts. He has authored several academic books and a number of articles, book chapters and encyclopedia entries. He had a Fulbright grant in Bonn, Germany (1982-83) and directed the University of Notre Dame Study Abroad Program in Innsbruck (1988-92). He has served as a visiting faculty member at John Cabot University in Rome (2013), Webster University in Vienna (2004), and the University of New Orleans International Summer School at the University of Innsbruck (1992, 1993, 1997).

In addition to his scholarly career, Dr. Pavlac was ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem some ten years ago. The Rev. Pavlac serves part-time as the Priest-in-Charge of a small parish in the former coal-mining town of Jermyn.

Since high school, he has dabbled in theatre productions, including roles as a student at BGSU. The culmination of that pastime came last February with the lead role in Shakespeare's "King Lear" in a King's College production.

Playing King Lear in Shakespeare's tragedy



DR. PAVLAC ANSWERED THESE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS IN JUNE 2020.

In what ways did your experience as an undergraduate and graduate student in the BGSU AYA Program in Salzburg help prepare you for your future professional life?

Briefly, in three main ways. First, the AYA made me fluent in German, which has enabled key areas of research as a scholar. Second, the AYA gave me a broad cultural education that has helped me understand many ways in which the world works, especially from a slightly different point-of-view than the typically American. Third, the AYA helped me grow in being independent and capable of dealing with change, planning, and new, unfamiliar situations. While a residential college education, which I had in my other years at BGSU, did all these things, the AYA intensified these developments.

You have taught abroad in Austria, Germany, and Italy, and you escorted the King's College History Society on study trips to Rome, Paris, Prague and Vienna, Madrid and other European cities. What are some of the rewards of education abroad from an educator's point of view?

Any trip abroad can introduce people to things different from the typically American. And that can be enlightening. People have many reasons to travel. In the trips which I led for others, I tried to give people opportunities to find their own way to dip into the foreign, however briefly, and learn from it. The advantage of an AYA is the chance to marinate longer. Yet in any good trip abroad, something of the other place and people changes who one is and can be.

Higher education has changed greatly in recent decades and seems poised in the post-COVID-19 era to change even more rapidly and drastically. There are fewer opportunities than there once were in the liberal arts, both for students and for aspiring educators. What advice would you give to students or recent alumni who are interested in history or foreign languages?

Yes, the liberal arts, study abroad, and foreign languages are being undermined by many of our cultural (and academic) leaders. Emphasis in higher education has shifted to a sort of job-training program in which one should prepare for a specific trade. But for anyone interested in the liberal arts and other cultures, I say: do it in college, now. An undergraduate education can, and should still, provide learning on a wide range of subjects that

make one a citizen of the world. College students have a unique free moment, before the "real world" closes in on them and removes so many options and opportunities. And one can adapt to many a specific career through post-graduate education, internships, networking, and so many other methods. Learn all you can about as many things as you want as an undergrad!

Many Americans are familiar with the persecution of so-called witches in the colonial period in North America, but less aware of "witch hunts" in medieval and early modern Europe ("Monty Python and the Holy Grail" notwithstanding). Are there significant differences between the two?

The first unique thing about Salem is that they allowed "spectral evidence," which accepted testimony of girls in the courtroom that invisible spirits of witches were attacking them then and there. Another difference in Salem is that if one admitted to and was penitent about being a witch, one would not be punished. A common error about Salem is that witches were burned: not true, they only burned witches in Europe – in America, witches were executed by hanging. (For more on both, see my videos on TED-Ed <https://ed.ted.com/lessons/ugly-history-witch-hunts-brian-a-pavlac#watch> and <https://ed.ted.com/lessons/what-really-happened-during-the-salem-witch-trials-brian-a-pavlac>).

You edited a book titled "The Game of Thrones versus History" (2017). What can we learn about medieval history from the series? Is there evidence that popular interest in actual medieval history has grown under its influence?

G.R.R. Martin is well-informed about medieval history and uses it in his stories, with some good perspectives on women's roles, slavery, religion, and the uses of power through violence. As to whether popular interest in the Middle Ages has grown, I am doubtful. Every generation has a cultural touchstone that has something medieval in it, which attracts some people but not others. When I was an undergrad at BGSU, I belonged to both the Society for Creative Anachronism and the Mythopoeic Society, where we discussed the written work of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and other fantasy writers. A generation ago, "The Lord of the Rings" films also raised some medieval interest. Today's huge popularity of fantasy and comic-books probably distracts from a genuine interest in the Middle Ages.

ALUMNI NEWS 2020

We received some 90 responses from AYA Salzburg and summer program alumni. The responding alumni are spread across the country from North to South and East to West; three reported from Asia: China, Hong Kong, South Korea. This time we asked about the highest academic degree earned and the subject studied. As you'll see, it's a very impressive group!

Summer 1967

(BGSU's second summer program in Salzburg)

Director Dzidra Shllaku

Lana (Smucker) Chadwick lives in Naples, Florida. She has a B.A. degree in sociology from BGSU. A lifetime animal lover, she founded the first low-cost spay/neuter clinic in Southwest Florida. Lana is one of the founders of "Die Gruppe," which established the Dzidra Shllaku Scholarship Fund in 1998.

She is in contact with others from the summer group: Larry Snavley, Sue (Sommer) Mendizza, DJ Hamidinia, Bill Weis, Dallas Hull.

E-mail: lanachadwick@gmail.com

1969-1970

Director Ursula Lawson (Ohio University)

Bonnie (Johnson) Lavinder lives in Aurora, Colorado. In addition to her B.A. from BGSU, she has an M.A. in music education (Cleveland State) and a license in educational leadership (University of Denver). She married David Lavinder from their AYA group. Before her retirement she was the director of school and community services in the Aurora public schools. She has two grown children and four grandchildren. In 2013 she returned to Salzburg; a highlight was visiting her old dorm Billrothheim, where a student took her upstairs to see the rooms: "What a trip down memory lane."

E-mail: bjl210@aol.com

Karen May lives in Nanuet, New York. She holds an M.A. in museum professions from Seton Hall University. Before her retirement she worked as an IT professional. She and her husband, John Mara, are members of Couples Coaching Couples. Besides the weekly interaction in quartets, they help develop workshops for the members. Karen remembers a spring party outside the bar at Billrothheim. "We Americans gave out invitations to the Austrians and called it a hootenanny. We sang

songs like 'Leavin' on a Jet Plane.' We also DJ'd and danced to the Rolling Stones."

E-mail: karenleemay@optonline.net

Joyce (Long) Stewart lives in Nashville, Tennessee. She has an M.A. in elementary education from Belmont University. Before her retirement, she taught in Montessori schools for 20 years.

She is in contact with Karen May and Bonnie (Johnson) Lavinder.

E-mail: joyces2000@yahoo.com

1970-1971

Director Herbert Gauerke

Steve Harris lives in White Stone, Virginia. He holds a LL.M. in tax law from Capital University. He lists as his profession singer-songwriter and music publisher. "I just finished recording my latest album of original compositions and arrangements. The album is slated for release later this year through my publishing house, Music Publishers of America." Steve is one of the founders of "Die Gruppe" and organized their recent reunion in Texas (see Group Reunions).

E-Mail: sdharris01@aol.com

Karlyn (Korsgaard) McPike lives with her husband in Edgerton, Ohio. She is a retired high school teacher of German and French. They enjoy travelling and had planned to lead a group to Oberammergau this summer and celebrate 50 years of friendship with Karlyn's Austrian roommate — plans spoiled by COVID-19. A Salzburg memory is the elation of successfully climbing the snowy Untersberg (and back down) in November.

Karlyn is still in contact with Debra (Sendelbach) Peters, John Thrasher, David Schwarz, and Marcia (Matey) Ashenberger.

E-Mail: mcpikek@edgertonchurch.com

1972-1973

Director John Stickler

Kathleen (Foreman) Dobson lives in Fredericksburg, Ohio, where she is a retired teacher of German. She is enjoying her grandchildren and life in Amish country. From her year in Salzburg she remembers among "other wonderful memories" "the classes with Frau Dr. Fleischhacker."

She is still in close contact with Kari (Strasser) Pokorny, Beth (Holthaus) Fogelsong and Rita Myers-Wieringa.

E-Mail: kdkdobson4@gmail.com

Rita Myers-Wieringa lives in Erie, Colorado. Rita holds an M.A. in German from BGSU, and afterwards studied nursing. In the last 17 years of her 31 years of nursing she was an emergency room registered nurse in New Mexico. She and her husband Glen are avid pickleball players; she practices yoga and Pilates, and is an avid reader. Their daughter is a veterinarian and instructor of veterinary technicians in Denver. Rita has visited Salzburg twice in recent years. A highlight of the AYA year was the group's one-week trip along the Romantische Straße in Bavaria.

She is in contact with Kari (Strasser) Pokorny and Kathy (Foreman) Dobson.

E-Mail: wirehanger5@comcast.net

1973-1974

Director Barry Thomas (Ohio University)

Vickie (Teats) Sherwood lives in Falcon, Colorado. She has a B.A. in German and library and educational media from BGSU. After years of volunteering and substitute teaching, she began working at the Pikes Peak Library District in Colorado Springs. She retired in 2015 after 20 years of mobile library service (bookmobiles). She and her husband, a now retired U.S. airman, have two daughters and 10 grandchildren. An AYA memory: "From Salzburg, I hitchhiked to Berchtesgaden with Dave Griswold and Tonda Lenze and worked that summer as a chambermaid at Hotel General Walker. Loved it!"

Vickie remains in contact with Dave Griswold, Peggy (Perch) Jaegley, Marta Fordos and Dr. Thomas.

E-Mail: v.sherwood@yahoo.com



Marta Fordos (l) and Vickie (Teats) Sherwood meeting again in April 2018

1974-1975

Director Boris Matthews

Beverly Everett lives in Severn, Maryland. She earned an M.A. in German at BGSU. Bev is retired from the U.S. Department of Defense. "Despite physical disabilities, I'm enjoying retirement by traveling in the D.C. area and caring for my mother in assisted living." She remembers "the fun bus trips to Budweis, Melk, and Berlin."

She is in contact with Leslie (Kosel) Eckstein, Brian Pavlac and Gayle Godek.

