

Austria

ACADEMIC YEAR ABROAD



Dr. Ivett Guntersdorfer

LETTER FROM SALZBURG, JULY 2022

from AYA Director Dr. Ivett Guntersdorfer

Dear Alumni and Friends of BGSU's AYA Austria Program,

It was a fantastic year abroad in Salzburg. What a relief and joy to write this sentence! After the long uncertain year of COVID in the academic year 2020-2021, when no students were sent abroad, I am delighted to report that our program

continues. The first post-Covid group of students have now returned to the United States full of rich memories. I am certain that our current projects lay the foundation for a bright future for the program.

Given this vision for the years ahead, the year 2021-2022 was about far more than just "getting back to normal." Almost every step of the program – from the application process to the curriculum – was revised and modernized this year.

The year started in October with establishing a better and smoother visa application process for our students. This involved extensive collaboration with the International Office at the University of Salzburg. Thanks to Mag. Benjamin (Benji) Gauss, who is responsible for university partnerships, we now have a direct connection to the Magistrat in Salzburg, which will make applying much easier.

The fall semester was packed with extracurricular activities: We made trips to Vienna and Munich, hiked on the Untersberg, visited Hallstatt. We also learned how to make cheese at a farm in Kuchl (Salzburger Land). This latter event turned out to be a highlight for all of us!

The corona virus was still spreading in Salzburg. Masking was required and we experienced a short lockdown around



On the Mönchsberg

Thanksgiving, but our students made the best of it. It was a good time for socializing aka playing cards and building close relationships in the dorms.

The spring came with more delights – the weather allowed us to do a lot more hiking, and it didn't rain during our Pfingsten trip to Berlin, which seems to be an AYA tradition. Our students took advantage of the fact that the cities of Europe were returning to their pre-Covid state, welcoming visitors once again. Almost every weekend, "Studis" were on the road.

The year was also about reconnecting with you, the AYA Alumni! The students and I are thankful for all your support – and for visiting us here in Salzburg! Brett Porter (1983-84) from the Salzburg Alumni Group came with his wife Kati in early December and joined our students for an evening walk at the Weihnachtsmarkt. Later in the winter, James Singh (1976-77) invited us out to dinner and gave an inspiring talk. We also connected with the Salzburg alumni living here in Salzburg: Mason Wirtz (2019-20) and Kimberly Scherer came with us to Hallstatt, and Shaydon Ramey joined us in Berlin, where I had a memorable discussion over a long breakfast with Margy Gerber. The students loved the BGSU AYA Alumni T-shirts brought to Salzburg by Linda VanBlaricom (1980-81)!

This year's students developed close friendships with each other – and they will always be close to my heart. Although we still have mountains to climb, I end this year with a smile on my face. The AYA

program had a good re-start with a positive spirit, and I see many opportunities to make the program stronger. We have just finished a new website for the program, renewed and made new contracts with the University of Salzburg and the Fachhochschule Salzburg, and established a new summer program, replacing the Internationale Sprachkurse (see article in this issue).

In the coming fall semester, we will have 17 AYA students (4 of them graduate students), and in the spring semester, at least 20. In the future we will have more students from the School of Arts and the Business School at BGSU, and we will be increasing our recruiting at other colleges and universities.

For us, next year's slogan will be: "Ain't no mountain high enough..."



Kaffeehauskultur in Wien



Group on viewing platform in Hallstatt



Year's end: Adorned with AYA T-shirts and mortar boards for those graduating

Making Cheese in Kuchl: A PICTORIAL REPORT

Kuchl is a small, scenic town not far from Hallein at the foot of the Tennengebirge. The group visited a farm there and learned – hands on – the basics of cheesemaking.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM DR. GUNTERSDORFER

In the upcoming academic year, I will begin an extensive research project on the emotional effects of study abroad titled, "What Remains? – The Personality Effect of Study Abroad."

The goal of the research is to study the impact of study abroad on the personality of the participants. Our (quantitative) survey and (qualitative) interviews will try to find answers to these questions:

1. How does study abroad change the emotional state of a young person as seen in his/her later recollection?
2. What are the major themes and emotional qualities, skills and attitudes mentioned by our alumni?
3. What role does the passage of time play in these recollections?