E-Mail: bke4@verizon.net

1975-1976

Director: Klaus Schmidt

Carol (Barr) Orlofsky lives in Surry, Maine. She has an M.A. degree in German from BGSU, and taught German and French in a local high school before retiring from teaching eight years ago. Since then she has been working at a nearby garden center: "It is really nice to have an outside job after 31 years of being cooped up in a classroom."

She is still in contact with Larry Kalb.

1976-1977

Director Margy Gerber



Suzan Arrer and her Kazakhstani students

Suzan (Corbacioglu) Arrer lives in Adnet (near Salzburg), Austria. She earned an M.A. in TESOL at Ohio State University. Suzan worked as an administrator and lecturer in English at the Fachhochschule (University of Applied Sciences) in Salzburg for many years before her recent retirement. She spent 2018 teaching English in Albania. "What a wonderful country!" In fall 2019 she began as an English Language Fellow (through the U.S. Department of State) in a remote city in Kazakhstan. "Along with all other English

Language Fellows worldwide, we were evacuated in March 2020 because of COVID-19. Since then I have been enjoying the down time but hope to begin teaching again soon."

Suzan is in contact with Gayle Godek and Brian Pavlac.

E-Mail: sarrer@aon.at

Larry Hansgen lives in Dayton, Ohio. He has a B.A. in German and radio-TV-film from BGSU and has worked for many years as a radio announcer at WHIO Radio in Dayton. "The pandemic has been impactful." Larry broadcasts the Dayton Flyers' basketball games and the team missed out on a potential national championship run with the cancellation of the NCAA tournament. A radio listener trip to Austria and Hungary which he would have led was also cancelled. Salzburg memories: "I remember spending evenings at SOG near the Uni, playing basketball with the Union Club and the many friends Jim Singh and I made playing volleyball with Union teams."

Larry is in contact with Jim Singh, Dawn (Preisung) Klena and Suzan Arrer.

E-Mail: larry.hansgen@cmgohio.com

Carol (Barr) Orlofsky (grad, see 1975-76)

James Singh lives with his Austrian wife in Hong Kong. He received an M.A. in international development from the School of International Service at American University and worked until recently in hedge fund management in Hong Kong and other Asian countries. In December 2019 he "retired from the firm I helped start in Hong Kong. Eventually we plan to split our time between Salzburg and Florida, USA. Salzburg memories: "We loved to hang out at the student Keller-Bar, SOG, in Erzabt-Klotz-Straße. Smoky, loud, dark, but great fun. My friend Larry Hansgen once played DJ there at a Keller-Party for the volleyball crowd."

Jim is still in contact with Larry Hansgen.

E-Mail: jesingh@gmail.com

1977-1978

Director Helmut Gutmann

Kathy Best lives in Bowling Green. She holds an M.A. in German from BGSU and has been, her health permitting, an instructor of German at University of Toledo. She will officially retire from UT in September. Kathy has recently moved

into "a wonderful and, by my standards, luxurious condo" near the Wood County Fairgrounds. Kathy is an active member of the AYA Salzburg Alumni Group. Salzburg memory: "One of the things that really stands out in my memory is when I first arrived in Salzburg back in 1977. I wasn't too keen on going anyway, and I'd had an interesting, but trying voyage from Luxemburg to Salzburg. Bad mood! I walked through the door at the Bahnhof and standing there smiling was Dr. Gutmann! The whole world brightened up for me then."

E-Mail: thebestkathy@yahoo.com

1978-1979

Directors Joseph L. Gray/Helmut Gutmann

Leslie (Kosel) Eckstein (grad) lives in Tampa, Florida. She holds two M.A. degrees – in German and English (TESOL) – from BGSU and teaches English for academic purposes at Hillsborough Community College, where she was recently promoted to full professor (see Special Recognition). A Salzburg reminiscence: "I was always really impressed that Mozart's wife, Constanze, was buried in the cemetery at St. Sebastian. When I lived in St. Sebastian, fall semester 1978, the cemetery was not very well cared for and when I saw her name on the marker, I thought, 'Is that real?' (And 'Wolf Dietrich – who is he?!') Well, it turns out it was real. Today, after all of the beautiful renovations and restorations that have been undertaken, the cemetery lives up to its famous inhabitants, and not just Connie, but that other guy, too: Prince Archbishop Wolf Dietrich von Raitenau."

Leslie maintains contact with Beverly Everett, Kathy Best, and honorary AYA members Gerhard Wiesinger and Susi Strobl.

E-Mail: lkeckstein@yahoo.com



Kevin Settlege

Maryland. He is planning on teaching seven more

Kevin Settlege lives in Potomac, Maryland. He received an M.A. in education at Johns Hopkins University and teaches 8th grade English at Robert Frost Middle School in Rockville,

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years and then embarking on trips in the USA and abroad. He and his wife have two grown sons.

E-Mail: ksettlage@yahoo.com

Mindy Willer lives in Gaithersburg, Maryland. She has an MBA from Boston University (London Campus) and works as a banker. She and her husband of 35 years have three sons and four grandchildren. They had tickets for this year's Oberammergau passion play and were looking forward to meeting up with her Austrian roommate and showing their son and his wife Salzburg and Bavaria – plans canceled due to COVID-19. Salzburg memory: "I still think about how beautiful the walk from Egger-Lienz to classes was every morning. We've visited Salzburg many times. The city is timeless. I never tire of seeing it. I attended my first symphony performance there."

E-Mail: wilhob@gmail.com

1980-1981

Director Margy Gerber

Ann Besser lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she teaches ESL at North Hennepin Community College. She has an M.S. in applied linguistics from Georgetown University. "The unanticipated transition to online instruction in March was a challenge for both me and my students. I had never even heard of Zoom before. Fortunately, we all made it to the finish line of the semester in May, but it was exhausting. Retirement is looking better and better." Ann experienced the turmoil in Minneapolis after the killing of George Floyd almost firsthand since she lives only a short distance from the crime scene and the retail area that was razed.

"One small silver lining has been using those new Zoom skills to reconnect with old friends. A big thank you to Jessica Rathke for arranging a virtual get-together for our AYA 1980-81 group this spring. Maybe next time we can do it at Augustiner Bräu or a café on the Salzach."

E-mail: abesser@yahoo.com

Kathy Best (grad, see 1977-78)

Scott Brahier lives in Salzburg. He has a bachelor's degree in music education and is an orchestral musician (horn). He has played for many years with the Bad Reichenhaller Philharmonie. "The AYA program was literally a life-changing experience. I will donate my [COVID-19] Economic Impact Payment to the AYA Salzburg Scholarship Fund." AYA memory: "Dr. Gerber's leadership and the trip to the DDR she organized, including

Dresden, Weimar, Eisenach, Erfurt and Berlin."

Scott is in contact with Ann Besser, Rhonda Westerhaus and Jessica (Eberhardt) Rathke.

E-Mail: gsbrahier@gmail.com

Manfred Brockmann lives in Milford, Pennsylvania and, when he is not home-officing, commutes to New Jersey, where he is first senior vice president and chief compliance officer of a national bank. His younger daughter Brittany is studying at BGSU and plays as a starter on the women's rugby team. His favorite memories from Salzburg include "going hiking with Oscar Retterer, Paul Garrett and Paul Nagy, and having a few beers afterwards to relax."

He is in contact with Ed McKenna, Joe Kroboth and Jessica (Eberhardt) Rathke.

E-Mail: maab0108@aol.com

Jessica (Eberhardt) Rathke lives in Austin, Texas and in London, where she has mainly lived for the last 11 years. In addition to graduate study in German, she has an MBA in marketing from Miami University. Jessica is self-employed as a sales consultant for the language services industry. She travels frequently throughout Europe. Last May she organized a much-appreciated Zoom-based "Happy Hour" with members of the group (see Group Reunions).

Jessica is in contact with Ann Besser, Ed McKenna, Eric Hise, Marta Fischer, Linda VanBlaricom, Manfred Brockman and others on a less frequent basis.

E-Mail: jessica_rathke@yahoo.co.uk

Ellen (Manning) Nagy recently moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin from Fremont, Ohio, where before retiring, she was an assistant professor of German and associate dean at Heidelberg University in Tiffin. She holds a doctorate in German from Ohio State University. Ellen is active in sports and interested in nutrition. She recently became a grandmother for the first time. Salzburg memories: "At this point, it's all the little things that you remember: dinners with dancing and music at Schwarzes Rössl (Manfred's room), fire truck sirens at St. Sebastian, meals at Margy's, the bus trips, walking through town to the University, stopping for beers after Österreich aktuell, the market, buying books (Reclam), eating at Weisses Kreuz, Linzer Augen. The entire experience was life changing."

Ellen is in contact with Linda VanBlaricom, Jessica (Eberhardt) Rathke, Rhonda Westerhouse and Ann Besser.

E-Mail: nagy.ellen@gmail.com

Linda VanBlaricom (grad) lives in Bowling Green, Ohio, where she recently moved into a new condo in the Larch Landing development. Linda has an M.A. in German from BGSU and taught German at Bowling Green High School for 30 years. Since her retirement, she is an adjunct German instructor at BGSU and has twice directed the summer Salzburg program. She enjoys riding her bike on country roads around Bowling Green.

E-Mail: lindav@bgsu.edu

Ann Besser, Linda VanBlaricom and Celeste DiMarco (1982-83) (l-r) enjoying beer, brats and perfect autumn weather in the beer garden atop Gene's Sausage Shop in Chicago, October 2019.



Michael Westerhaus (grad) lives with his wife Rhonda in Pratt, Kansas, where, until his retirement, he taught biology and held administrative positions at Pratt Community College. Mike has a doctorate in biological sciences/vertebrate anatomy from BGSU. He writes: "Retirement is great, although somewhat boring due to COVID-19. All travel plans both domestic and international have been cancelled. But with all of the money being saved during these 'stay at home days,' which have now become months, we hope to hit the road/air next year."

E-Mail: mdhaus@outlook.com

Rhonda Westerhaus has retired after teaching at Pratt Community College for 28 years, the last 15 of which she taught German language and literature, German film and culture. With the support of the American Association of Teachers of Germany (AATG) she attended several summer workshops in Germany over the years. At present, she is active in the AYA Salzburg Alumni Group.

Rhonda is in contact with Lisa Lipcamon, Linda VanBlaricom, Sandy (McCartney) Allard, Karen (Hoffman) Nitsch, Heidi (Piller) Galoch, Jan (Brozic) Kinch and more.

E-Mail: omaopa215@gmail.com

1981-1982

Director Helmut Gutmann

Gene Aufderhaar lives with his wife Kathleen in Bluffton, Ohio. He has an M.A. in German from BGSU and teaches German at nearby Van Wert High School. Gene is winding down his two-year term as president of the Ohio Chapter of AATG. His successor is another AYA Salzburg alumnus, Jeff Moore (1999-2000). Most recently, he took part in the Zoom reunion of the 1981-82 group (see Group Reunions). "I put in a plug for the AYA Salzburg Alumni Group (of which I am a member), and we gained a few!" Salzburg memory: "I remember feeling 'alone' in my dorm room after arrival, when our grad advisors came around and corralled everyone for a hike and picnic on the Kapuzinerberg. It was a warm initiation!"

Gene is in contact with Tim Moehlman, Amy Rybak, Linda VanBlaricom and Kim Scherer as well as "new friends" from the reunion tours, Shaydon Ramey, Julian Gillilan and Brett and Katherine Porter.

E-Mail: eaufder@gmail.com

Karen Coffman lives in Delaware, Ohio. She has B.A. degrees in German and surveying from Ohio

Karen Coffman (r) and her Austrian roommate Trixie, meeting in Zell am See in 2019



State University and works in professional land surveying. "I was able to return with my family to Salzburg in February 2019 after 37 years. It was an emotional experience to be sure. We met up with my Austrian roommate, Trixie, and her husband for dinner one evening in Zell am See. Wonderful!!" A Salzburg memory: "Sunday dinners at the Ribisel." Karen too took part in the 1981-82 Zoom reunion.

"I think about 2/3rds of us are in touch online!"

E-Mail: karencoffman79@gmail.com

Matthew Garrow lives with his wife Jane in Morenci, Michigan. He received a B.S. in finance from BGSU and has worked as a financial advisor for 35 years. He also farms 600 acres in northwest Ohio with his younger brother, growing mainly corn and soybeans. Tom Edwards, Reiner Mueller and he are still close friends. Matt helped organize the recent Zoom reunion of the group.

E-Mail: matthew.garrow@egrfinancial.com

Sarah (Richardson) Hagena lives in Lennox, South Dakota. She has a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and is a pastor. She writes: "Enjoying life as a small church pastor and farmer's wife in South Dakota. We have three daughters aged 23, 21, and 16. We have had fun hosting exchange students over the years from Switzerland, Germany, Japan, Norway and Taiwan. We took our family to Europe in 2011 and saw a dorm mate, Gerti, in Austria. Our kids loved the 'Sound of Music' singing tour." An AYA memory: "I have vivid memories of going to West and East Berlin, the drug-sniffing dogs who searched our bus, seeing the Berlin Wall and the memorials to all those who died trying to cross over to the West."

E-Mail: pastorsarah@live.com

Reiner Mueller lives in Strongsville, Ohio. He has a master's in international business from the University of South Carolina and works as a business financing broker. Reiner is active in the German community in Cleveland. He was also

Schwarzes Rössl



the main organizer, with Matt Garrow and others, of the group's recent Zoom reunion (see Group Reunions). Salzburg memories: "Near the top of the list has to be Augustiner Bräu, but I also fondly remember the friends I made. I loved Salzburg's central location. As our Austrian geography professor, Herr Leitinger, explained it, Salzburg is in the center of Austria, Austria is in the center of Europe, Europe is in the center of the Earth, the Earth is in the center of the universe. Thus Salzburg is in the center of the universe. I'll take it one step further (or closer), I think Schwarzes Rössl was in the center of Salzburg, thus logically it can be concluded that Schwarzes Rössl is in the center of the universe!"

Reiner regularly sees or speaks with Matt Garrow, Laura Vadaj, Tom Edwards, Anne (Chalupa) Taylor, Terry Kuney (1983-84) and his sister-in-law Anita (Reiser) Fejldstadt (1979-80).

E-Mail: reinermueller@sbcglobal.net



Monika (Berberich) Wood, her husband and their two sons hiking near their home in Colorado

Monika (Berberich) Wood lives in Evergreen, Colorado, where she works as a brand ambassador for outdoor companies. She has a B.A. in German

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and a B.A. in international relations from BGSU. Salzburg memories: "Living in St. Sebastian was a lot of fun, especially since we all had Austrian roommates. We became one big family. The grandeur of St. Sebastian's large wooden house door made a lasting impression, especially when we came back late and it was tightly locked." Monika participated in the group's Zoom reunion (see Group Reunions). "I am really excited to have found my dear friend Peggy Gleim and a few of the girls that I had travelled with as well. It was so nice talking with all again."

E-Mail: monikawood@comcast.net

1982-1983

Director Helmut Gutmann

Gerrie McManamon (grad) lives in Columbus, Ohio. She remained two years in Salzburg as a graduate student, earning an M.A. in German. She also studied Russian. Gerrie retired from teaching German in the Columbus city schools in 2017, but continues to work as a substitute teacher. She has played in reggae bands for many years, but because of the pandemic her music career is "on hold."

Gerrie is in contact with Amy (Thomson) Wexler and Rayme Marcozzi.

E-Mail: gmcmamanon@att.net

Jessica (Eberhardt) Rathke (grad., see 1980-81)

1983-1984

Director John Erikson

David Day lives in Brookline, Massachusetts. He received an M.A. in international business from the University of South Carolina and before his retirement worked in international finance. He lived in the Netherlands for 23 years, employed by a major international bank.

"My time in Salzburg was a fantastic learning experience which helped prepare the way to an international career." AYA memories: "Going to the Olympics in Sarajevo and traveling through Eastern Europe before the Iron Curtain fell."

E-Mail: djday27@gmail.com

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

Brett Porter lives with his wife, Katherine, in Dublin, Ohio. Brett has a B.A. in German from BGSU. He is a registered nurse and was recently voted nurse of the year by his nursing colleagues. Brett heads the AYA Salzburg Alumni Group.

AYA memory: "Traveling with the AYA group to Berlin and standing in front of the Wall during the height of the Cold War and wondering if and when it would ever come down. I was surprised on my return trip in 2019 to see how well the city has been reunited."

E-Mail: bporter8@columbus.rr.com

1984-1985

Director Klaus Schmidt

Gene Aufderhaar (grad, see 1981-82)

Suzanne (Herwig) DiPietrantonio lives in Beaver, Pennsylvania. She holds an M.A. in German from BGSU and teaches German and ESL on the high school level. She anticipates retiring in four years. "Our family has been back to Austria often and I've kept in touch with my roommate, Isolde, from Schwarzes Rössl, who hosted both of my daughters as exchange students. We have hosted four Austrian students ourselves and have had numerous visitors from Austria throughout the years."

She has recently been in touch with Judi (Lindsley) Nath, Kathy (Schwartz) Crooks and Mark Gustafson from her graduate year, 1987-88. She went to the AYA Salzburg Homecoming reunion at BGSU last fall and has been meeting virtually with alumni during the pandemic.

E-Mail: dipietrantonio@comcast.net

Tim Moehlman lives in Lodi, Italy, where he works as a research chemist. He returned to Salzburg for a second year and finished his studies with an M.A. in German. This August marked the second year of his civil union with his Sicilian partner, Alessandro. AYA memory: "During the last days of the semester break, Karl Ehlers, Suzanne Herwig and I still had two days left on our Interrail passes. We took the night train to Paris, had lunch and came back the same day."

Tim is in contact with Amy (Thomson) Wexler, Dan Zarembo and Amy (Barber) Ryback.

E-Mail: lodibaer@libero.it

1985-1986

Directors Margy Gerber/Klaus Schmidt

Linda (Frisbie) Kern lives in Ashland, Ohio. She has an M.A. in German translation from Kent State, but works as an IT pharmaceuticals regulatory analyst. She enjoys backpacking and has made backpacking trips across Isle Royale National Park Minong Ridge in Michigan.

Salzburg memories: "My love of hiking probably started when I was inadvertently left at the top of the Gaisberg. Since you can pretty much see the city from the top of the mountain, I hiked down and hoped it was my lucky day as a Schwarzfahrer (it was). And then there were the Nockerl!"

Linda is in contact with Jill Janke.

E-Mail: indy2jeep@yahoo.com

Gerrie McManamon (grad, see 1983-84)

Tim Moehlman (grad, see 1984-85)

1986-1987

Director Helmut Gutmann



Ellin Iselin

Ellin Iselin lives with her husband and son in Jacksonville, Florida. She recently earned a doctorate in philosophy and religion from Harrison Middleton University. She is currently employed at Florida State College in Jacksonville for the

college's Broadway Artist Series "The Show Must Go Online!" She works in group sales for the FSCJ Artist Series. Broadway in Jacksonville is a major presenter of national and international touring productions.

"Thanks to the last newsletter, Laurie McLary and I are in touch again!"

E-Mail: ellin_iselin@hotmail.com

1987-1988

Director Klaus Schmidt

Suzanne (Herwig) DiPietrantonio (grad, see 1984-85).

Mark Gustafson lives in Bedford, Texas. He is celebrating 30 years with American Airlines, where he is a senior HRIS analyst. COVID-19 has prevented his usual frequent air travels, but he hopes to make his annual Thanksgiving trip to Frankfurt, Munich and Salzburg. Before the lockdown he was at least able to visit Disneyland with his partner. Salzburg memory: "Singing in the choir at the Franziskanerkirche."

Mark is in contact with Judi (Lindsley) Nath, Kathy (Schwartz) Crooks, Suzanne (Herwig) DiPietrantonio, Eva (Schott) McMasters, Amy (Thomson) Wexler and Patty Conlon.

E-Mail: weaintgotdat@sbcglobal.net

Kate (O'Leary) Ross lives with her husband Kirk (AYA 1998-99) and their three daughters in Swanton, Ohio. She is a homemaker and has homeschooled her daughters, the oldest of whom is now studying criminal justice at the University of Toledo and is hoping to study in Salzburg like her parents. "Enjoying life with Kirk Ross, still homeschooling our daughters. Thrilled to have successfully launched our first." Salzburg memory: "Meeting my spouse."

Katie is in contact with Georgia Craig, Mike Bowden, Lisa Pietras and Billy Barnes.