I hope many alumni will participate and share their thoughts about their AYA experience. The quantitative part of the project consists of a questionnaire; the qualitative part, of a conversation about your AYA experience. I will send an e-mail to all alumni soon and ask you to participate.

With this project, the AYA Salzburg Program will have one of the rare studies about the long-term effects of study abroad – and make a scientific contribution to the field.



Outside the farmhouse in Kuchl



First, the cows



Making cheese!



"Unser Käse!"

Three AYA alumni awarded Fulbright U.S. Teaching Assistantships (USTA) for 2022-23

Every year Austria and Germany each award approximately 140 teaching assistantship grants to American college graduates to assist with teaching English in the schools. Ordinarily, two graduates who studied with the AYA program in Salzburg receive these grants: one to Germany, the other to Austria. In 2020-21, because of the COVID pandemic, no Fulbright teaching assistants were sent abroad. To make up for this lapse, four AYA alumni were awarded grants in 2021-22, two to Austria, two to Germany. Their reports on their teaching experience can be read below.

For 2022-23 three AYA alumni received assistantships for Austria, all for Vienna; two grants were renewed for a second year. The third AYA recipient, Ben Foell, did not graduate from BGSU.

OFF TO VIENNA THIS YEAR:



Benjamin Foell (AYA 2017-18), who graduated from the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire, will be an English teaching assistant at two schools in Vienna, the Bundesrealgymnasium Schuhmeierplatz and the AFSW Kalvarienberggasse (Schule für Soziales und für wirtschaftliche Berufe).



Zoë Oswald (AYA 2018-19), who taught at two schools in Spittal an der Drau in Kärnten last year, will be staying on in Austria for a second year, this time with a TA in Vienna. She will be teaching at two schools, the Bundeshandelssakademie und Bundeshandelsschule 11, focused on business, and the Evangelisches Gymnasium und Werkschulheim, focused on languages, social work through the church, and craftsmanship training. See her report.



Jack Riegler (AYA 2017-18) will be a teaching assistant in Vienna for a second year, teaching at the same school, the Technisches Gewerbemuseum. It is an HTL, or technical college, with the equivalent of U.S. high school seniors who

are preparing to take their high school leaving exams, the *Matura*. See the report on his first year.

REPORTS FROM LAST YEAR'S FULBRIGHT TEACHING ASSISTANTS:



Codey Albers (AYA 2015-16)

My time in Germany was incredible. Once I got to Mannheim, I realized just how loose the Fulbright rules and regulations can be. In my experience, the Fulbright ETA is pretty much whatever you make it. I lucked out and had an

amazing mentor teacher and English faculty that were quite lax in their requirements and supportive of my ideas. As long as I met my 12-hour per week quota in the classroom, I was left to run things as I saw fit. I could work with whatever grades I wanted to, for however long I wanted, and with whatever curriculum I wanted. In the beginning, I worked with the 10th grade, and we had an 8-week debate unit. The students learned how to participate in all sorts of debate, from parliamentary style to Socratic seminar. The key was to practice respectfully expressing differing points of view – in English. After wrapping up the debate unit, I worked with the 12th graders to prepare them for their *Abitur* exam in English communication. It's a grueling exam, in which they must not only show language proficiency, but also the ability to understand and analyze the world around them. I developed a strategy for preparing for this challenging oral test. And I'm happy to say all my students passed with flying colors, and the English teachers at my Gymnasium in Mannheim have adopted the system. After the exam, I spent the rest of the year working with the 6th graders. We played games and shared a lot of laughs. My main goal with the little kids was to show them that learning a new language can be loads of fun. I'm going to miss Mannheim, but I'll miss the students more.

Zoë Oswald

In Spittal I taught at two schools, the Bundesgymnasium Porcia, which specializes in the humanities, and the Bundesrealgymnasium Spittal, which focuses on IT and science. My role depended on the needs of the teachers at the two schools. Some teachers assigned me certain topics and goals, and I gave short presentations with activities built into them; some teachers had me teach their subject matter, while others, taking advantage of my linguistics and language studies, had me work with students on pronunciation, accent training, grammar, and higher-level vocabulary. Towards the end of the school year, I helped prepare the oldest students for the oral part of the *Matura*. I had a great time getting to know my students. They were very similar to my American students in Toledo in many ways; some aspects of teenager life don't change from country to country. However, the work they were expected to complete was much

more demanding than that in any high school I know in the U.S. Unfortunately, COVID affected my time in Austria, from lockdown to daily testing to masks. Many school events I would have participated in were cancelled.

Jack Riegler

My first year as an English teaching assistant was incredible. I found my passion for teaching and was blessed to have worked with the best mentor teachers and students. Thanks to my mentors, I learned effective teaching strategies and was able to gain further insight into Austrian culture in exchange for sharing American culture with students and teachers alike. In class we covered things like grammar and current issues, specifically geared toward the *Matura* exams; but I was also able to teach certain cultural phenomena unique to the U.S. For example, I taught the students the basics of American government, specifically the election system, the electoral college, and our two-party system. What's more, I was able to interact with the students in smaller groups and even in one-on-one scenarios to practice their English-speaking abilities as well as their presentation skills. The teaching assistant position is unique because the students respect you but are not as intimidated as they would be with the teacher.



Alexa York (Summer 2018)

For my teaching assistantship in Germany, I was placed at the Europagymnasium Walther Rathenau in a small city called Bitterfeld-Wolfen about a hundred miles southwest of Berlin

and worked with students in grades 5-12. I assisted with the English classes by teaching lessons, giving presentations, and working with individuals or groups of students. Some of the lessons were USA-centric, like Thanksgiving or high school, but I often found myself helping with British English lessons as well. You could also catch me playing trumpet each week with the school's music club! In addition to my school placement, I took on a fellowship with the German-American Institute in Leipzig that sent me around to schools in central Germany to give workshops on culturally related topics of the school's choosing. During the ten months I was in Germany, I taught well over a thousand students from five different schools! One of my favorite parts about working with the students was answering their questions and seeing what they found interesting about life in the U.S.

BGSU Business Professor Teaches in Salzburg

WITH FULBRIGHT GRANT

By Linda VanBlaricom



Dr. Earl McKinney in his Salzburg office

After a 2-year postponement due to the COVID pandemic, Dr. Earl McKinney of the BGSU Schmidthorst College of Business spent spring semester 2022 teaching and conducting research as a Fulbright Professor at the Fachhochschule Salzburg in Puch, Austria. Dr. McKinney first applied for the Fulbright award in 2020 as a personal homage to an important mentor in his life who had passed away.

Dr. McKinney, who joined the BGSU business faculty in 2000, began his career as a pilot at the U.S. Air Force Academy. He studied at Cornell University in New York and received his Ph.D. at the University of Texas. At the FHS, Dr. McKinney taught applied marketing metrics. Students in his class came not only from Austria, but from a variety of countries and language backgrounds. The language of instruction was English, but, as Dr. McKinney reported, communication presented no problem since his students spoke excellent English and were all fluent in the primary language of business, i.e., technology. During his semester in Austria, Dr. McKinney also taught a BGSU class remotely, and he assisted several of his Salzburg colleagues in their courses. When asked about his Salzburg experience, Dr. McKinney said with a smile, "I almost got tired of smiling. Every day something went 'wrong,' but it ended up being just right."

One highlight of Dr. McKinney's Austrian sojourn was hearing the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's *Messiah* sung at the

Easter Mass in the Salzburg Cathedral. Another remarkable moment was when his Austrian students complimented him for his enthusiasm about teaching "even at his age." Dr. McKinney expressed how nice it felt to be regarded as something of a celebrity because he was a Fulbright professor. Of his overall experience he said, "It was like riding a bike with a tailwind."

The Fulbright award also gave Dr. McKinney the precious gift of time. He was away. He had no lawn to mow, few phone calls to return, no car to maintain. Many Austrians he met seemed to have less of a sense of urgency and stress. His colleagues were congenial and interested in what he thinks and who he is. Dr. McKinney commented, "When dealing with people from anywhere, it helps to be curious. People make time and want to share. The quote 'Small is Beautiful' is applicable. Small endeavors are appreciated."