E-Mail: katieandkirk@hotmail.com

1988-1989

Director Margy Gerber

Paul Soprano (grad) lives in Cleveland, Ohio. He holds dual M.A. degrees in German and political science. He works as the program director of a nonprofit organization. AYA memory: "It was exciting following the changes that were brewing in Central Europe in the spring of 1989. I still have an airmail letter (remember those very thin blue envelopes?) from my mother with a newspaper clipping noting that Hungary was starting to take down the barbed wire fencing at the Austrian border. Our trip to "Berlin Hauptstadt der DDR" was particularly interesting that year, too."

E-Mail: p.soprano@yahoo.com

1989-1990

Director Geoffrey Howes

Maura Callahan lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She received an MBA in marketing from the University of Pittsburgh and works as senior product manager at Global Aerospace. She married fellow AYA student Thad Gessel; they have three children. "We had the pleasure of taking them to Salzburg for the first time during the summer of 2018." AYA memories: "Junior year in



Maura Callahan with her husband Thad Gessel (also AYA 1989-90) and their children in Salzburg in 2018

Salzburg was one of the best years of my life and it is filled with great memories." In 2019 Maura happened to be in Berlin on business during the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Wall and thought back on the group trip to Berlin in 1990.

In addition to Thad, she is in contact with Jennifer Pema (best friend), Jill Sommer and Dom Marrone.

E-Mail: maurabcallahan@gmail.com



Greg Dykhoush with example of life emerging on land – a fish with "shoulders"

Gregory Dykhoush (grad) lives in Holland, Michigan. In addition to his BGSU master's in German, he has a doctorate in theatre from Louisiana State University. Greg teaches history at Black River Public School and was instrumental in developing the online Big History Project course (now the Online Education Resources Project), which spans 14 billion years of history. He also designed support material for the publication "What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City" by Mona Hanna-Attisha. Salzburg memory: "Attending a performance of Nestroy's 'Der böse Geist Lumpazivagabundus' at the Salzburg Landestheater with Fritz Muliar."

E-Mail: dykhousseg@brpsk12.org

Julie Giffin (grad) lives in Montpelier, Vermont. She has an M.A. in German from BGSU, but went on to study physical therapy, her present profession. "I suppose it's a jump to go from German to physical therapy, but I have no doubt that having spent time abroad helped with entrance to PT school. I'm currently doing pelvic health and myofascial release in addition to general orthopedics." After her training, she married and had two children, but is now divorced and living in the house of her childhood. Salzburg memories: "Salzburg still shows up in dreams, almost as its own character. I spent a lot of time drinking coffee and beer with Mark Wright and Greg Dykhoush, and hanging out in

the kitchen at Haus Paracelsus with Jill Sommer."

Julie is in contact mostly via Facebook with Geoff Howes, Jill Sommer, Mark Wright, Denise Friend, Amy Bruckner, Dom Marrone, Edna Shipp, Randy Friday, Todd Ahrens, Kelly Schlageter.

E-Mail: earthcookies@yahoo.com

1991-1992

Director Margy Gerber

Paula Siefert (grad) lives in Maple Grove, Minnesota and works at the Toro Company, where she is now a senior marketing manager. She has travelled extensively both professionally and personally. Paula holds an M.A. in German from BGSU. A Salzburg memory: "I remember having to translate a section of "James and The Giant Peach" into German. I could not remember the word 'to crawl' and used instead 'went on hands and knees' when the instructor refused to tell me the correct word. Later another student asked for the word for 'peach' and the instructor provided it to that student. I was so fed up with the double standard that I walked out of the class and consequently failed the test. It was the best failed test of my student life because other students who had witnessed this agreed with me about the blatant favoritism the instructor had demonstrated and it was called to her attention, influencing her future behavior."

Paula is in contact with Tammy Kummel-Barabash, Dom Marrone, Janet Holley, Virginia Cooper, Nik Sathe, Renate Wildermuth, Amy (Kirner) Chamberlain, Mary Backus, Patty Conlon, Amy (Craft) Ahrens, Todd Ahrens, Patrick Miller, Eva (Schott) McMasters and Troy Anderson.

E-Mail: paula_sliefert@yahoo.com

1992-1993

Director Christina Guenther

Brian Pfaltzgraff (grad) lives in Waverly, Iowa. His highest academic degree is a doctorate in music performance from the University of Michigan. He is professor of voice and chair of the music department at Wartburg College. Brian ordinarily directs a summer student program in Eisenach, Germany, the sister city of Waverly, and at the fortress Wartburg, for which the college is named. A Salzburg memory: "Choosing which footbridge to take over the Salzach from Neustadt to the Altstadt to get to the university."

E-Mail: brian.pfaltzgraff@wartburg.edu

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Todd Warmington lives in Concord Township, Ohio. He has an MBA in finance and international management. As his profession he lists adjunct faculty, entrepreneur, unemployed COVID-19 recipient.

Todd is in touch with Bill Weisenburger, James Bernhardt and Lydia (Lien) Butler.

E-Mail: tswarmington@hotmail.com



Bill Weisenburger lives in Columbus, Ohio. He has a B.A. in German from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Bill is a beer brewer by profession and is working as the process improvement brewer for Anheuser Busch in Columbus.

His focus is on the brewhouse and fermentation. He also programs the Siemens control system. AYA memory: "Learning Austrian dialect. I am still pretty decent at it."

Bill is still in contact with Todd Warmington, James Bernhardt and Alex Montanaro.

E-Mail: rossl19921994@gmail.com

1993-1994

Director Geoffrey Howes

Brendan Grady (grad) lives in Lunenburg, Massachusetts. He holds an M.A. in German from BGSU. Brendan is vice president of Qlik Cloud Services and currently leads the cloud business at Qlik. "Seems a far cry from German but it is not. The cultural experiences and language skills have stuck with me all these years. I conduct business in Germany and Austria with some of the most recognized brands – in the local language." A Salzburg memory: "The Festungsfest. The 'Sportler' were able to land a party up in the Festung... absolutely amazing and amazingly difficult to walk down again after a few too many Stiegl and Zipfer."

Brendan is still friends with several Austrians from Haus Humboldt. "While I do not get to see them regularly, I am lucky enough to still be in contact with Adam Bartelmay, Catherine (Davies) Edgington and Kevin Kane."

E-Mail: seawas98@gmail.com

1994-1995

Director Margy Gerber

Bill Weisenburger (grad, see 1992-1993)

1995-1996

Director Margy Gerber

Peter Doerschler (grad) lives with his family in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, where he is a professor of political science at Bloomsburg University. After completing his dual M.A. degrees in German and political science, he attended Penn State University for his doctorate in political science. Reporting on his present life: "Taking life in the pandemic one day at a time. I have three kids – all teenagers – who are struggling to connect with friends during the quarantine. Like many of you, I've had to make big changes in my own work. For the upcoming fall semester, I'll teach most of my courses using a hybrid or blended format where groups of students rotate between in-person instruction and Zooming in. Sounds fun, right?"

AYA memory: "My kids would say this is ultra-nerdy, but I fondly remember writing/thinking about Rilke's 'Der Panther' in Margy's intro to graduate studies course."

Pete is in contact with Christine (Philbrook) Beyer and Karen (Gedeon) Hamilton.

E-Mail: pdoersch@bloomu.edu

Kevin Kane (grad) lives in Tours, France. He has dual M.A. degrees in French and German from BGSU and for some years was the resident director



The famous bakery in the Getreidegasse closed unfortunately in 2003.

of the AYA France program. He is currently working on creating a thematic tourism company in France. He plans to do small group trips to see (and study) historical themes (for ex. Renaissance castles, gothic cathedrals).

Salzburg memories: "The Wiener Bäckerei ... Café Fürst ... and being late for that bus in Dürnstein." Kevin is in contact with Brendan Grady, Tara Campbell, Adam Bartelmay, Andrew Livingston, David Wildermuth and Astrid Bayer, among others.

E-Mail: kanek@hotmail.fr

1996-97

Director Klaus Schmidt

Alexander Mirescu (grad) lives in Jersey City, New Jersey. In addition to his dual M.A. degrees in political science and German from BGSU, he holds a doctorate in political science from The New School for Social Research. His present positions are senior consultant at the World Bank and policy fellow at the World Economic Forum. "My years in the AYA program still benefit me today. In recent years, I have worked with the Landesregierung Kärntens and the annual Volksgruppenbürokongress. The Kärnten government has asked me to help design and configure new strategies for the Kongress by looking at internationalizing the diplomatic efforts for a peaceful resolution of tensions" between the provincial government and the Slovenian minority in Kärnten. Salzburg memories: "I loved running along the Salzach, riding my bike to the Uni along the paths, hopping on the Schizug to have a day of skiing or snowboarding in Zell am See, Bad Gastein, or Kaprun."

He is still in touch with Eliot Dickinson and, every now and then, Marc Simon and Geoff Howes.

E-Mail: alexander.mirescu@gmail.com

1997-1998

Director Christina Guenther

Robert Meehan (fall) (grad) is now living in Silver Springs, Illinois. He has two M.A. degrees: in Spanish from BGSU and in ESL and Linguistics from the University of Illinois, Chicago. Before his retirement he taught ESL in Arab countries for 24 years. Salzburg memory: "Winter walks along the river under the trees at night. Peaceful without tourists."

E-Mail: robroymeehan@yahoo.com

1998-1999

Director Geoffrey Howes

Alexander Mirescu (grad, see 1996-97)

Lisa Pietras lives in Toledo, Ohio. She has an M.A. in counselor education from the University of Toledo and is an at-risk teacher, licensed school counselor and clinical mental health counselor at Anthony Wayne High School in Whitehouse. She is an active member of Toledo Sister Cities International and has helped host representatives from Coburg, Toledo's German sister city. She is also active in the Bavarian Sports Club D' Holzacker Buam Schuhplattler group. Salzburg memory: "I had a bicycle accident on the first day of orientation. I ended up in the hospital with a severe concussion, missing all the placement tests and orientation information."

Lisa is in touch with Kate and Kirk Ross.

E-Mail: lisapietras@gmail.com

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

1999-2000

Director Kristie Foell

Ryan Behan now lives in Indianapolis, Indiana. He has a doctorate in music/piano from Ohio State University and has recently accepted a position as assistant professor of piano at the University of Indianapolis. In the summer he serves on the collaborative faculty of the Mozarteum International Summer Academy in Salzburg. Salzburg memories: "I can't single anything out. The whole year was so special. I can't imagine my life without my education from BGSU, the AYA program, and the support of the German faculty, Foell, Howes, the Schmidts, Guenther."