Dr. McKinney is eager to encourage students from the BGSU Schmidthorst College of Business to study at the Fachhochschule Salzburg and to participate in the BGSU AYA program. He is enthusiastic about the advantages that the AYA program offers, including its own on-site director, the easy transfer of credits back to American colleges, and the peace of mind that such a well-established and caring program provides to both students and their parents. He sees the city of Salzburg as small enough not to be intimidating and large enough to offer activities to satisfy most student interests. Participating in the program affords students the opportunity to engage with another culture and people while studying and learning more about themselves.

„Wir müssen mit Daten schlauer umgehen“

Nach der Covidpause ist nun ein Big-Data-Experte als Fulbright-Professor in Salzburg.

PUCH. Die Pandemie machte auch dem internationalen Austausch an den Hochschulen einen Strich durch die Rechnung. Das Fulbright-Programm mit den USA pausierte. Nun lehrt und forscht mit Earl McKinney, Professor an der Bowling Green State University, nach fast drei Jahren wieder ein Fulbright-Professor für ein Semester an der FH Salzburg. Der US-Amerikaner ist Experte für Big-Data-Analysen.



Earl McKinney BILD: SARAH SALZBURG

SN: Gehen wir mit Daten richtig um?
Earl McKinney: Wir sind umgeben von Datenbergen, finden aber gerade erst heraus, was wir damit tun können, sollen und dürfen. Datenbildung wird immer wichtiger und hoffentlich bald in Schulen gelehrt wie Lesen, Rechnen und Schreiben.

SN: Was bedeutet das für die nächste Generation?
Man sagt oft, dass die Zahlen für sich sprechen. Aber das stimmt oft nicht. Es gibt nicht nur eine Interpretation einer Zahl. Ich versuche deshalb, Wirtschaftsstudenten beizubringen, Ergebnisse von Big-Data-Analysen nicht einfach hinzunehmen, sondern sie zu hinterfragen: Was steckt dahinter? Ziehen wir die richtigen Schlüsse?

SN: In Europa ist Datenschutz ein wichtiges Thema und die Gesetze nehmen Unternehmen stärker in die Pflicht. Wie beurteilen Sie die Lage in den USA?
Vor einigen Jahren war der Bereich noch komplett unreguliert. Mittlerweile ändern sich die Dinge. Einige US-Unternehmen haben bereits Regeln ähnlich der europäischen Datenschutzgrundverordnung (DSGVO) implementiert oder Datenschutzbeauftragte angestellt – obwohl sie es nicht müssten. Unternehmen sind der Regierung damit einen Schritt voraus. Wir müssen im Umgang mit Daten schlauer werden und einen Ausgleich finden zwischen dem Schutz der Privatsphäre und dem Nutzen, den uns die Daten bringen.

Earl McKinney begann als Pilot an der U.S. Air Force Academy. Er studierte an der Cornell University in New York und der University of Texas. Seit mehr als 20 Jahren arbeitet der 64-Jährige an der Bowling Green State University in Ohio.



Hiking in the mountains with Austrian students

Article in the Salzburger Nachrichten

The Salzburg Alumni Group is pleased to name Dr. Earl McKinney an Honorary Board Member.

Sunshine Greets AYA Austria Alumni AT ANNUAL REUNION 2021

By Lisa Lipcaman (AYA 1980-81)

Picture perfect weather was the order of the day at BGSU's Shatzel Hall, where AYA Salzburg alumni gathered on the porch for brunch at the annual reunion on September 18, 2021.

The occasion was punctuated by several noteworthy events. Brett Porter, coordinator of the AYA Salzburg Alumni Group, unveiled the AYA Alumni Directory, which lists participants in the program over the fifty plus years of its existence. The directory, the culmination of more than two years' work on Brett's part, will be an essential tool for the group's outreach.