Ryan is in contact with Dr. Foell.

E-Mail: rybehan@gmail.com

Christian Kelso lives with his family in Dallas, Texas, where he is an attorney. His law degree (LL.M.) is from Southern Methodist University. In November 2009 he published his first book, "Building Your Castle," about taking a holistic approach to wealth transfer and preservation. "I also prepared my first contract this year in which the parties, one American and one German, opted into the Deutsche Institution für Schiedsgerichtsbarkeit, or German Arbitration Institute. We selected Vienna as a 'neutral' location where any disputes are to be arbitrated. While I'm hopeful there will be none, it would make for a very interesting experience going to

Vienna to argue a case." A Salzburg memory: "Getting to see Pearl Jam in the Domplatz was pretty cool!"

Still in touch with Michelle (Bracken) Redding, Dr. Foell, and a few others.

E-Mail: ckelso@christiankelso.com

Jeff Moore lives in Hudson, Ohio. He is married to another 1999-2000 AYA participant, Reka Barabas. Jeff has an M.A. in TESL from Cleveland State University, but he has been teaching high school German at Brecksville-Broadview Heights City Schools for nearly 20 years. This fall he will begin a two-year term as president of the Ohio chapter of the AATG, succeeding another AYA alumnus, Gene Aufderhaar. Jeff also chairs the Hudson-Landsberg Sister City program, which organizes a scholarship program for students, an exchange program, reciprocal tours for groups from the two cities, and a Christkindlmarkt in Hudson. "Stop by for a mug of Glühwein in December!" Salzburg memories: "I remember going to McDonald's on those nights when I didn't feel like cooking to get baked camembert! Other nights it was a Dr. Oetker pizza or a Döner from (now gone) Frauenberger."

He is still in contact with Cynthia Roberts.

E-Mail: jeffmoo@hotmail.com

2000-2001

Director Christina Guenther



Lisa Heinrich (r) teaching the talk show hostesses how to play ukulele

Lisa Heinrich lives in Akron, Ohio, where she teaches music. She has a Master of Music degree from Cleveland State University and is starting classes toward a doctorate in music education at Kent State. "Last December I was on the WKYC Cleveland talk show 'Live on Lakeside.' I taught hosts Hollie Strano and Alexa Lee how to play ukulele." Salzburg memory: "Dr. Guenther demonstrated a passion for theater and she inspired me to love and enjoy theatrical productions as I do now."

Lisa is in contact with Sharon Hankins, Cassie Denniss Jamet, Rosemarie Liu, Elena Medentseva.

2001-2002

Director Edgar Landgraf



Kirsten Kunkle in front of the poster for her performance in Sofia, Bulgaria

Kirsten Kunkle lives in Wilmington, Delaware. She has a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Michigan in voice performance. She is the co-founder and artistic director of the Wilmington Concert Opera. "In March 2020, I had my Naxos Record label debut as Arabella in the world premiere recording of 'Blindekuh' by Johann Strauss II. It is based on the live recording of my European solo symphony debut with the Sofia Philharmonic in Sofia, Bulgaria. Also, my husband and I welcomed a little girl named Stephanie Ashton Kunkle into our lives on December 19, 2019. Yes, I sing to her in German."

AYA memories: "I experienced so much art and culture through the group travel and all of the extra trips that I took. I traveled all over Europe and never would have had that opportunity, if not for AYA."

Kirsten is in contact with Eric Marquez, Tracey (Leroux) Jarrett, Jennifer (Snyder) Yoak, Anna Goben and Ursula Wein.

E-Mail: kirstenckunkle@gmail.com

Summer 2002

Carla Schober lives in Rocky River, Ohio. She has a master's degree in library and information science from Kent State University and is a department head of the public library. "Studying abroad has given me greater empathy for the immigrants and non-native English speakers whom I serve. I look forward to taking my husband and daughter on a trip to Austria someday, in a post-COVID world!" Salzburg memory: "The summer I spent in Salzburg was the year of the 500-year flood. It rained so much that the Salzach rose to cover the bases of the bridges that connect the

ALUMNI NEWS 2020 continued



Carla Schober and her family

Altstadt and Neustadt, cutting off travel between the two for a time. Tourist boats that had been moored in the river sank, and we all got used to being slightly damp all the time. We still managed to have fun, though!"

E-Mail: eostreegg@gmail.com

Summer 2003

Lonie Moore (see 2003-2004)

2003-2004

Director Edgar Landgraf

Robert (Bobby) Blankenship (grad) lives with his wife and son in Long Beach, California, where he teaches German at California State University Long Beach. After receiving his M.A. in German at BGSU, he earned his doctorate at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. Last June he received both early tenure and promotion to associate professor (see Special Recognition). Salzburg memory: "I remember writing for our student publication: 'Der dünne Kohl.' There were two issues of that periodical, and rumor has it that they're still archived on the computers of a few members of our group."

His most regular group contact is with Mike Lawson.

E-Mail: robert.blankenship@csulb.edu

Lonie Moore has moved from Cincinnati, Ohio to New York City to start a new position (see Special Recognition). He earned an M.S. at West Virginia University and an MBA at Xavier University. "In September I'll be moving to New York City for a new role as the vice president, reverse liaison officer at my parent company, Dai Ichi Life (Tokyo). In New York I'll be working with the corporate

planning/finance teams." Lonie is an active member of the AYA Salzburg Alumni Group. Two of his many Salzburg memories: "Seeing 'Die Zauberflöte' in Wien" and "eating octopus pizza at the 12 Apostel restaurant in Berlin."

E-Mail: lonie.moore@gmail.com

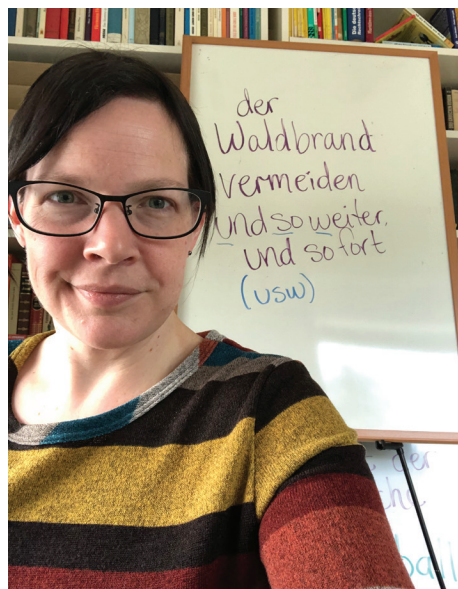
2005-2006

Director Christina Guenther

Jenn Hesse (grad) lives in Everett, Washington. She has an M.A. in German from BGSU and teaches German at Jackson High School in Everett – because of COVID-19 often online. She is currently working on her administrator credentials. Salzburg memory: "I miss the Japanese restaurant and Spicy Spices!"

"Beth Atkins is my closest contact, and I hear from Dan Klein regularly now."

E-Mail: fraumagistra@gmail.com



Jenn Hesse as she looked to her students when studying German remotely

Summer 2006

Alison Kemp (see 2008-09)

2006-2007

Director Kristie Foell

Amanda (Scherer) Finman-Palmer lives in Saint Paul, Minnesota. She has a B.A. in international relations and German language and literature from Beloit College. She works as development director at the Children's Law Center of Minnesota, which provides legal

services and advocacy to foster children. In June 2019 Amanda married her partner of ten years, Aliya Finman-Palmer.

E-Mail: amandascherer88@gmail.com

2008-2009

Director Theodore Rippey

Alison Kemp is now living in Washington, D.C., having recently returned from Swaziland (eSwatini) where she was a Peace Corps volunteer. She has a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Utah and is currently working as a public health analyst with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, an office with the Department of Health and Human Services, in Washington.

E-Mail: alison.kemp@gmail.com

Summer 2009

Lisa Pietras (see 1998-99)

2009-2010

Director Christina Guenther

Katie (Portnoy) Schober (grad) lives with her Austrian husband in Saint Louis, Missouri. She has an M.A. in German from BGSU. Katie has her own company, SK Translations, and specializes in translating historical, often genealogical, documents from (old) German into English. In addition to translating, she gives lectures and workshops on genealogy, old German handwriting, and using church records. She has published books on these subjects and also publishes an online journal (see Special Recognition section). Salzburg memories: "I loved climbing the Gaisberg with the entire BGSU group one of our first weekends in Salzburg. It was a cloudy day, but we climbed high enough to see over the clouds and the view was magical. Fluffy clouds, mountains, and Salzburg – what more could you want?"

E-Mail: language@sktranslations.com

2011-2012

Director Edgar Landgraf

Alexandra Spradlin lives in Las Vegas, Nevada, where she teaches high school English and German. She has an M.A. in German from BGSU and an M.Ed. (curriculum & instruction) from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

E-Mail: alexandraspradlin@gmail.com

2012-2013

Director Stefan Fritsch

Dana Deal (grad) lives in Jacksonville, Florida, where she previously taught German at the University of North Florida. In November 2019, she was promoted to the Dean's Office in the College of Arts and Sciences there; she works on scholarships and helps departments that need assistance. Dana translated a book from German to English titled "Maka, Matz and Maki." It is available on Amazon. Salzburg memories: "I enjoyed the simple things like walking to the university through the old town. In December, I would stop by the Weihnachtsmarkt to get a warm dinner on the way to my dorm after a long day at the university."

Dana is in contact with Laura Hoesman and Sam Hohnke.

E-Mail: dana.marie.deal@gmail.com

Laura Hoesman (grad) lives in Norwalk, Ohio, where she teaches German and 7th and 8th grade science at Norwalk Catholic School. Laura has an M.A. in German from BGSU and a master's degree in middle childhood education from the University of Toledo. An AYA memory: "Snowshoeing in the Alps!"

She is in touch with Dana Deal.

Summer 2013 (also summers 2014-16)

Bruce Kwiatkowski lives in Amberg, Bavaria. He has a doctorate in history from the University of Toledo. "I am in my fourth year teaching German for the U.S. military. Last year I was transferred from Wiesbaden to the U.S. Army Garrison at

Vilseck, Bavaria. Bruce attended the Salzburg summer program in the years 2014-16 as well. A Salzburg memory: "Cooking Wienerschnitzel in Haus Merian with the other BGSU students in the summer 2014."

Bruce is in contact with Chloe Michael, Peter Funk and Henry Seeger.

E-mail: bruce.kwiatkowski@utoledo.edu

2013-2014

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

Emily (Skorupski) Brancel (spring) now lives with her husband in Dearborn, Michigan, where they recently bought a house. "I left my adjunct position at Ivy Tech to find a more local position in academic advising, but due to COVID-19 options have not been available. I spend my time fostering retired racing greyhounds and gardening in my yard." Last year, her husband was placed for his residency in radiology at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. Salzburg memories: "Recently, I've been reflecting on my many late night solo walks from the train station back to Haus Humboldt. I would usually come back late on Sunday after traveling over the weekend. The walks were meditative and peaceful. I remember strolling up the Salzach with nothing but the company of the trees and streetlights and the crunching sound of the gravel underfoot. I vividly remember the cool breeze of the valley at night and the stillness of a city at rest."

Emily is in touch with Shaydon Ramey, Lorena Haberern, Dan Otto, Bill Whitesmith, Geoff Howes, Sara Othersen and Noel Welsh.

E-Mail: emilybrancel@gmail.com

Anya Freedman-Doan lives in Ypsilanti, Michigan, and works as a voice teacher at nearby Saline High School. She is applying for a second master's degree which will lead into a doctoral program in speech language pathology. She plans to transition to a voice rehabilitation specialist after the completion of her program.

AYA memories: "I loved our trip to Berlin and Leipzig, where we toured the city on bicycles and visited museums."

E-Mail: anyafreedmandoan@gmail.com

Ann (Jennings) Haack (grad) lives in Urbandale, Iowa. She earned an M.A. in German from BGSU. At the end of May, she started working for the American Legion Department of Iowa as a membership clerk/administrative assistant. "I help with membership renewals/new members, answering membership questions, plus other things around the office."

Lorena Haberern (spring) lives in Collingswood, New Jersey. She holds an M.S. in school psychology from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and works as an applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapist. Salzburg memory: "Rooming with Emily and her plants!"

She is in contact with Emily (Skorupski) Brancel, Shaydon Ramey and Kyle Crider.

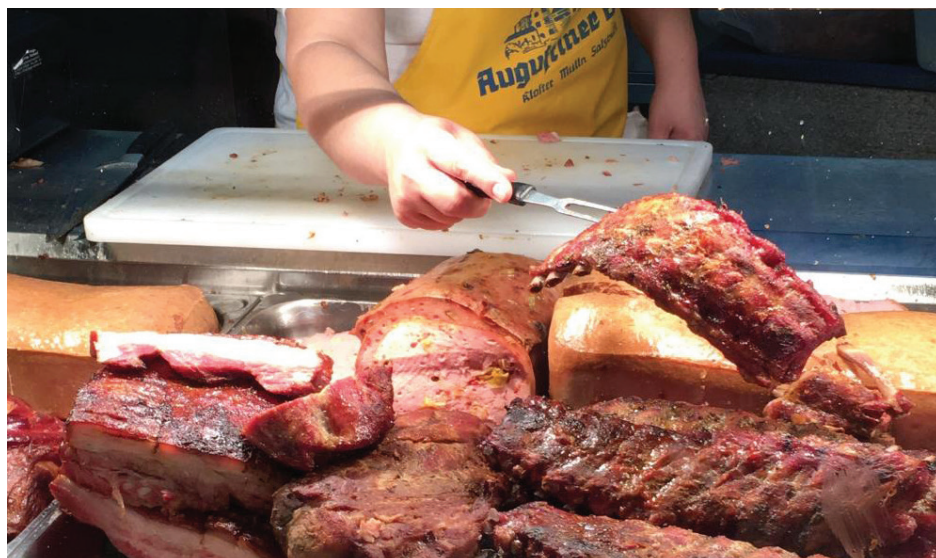
E-Mail: lohaberern@gmail.com

Dan Otto (grad) lives in Evansville, Indiana, where he is a high school teacher of German. He has an M.A. in German from BGSU. "In May, I finished my first year of teaching at Signature School in Evansville, which ranks among the best high schools in Indiana and the most challenging high schools in the country. I am grateful for the teaching experience I gained through tutoring for the AYA program in Salzburg and my graduate assistantship at BGSU. I never would have made it to where I am today without the guidance of Drs. Guenther, Howes, Foell, Landgraf, and the AYA Salzburg faculty."

Salzburg memory: "I will always treasure the memory of my first time climbing a mountain, which was the Gaisberg, although I did complain somewhat then about the effort required. I thoroughly enjoyed my second experience in the mountains, snowshoeing in the Nationalpark Hohe Tauern."

Dan is in touch with Shaydon Ramey and Emily (Skorupski) Brancel, and infrequently with Jackie Tomlin and Ann (Jennings) Haack.

E-Mail: danielotto@gmail.com



Ribs at Augustiner Bräu

ALUMNI NEWS 2020 *continued*

The Wasserspiele at Schloss Hellbrunn

Shaydon Ramey (spring) lives in Bowling Green, Ohio, where he recently completed his dual master degrees in German and Spanish. He has taken a job in Toledo teaching Spanish at Notre Dame Academy. Shaydon is an active member of the Salzburg Alumni Group. Salzburg memory: "As a farewell to two of the Delaware students in our group, we took a day trip to Kloster Andechs. It was a really great day and a perfect way to say goodbye. We still talk and laugh about that trip."

Shaydon is in contact with Emily (Skorupski) Brancel, Lorena Haberern, Kyle Crider, Dan Otto and Patrick Allen from 2014 and "nearly everyone" from 2017/18.

E-mail: shaydonramey@gmail.com

Noel Welch is currently living in Daejeon, South Korea, where she teaches English in two Korean elementary schools. She has a B.A. in German and art from BGSU. Noel reports that English instruction begins in the 3rd grade there, although after-school classes are available for even younger students and a good number of children take private English lessons as well. One of her schools is a small rural school where she is the sole English teacher. "Currently with COVID-19, my main school has transitioned to an online/offline model. Half of the grades are taught in person one week while the remainder stay at home and have school online. They then switch the next week. The school uses thermal cameras in the morning to monitor the students' temperature upon arrival, then they have their temperature checked prior to lunch. Face masks are required of everyone, also in class." AYA experience: "The AYA program gave me the confidence to step out of my comfort zone as well as a deeper empathy for others. I feel like I can better connect with my Korean students about the difficulties of language learning since I was in a similar situation."

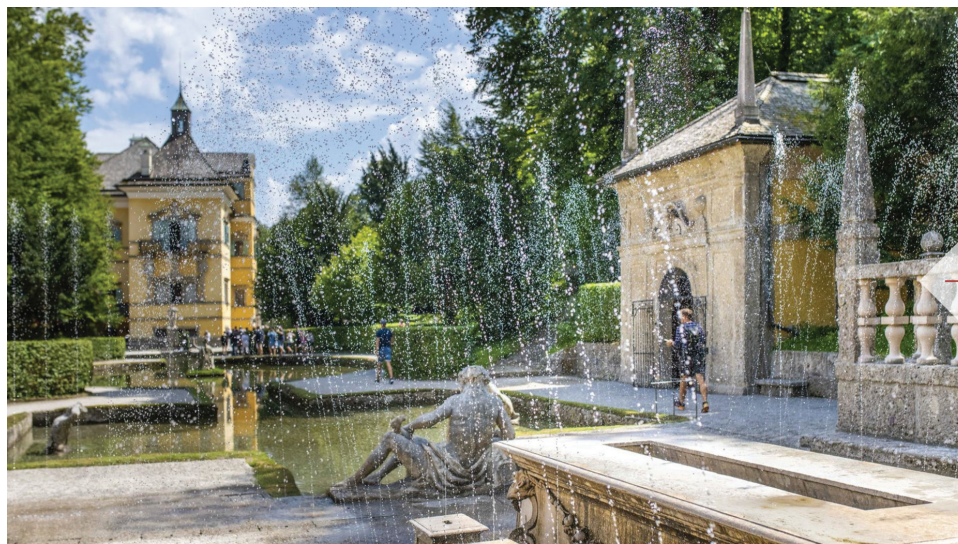
Noel is in contact with Bill Whitesmith.

E-Mail: noelwelch14@gmail.com

Bill Whitesmith lives in Westerville, Ohio. After his undergraduate year in Salzburg, he returned as a graduate student in 2016-17. He holds dual master's degrees in history and German. "I am enduring COVID-19 working as a customer service rep while looking for work in higher education." Salzburg memories: "Walking the paths around Salzburg."

Bill is in contact with Noel Welch and Emily (Skorupski) Brancel.

E-Mail: wwites@bgsu.edu



Summer 2014

Chloe Michael lives in Toledo, Ohio, where she is a self-employed translator. From BGSU she went on to earn an MBA at the University of Toledo. Salzburg memory: "I got separated from the group when we were going to visit Schloss Hellbrunn. I navigated the bus systems, getting myself even more lost, but eventually found the route I needed and met the others there!"

She is in contact with Bruce Kwiatkowski, Sam Warner, Henry Seeger, Dr. Foell and Linda VanBlaricom (who directed the summer program that year).

E-Mail: michaec14@gmail.com

Sam Warner (see 2014-15)

Jacob Weinmann (see 2014-15)

2014-2015

Director Christina Guenther

Margaret (Selzer) Leimkühler (spring) lives in West Bend, Wisconsin. She has a B.A. in Spanish and German from BGSU. Margaret is study abroad program coordinator at Concordia University Wisconsin and Concordia University Ann Arbor. She ordinarily sends graduate and undergraduate students to Austria in the summer in conjunction with Upper Austria University for their international business conference; three Austrian students were to come in the spring. "It's been a busy spring and summer of refunds, rescheduling, and hoping for spring 2021!" An AYA memory: "Hiking to Kehlsteinhaus in 2 hours! (The sign suggested 4 to 4.5 hours.)"

She is in touch with Anna Piotti.

Sam Warner (fall) lives in Cleveland, Ohio, where he works as a software engineer. He received a B.A. in German and film production at BGSU. "My life is happier and more diversified than I ever thought life could be. I'm raising kids, and I also have an Adult Apartment I can go to when I need a break and/or want to entertain." "My news is having finally broken enough of my assumptions about what life has to look like to start living it!"

He is still in contact with Jacob Weinmann, Jared Pendleton, Zach Stein and Madeline Fauser-Brennan.

E-Mail: its.sam.warner@gmail.com

Jacob Weinmann lives in Grand Rapids, Ohio. He has a B.A. in political science and German from BGSU. He is returning to campus this fall to study for his MBA. Salzburg memory: "I have fond memories of group study sessions in the rooftop cafe of Unipark Nonntal."

Jacob is in touch with Clayton and Martina Frist, Molly Shea, Jared Pendleton, Madeline Fauser-

Brennan, Zach Stein, Sam Warner, Sam Thomas, Samantha Sanson and Molly Closson.

E-Mail: Jcbwnmnn@gmail.com



Uni Dachcafé with a view

2015-2016

Director Edgar Landgraf

Noel Shanahan (grad) lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he is the Midwest regional sales manager for a German company. He has an M.A. in German from BGSU. "I have been extremely fortunate in that my job allows me to use my German and occasionally travel to Bavaria, to the headquarters of the company. I am also fortunate to live in Cincinnati, one of the most German cities in the USA. Each week there is a Stammtisch at the oldest restaurant in the city, which has a beautiful Biergarten." Salzburg memory: "Mallory Spencer and I climbed up the back side of the Untersberg, went through the ice caves, then after reaching the top of the mountain we discovered that the lift was undergoing repairs. That was a tiring day!"

Noel phones with Mallory Spencer, Peter Funk and Zach Fleming, and is connected to others via social media.

E-Mail: oseanachainn@gmail.com

2016-2017

Director Stefan Fritsch

Celina Penn lives in Peking, China. She graduated in 2018 with a B.A. in German from BGSU. "With this bilingual experience I was able to move to Beijing, where I took a university position as an English teacher. Every now and again, I come across a student who is also learning German." Salzburg memory: "I struggle with anxiety and a speech impediment, so speaking fluently in any language has always been a challenge for me. I remember being so nervous when I ventured out for coffee the first time alone that I stood outside the small coffee shop in the Hauptbahnhof repeating over and over for about five minutes 'Ich möchte ein Cappuccino bitte.' When I finally went in, I was so nervous that I kept stammering. To my surprise the worker simply smiled and said 'Keine Angst. Sprechen Sie langsam.'"

E-Mail: cpenn@bgsu.edu

Bill Whitesmith (grad, see 2013-14)

2017-18

Director Kristie Foell

Alexandra Brinkman (see grad year 2019-20)

Hannah Olson (spring) lives in Bemidji, Minnesota. She has a B.A. in journalism, German and international relations from Iowa

Hannah Olson and Will Kanwischer (2017-18)



State University. She works as a reporter for the "Bemidji Pioneer," covering education, Native American issues, culture and features in Northern Minnesota. Salzburg memories: "Hiking up the Gaisberg, receiving my B2, falling in love and spending lots of time in coffee shops."

Hannah is in touch with Alexandra Brinkman as well as Will Kanwischer.

E-Mail: hannah.olson1397@gmail.com

Shaydon Ramney (grad, see 2014-15)

2019-20

Director Bettina Muehlenbeck

Alexandra Brinkman (grad) lives in Bowling Green, where, after participating in the 2019-20 AYA Salzburg graduate program (see Letter from Salzburg), she is completing her M.A. degree in German. She spent an undergraduate year in Salzburg 2017-18. Salzburg memories: "Wearing matching sweaters to the ESN [Erasmus Student Network] Christmas party with Reid Perry, Jacob Lukens, Kenzie Girvan, and our friend Anna Burns. And unfortunately having to leave early in the spring due to COVID-19."

Alex is in touch with Jacob Lukens, Reid Perry, Kenzie Girvan, Kennedy Callahan, Harold Morton, Nate Paul, Michael Maier, Shaydon Ramey, Julian Gillilan, Malorie Spencer, Hannah Olson, Will Kanwischer, Chris Elko, Mason Wirtz, Peter Funk.

E-Mail: ambrink@bgsu.edu

Mason Wirtz (grad) lives in Salzburg, where he has stayed after completing his master's in German as a second language with a focus on dialectology. He is currently working at Salzburg College as academic programs manager/lecturer/researcher. See the Letter from Salzburg, which he co-wrote with Alexandra Brinkmann.

AYA Austria newsletters available online

The AYA Austria program has a history of success at Bowling Green State University. A look at each of the year's information can be found online. All of the AYA Austria newsletters since 1971 have been added to the AYA Austria website. They can be read or downloaded from the Alumni Newsletter Archive available at: www.bgsu.edu/AYASalzburg.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

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



Bobby Blankenstein "in Zoom, since that's the environment I've been working in since March"



Leslie (Kosel) Eckstein



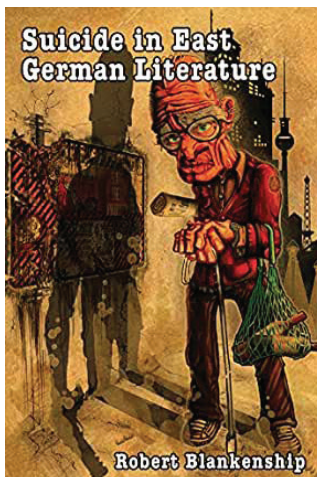
Lonie Moore



Katie (Portnoy) Schober

Dr. Robert (Bobby) Blankenship (AYA 2003-04) has received early tenure and promotion from assistant to associate professor of German at California State University, Long Beach. He joined the faculty there in 2016 after receiving his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. His research specialty is the literature of East and divided Germany. His book "Suicide in East German Literature: Fiction, Rhetoric, and the Self-Destruction of Literary Heritage" (Camden House) was published in 2017. He teaches courses on Marx, Nietzsche, Freud; German Cinema; and the literature of divided Germany.

Suicide in East German Literature

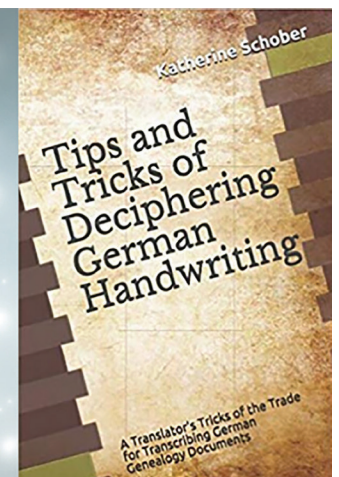
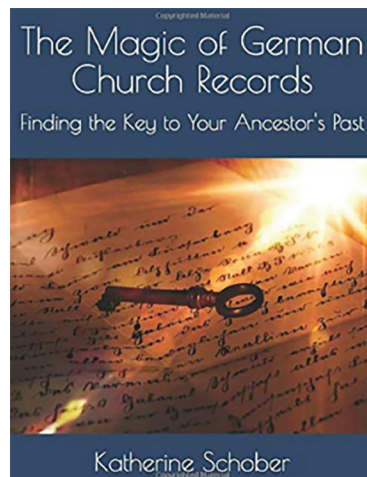


Leslie (Kosel) Eckstein (AYA 1978-79) has been promoted to full professor at Hillsborough Community College in Tampa, Florida, where she teaches English for academic purposes. Leslie lived and worked in Austria for many years before returning to the U.S. to teach English. Leslie is a longtime supporter of the AYA Austria program.

Lonie Moore (AYA 2003-04) has moved from Cincinnati to New York to start a new position as the vice-president and reverse liaison officer at Dai Ichi Life (Tokyo), the parent company of the firms he worked for in Cincinnati. In New York he will be working with the corporate planning/finance teams. Lonie is a staff member at the American Model United Nations conference in Chicago and an active member of the Salzburg Alumni Group.

Katherine (Katie) (Portnoy) Schober (AYA 2009-10) has her own company, SK Translations, in Saint Lewis, Missouri, which specializes in translating old German documents into English. She also teaches others to read old German handwriting, use church records, and carry out their own genealogical studies. Katie has published books on these subjects and produces a very successful monthly online newsletter on German genealogy. Last April she celebrated having reached 3,000 subscribers; this fall the number is already closer to 4,000.

Katie's books



GROUP REUNIONS

COVID-19 didn't stop three AYA groups from meeting this spring, or perhaps the virus was an impetus to get together, whether in person or online via Zoom.

"Die Gruppe"

The chronologically first, and that is only fitting, was the reunion of "Die Gruppe," members of the 1967 Salzburg summer group and others, who more than fifty years after their study in Salzburg still regularly meet. This time they met in McAllen, Texas in mid-February, at the winter home of Steve Harris (1970-71) and his wife, for a Valentine Tex-Mex reunion. Four from the 1967 summer group were there, all coming from far away: Lana Chadwick (Naples, Florida), Sue and Mark Mendizza (Laguna Niguel, California) and Larry Snavley (Clifton Park, New York).

1980-81 Happy Hour — via Zoom

At the beginning of May, Jessica Rathke organized a virtual Happy Hour for the 1980-81 group. More than a dozen alumni joined in; others who couldn't sent greetings. As Jessica reports, "There was no real format. Just a casual get-together to talk and reminisce. Some hadn't seen each other at all since the program ended in 1981. Everyone got a chance to give a life update. The years fell away — we just picked up where we left off. We also sent a video greeting to our director, Dr. Margy Gerber, in Berlin."

1981-82 Zoom Reunion

As reported by Reiner Müller and Mark Garrow: The 1981-1982 AYA group had been hoping to hold a reunion for several years, but bringing our far-flung group together seemed a daunting task. Then along came COVID-19. Why not a virtual reunion via Zoom? And so, alumni residing from Japan to Maine and all points in-between met on the evening of June 7, 2020, for our very first reunion in the nearly 40 years since we left Salzburg. The meeting was well attended, 21 of our 34 group members participated and we all took a few minutes to update everyone else on what we are doing now and to relate our favorite Salzburg memories, which of course included many memories of Augustiner Bräu, Dr. Gutmann and Dr. Pellischek. Fortunately, Zoom let us go past the 40-minute time limit and the reunion lasted almost 2 hours.



"Die Gruppe" sends its love. Front row: Sue and Mark Mendizza, back row (l-r): Larry Snavley, Lana Chadwick, Steve Harris



The 1980-81 Happy Hour. Top row (l-r): Karen (Hoffman) Nitsch, Jessica (Eberhardt) Rathke, Linda VanBlaricom, Ellen (Manning) Nagy; middle row: Rhonda Westerhaus, Lori Lubinski, Ann Besser, Jan (Brozic) Kinch; bottom row: Kathy Best, Sandy (McCartney) Allard. Not pictured: Marta Fischer and Ed McKenna.



1981-82 Zoom Reunion 1. Top row (l-r): Gert Westerhout, Reiner Mueller, Craig Lapresto; middle row: Monika (Berberich) Wood, Kathy (Bleier) McQuate, Wendy (Zagray) Warren; bottom row: Thomas Edwards, Heidi (Wagner) Dupuis, Gene Aufderhaar. Not pictured Sarah (Richardson) Hagena and Anne (Chalupa) Taylor.



1981-82 Zoom Reunion 2. Top row (l-r): Patti Freda Advaney, Matt Garrow, Jennifer (Bloom) Mays and Hamilton Mays; middle row: Karen Coffman, Peggy (Gleim) Gleason, Sue Nicholls; bottom row: Frank Lovering, Ann (Rogers) Pickett, Kari Jirik Slindee

Three Alumni Interviews

The Newsletter wants to call attention to particularly successful AYA alumni. There are many. Some were highlighted in the past, more will be introduced and interviewed in the future!

The current three interviews were conducted by **Dr. Geoff Howes**, professor emeritus of German at BGSU.



JANE FU was an undergraduate in the AYA Salzburg program in 1989-90. She holds a B.S. from Eastern Michigan University. Jane has worked as an arts administrator, grant writer, magazine editor, and senior information officer at DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) in New York. Jane answered these interview questions in July 2020.

Have you had jobs in which you were able to apply German or other languages?

Yes! But after university I became nearly overdosed with the German language and decided that I didn't want to pursue the study of it any further. I also had a minor "identity crisis" for having spent so much time in my life on European languages, while I left the languages of my own culture behind. I was able to rediscover myself, and the Asian culture into which I was born, but knowing foreign languages follows you. It chased me down in various aspects of my life, including professional work.

In what ways did your experience with the BGSU AYA Program help prepare you for your future professional life?

The BGSU AYA Salzburg Program helped me prepare for my professional life in many ways. I think, first and foremost, it developed soft skills. Putting myself in a different country while still a teenager (I was 19.) was a really great learning experience. It helped me develop survival instincts and think outside the box in problem solving. It gave me a frame of reference for immersion in a different culture.

The program was incredibly well organized; and that thorough planning gave me a standard for the international education programs I have subsequently worked on. Having that framework in my head was very helpful, especially in addressing the quality of the student experience in the big picture of study abroad.

What advice with regard to their future careers would you give to current students as they plan their curriculum?

It's hard for me to give any broad advice for current students, except maybe the good old "carpe diem!" Take the opportunities that come your way! If you have an idea, research and pursue it! This is the time of your life to try all things -- that unusual class or extracurricular activity. I do have one slightly more practical piece of advice -- if you want to do it, plan ahead.

What are some of the most satisfying, and the most challenging, aspects of the positions you have held?

A few of the less-known areas in which I've worked were leveraged from my language skills and "international orientation" -- including being an art exhibition docent at the United Nations Secretariat in New York. Having an assignment at the UN Headquarters just felt like "I've made it!"

A fun one -- I was an editor for international editions of a glossy magazine. I didn't use my German, but I had great rapport with "Marie Claire" in France in French! I suppose fluency in one European language gave them the presumption that I could communicate in another -- it's that foreign language thing chasing you down.

One of the things of which I am most proud is that I established the database of translators and interpreters for the 9/11 disaster relief efforts at the World Trade Center. At the time, it was a unique aspect of disaster relief that New York City required language interpreters on a big scale. I assisted many Chinatown residents through the processes of applying for assistance, took hotline calls from all over the world of those seeking the status of loved ones, sought and assigned speakers of nearly every language on the planet to support 9/11 victim families and survivors, and even translated one of the 9/11 memorial proposals from Switzerland.

And last but not least, for many years I worked for a large international educational institution. One of the biggest challenges there was handling the growth in popularity of exchange programs. Each year there were more students, faculty, and universities to support. I worked closely with the creator of one of its most popular internship programs, and it was wonderful to see opportunities open to students whose major fields of study would otherwise not accommodate study abroad.

As a "Muttersprachlerin" of English, I was often sought to write marketing copy, speeches, and do all sorts of writing and proofreading. This was deeply satisfying. Not only because I could utilize my background in technical writing, but also because my colleagues in the European educational and international diplomacy arenas took my work at face value. While elsewhere in the U.S., my face, the color of my skin evoked racial microaggressions regarding language -- so that colleagues questioned my ability to turn a phrase or even my comprehension of words.



MIGUELINA MUNIZ was an undergraduate student in the AYA Salzburg program in 2002-03 and earned her B.S. (2005) and MBA (2012) from BGSU. She is a global sales strategist and cross-cultural marketing expert at Rosetta Stone, the language learning company in Cleveland, Ohio, for which she does new business development across Latin America and the Caribbean. Miguelina answered these interview questions in June 2020.

Continued on next page

In what ways did your experience with the BGSU AYA Program in Salzburg help prepare you for your future professional life?

Post-graduation I took a part-time position for a learning technology company in marketing. From marketing I moved on to sales, responsible for Latin America, then the Middle East, until I was fully responsible for our global market, which for us at the time consisted of anywhere outside of the U.S. and Canada. I was promoted into management. I worked on market entry strategies, building international partnerships that led us to registering a company in Germany. In my current role I manage a sales team that covers Latin America for Rosetta Stone.

Being part of the AYA Program helped me gain a unique perspective, to challenge assumptions, and quite honestly it imparted in me something of a fearless quality. As you know, once abroad you have to figure things out, build relationships, engage with foreign institutions, manage your emotional health and well-being, and navigate new surroundings in a non-native language – but you find a way to make things work. Thereafter, success builds upon success and you encounter the next challenge, personal or professional, with more confidence and stamina – knowing again, you will find a way to make things work.

What advice with regard to their future careers would you give to current students as they plan their curriculum?

Embrace change, be flexible! If you are passionate about something, do it – not everything must fit nicely within a box of what you or others may initially envision for your future. When I studied international business at BG, my advisor told me that I should be a double major; the idea of “international business” as a degree was still new and I should consider finance or marketing or another, stronger, business-related field that international business could play second fiddle to. If I had told her the number of credits I logged during my study abroad or hinted at my beloved German literature classes, she likely would have fallen out of her chair. Not everyone will support you or have your vision; don’t expect them to.

Based on your experiences, what advice would you give to students or recent alumni seeking employment?

Take time to verbalize how the international experience not only contributed to a particular German-proficiency level or acquisition of certain hard skills, but also share its development of soft skills. Today we are seeing a lot of discussion around equity and inclusion. My international experience has helped me to always be a student first. You learn to find a place in different or even uncomfortable settings. There’s always something to learn and explore. It taught me the importance of asking questions, practicing patience, and embracing empathy and tolerance. It has increased my level of self-awareness. There are inherent assumptions and bias in all we do; the fun part is in teasing those out, challenging thought patterns while sitting with a friend, at a bar, over a Bier.

What are some of the most satisfying, and the most challenging, aspects of the positions you have held? Has your study-abroad background helped you with them at all?

What I consider wins in my career have been those times where I pushed the envelope and took a risk (back to the fearless quality gained studying abroad). When I pushed for my previous company to invest 10 times what they had initially planned on a market strategy which resulted in significant gains, or when I asked to take on additional territories and was successful, it was incredibly satisfying. More and more in my career, I am finding tremendous satisfaction from seeing my team members excel and knowing that I have had a part in that.

Is there any further advice or information you would like to pass on to your fellow AYA alumni?

I am privileged to be a part of the AYA family. The study abroad was a remarkable experience, and I look forward to connecting, hopefully back in Salzburg, in the near future.



TIM CABLE was a graduate student in the AYA program in 2008-09. He finished his M.A. in 2010 and works as a technical content developer at MIM Software in Cleveland, Ohio. He answered the following interview questions in June 2020.

In what ways did your experience with the BGSU AYA Program in Salzburg help prepare you for your future professional life?

I entered the job market around the time of the Great Recession. I can’t imagine better preparation for this environment than studying abroad. There’s something about living in another language and culture that unlocks useful parts of your brain and makes you scrappy. Flexibility, problem-solving skills, and a sense of adventure all helped me find cool jobs. I currently work as a technical writer at a software company. Previously, I was a tech writer at a German company, and before that I worked at the ACLU, at a public library, and as a college German instructor.

Have you had any other international educational or professional experiences?

In addition to the AYA program, I studied for a year in Germany, a summer in Salzburg, and a summer in France. After grad school, I did a Fulbright year in Germany. Later on, I worked for a German company for four years.

What advice with regard to their future careers would you give to current students as they plan their curriculum?

Take classes that interest you. Take the opportunity while you are a student to focus on improving your German skills. If you are a German major, get a minor or double major in a totally different subject.

Based on your experiences, what advice would you give to students or recent alumni seeking employment?

A lot of people study abroad, and a lot of employers don’t necessarily know why studying abroad is a good thing. It’s up to you to market yourself and your experiences. Tailor your marketing messages about yourself to the opportunity at hand. Try to imagine which aspects of your experiences would actually be useful for the job you’re applying for – make it about them, not about you.

What are some of the most satisfying, and the most challenging, aspects of the positions you have held? Has your study-abroad background helped you with them at all?

It wouldn’t have been possible for me to succeed in a German work culture without having lived in the German-speaking world. It was always especially rewarding when I could carry out diplomacy between German and American colleagues.

Is there any further advice or information you would like to pass on to your fellow AYA alumni?

Any students or recent alumni are welcome to email me if they’d like to hear more about getting jobs outside of academia with a German degree: tim.cable@fulbrightmail.org

Winter in Salzburg



Photographed by Brian Pavlac

"The place that cemented my desire to travel in Europe, helped me learn how to love, taught me much, hurt me some, still attracts me, despite of and because of its magnificence and flaws."

BRIAN PAVLAC