Invited guest speaker, historian Dr. Brian Pavlac (AYA 1976-77), who is an honorary Salzburg Alumni Board member, regaled his audience with a colorful account of his connection to the AYA Salzburg program, to Salzburg's historic Prince Bishops, and to his special research topic, witches.

Rhonda Westerhaus (AYA 1980-81) announced the establishment of a new scholarship fund, the Rhonda K. Westerhaus Scholarship for Professional Development, which is specifically for summer study in Salzburg and targets current K-12 teachers, pre-service teachers, and community college teachers.

The new director of the AYA Salzburg program, Dr. Ivett Guntersdorfer, was introduced to the group by Dr. Edgar Landgraf. Dr. Guntersdorfer, who was in Salzburg preparing for the arrival of the new group, appeared via zoom. Although not physically present on Shatzel Hall's porch, Dr. Guntersdorfer's energy, excitement, and enthusiasm for her new position and the program were quite palpable.

BGSU president Dr. Rodney Rogers stopped by to check in on "one of his favorite alumni groups," as did Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Dr. Theodore Rippey, a member of BGSU's German faculty and twice director of the AYA Salzburg program (2004-05 and 2008-09).

After some free time in the afternoon for independent exploration, the AYA alumni group reconvened in the evening at Arlyn's Good Beer, a local microbrewery and beer garden. In keeping with Biergarten tradition, Bier was drunk, Bratwurst, Brezeln, and Radi were eaten, games were played, and a truly enjoyable time was had by all.





News from the AYA SALZBURG ALUMNI GROUP

By Brett Porter (AYA 1983-84)



**Brett Porter, Coordinator, AYA
Alumni Group**

Hard to believe it has only been three years since our alumni group's founding, and how far we have come, especially considering the COVID pandemic and the impact it has had on BGSU's Academic Year Abroad program – and worldwide.

I'm happy to report that things have started to return to normal. After the 2020-21 AYA program was cancelled due to the epidemic, a small number of AYA students studied in Salzburg this

past academic year 2021-22, with a larger cohort anticipated for this coming year, 2022-23. Fingers crossed, let's hope the worst of COVID is behind us!

Looking forward, the alumni board continues to work quietly behind the scenes to support the AYA program in any way possible, including increased alumni engagement, membership, fundraising and more!

We saw many of our alumni at Shatzel Hall and Arlyn's Good Beer during BGSU's annual Homecoming weekend on Saturday, September 17, 2022. Last year's alumni gathering proved a great success with lots of Austrian themed foods, desserts, craft beers, games, and decorations (see related story by Lisa Lipcaman). We were pleased to have AYA alumnus Dr. Brian Pavlac (1976-77) as our guest speaker.

This year also saw a second online alumni roundtable discussion, an opportunity for students to ask program alumni about their time in Salzburg and how that experience later impacted their lives personally and professionally. This year's speakers were Jay Leeming (1989-90), professional storyteller; Lonie Moore (2003-04), executive director, In-Plan Annuities | Nationwide Financial; Samantha Sanson (2014-15), English tutor, American English Workshop, Hong Kong/China; and Nate Shipman (2009-10), auditor, Franklin County, Columbus, Ohio. Thanks to all who participated!

On behalf of the alumni board, I want to say how grateful we are for the continued generosity shown by so many in support of the AYA program!

The alumni board would also like to thank our new Salzburg Director Dr. Ivett Guntersdorfer for her outstanding recruiting efforts and exemplary leadership in successfully guiding this year's students through their time abroad in Salzburg!

Thanks to the German faculty and the Department of World Languages & Cultures for their invaluable support. Thanks as well to the folks at the BGSU Foundation for their continued administrative and fundraising support! And thanks to the Newsletter editor, Dr. Margy Gerber, for coordinating another superb edition of the AYA newsletter!

To stay up to date with all things AYA, please join us on our Facebook and LinkedIn pages.



BGSU-AYA Salzburg Alumni



@BGSU-AYA Salzburg Alumni Group

REPORT ON AYA SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS 2021

By Lonie Moore (AYA Su 2003, 2003-04)



**Lonie Moore, Fundraising &
Scholarships Coordinator, AYA
Salzburg Alumni**

In 2021, AYA Salzburg alumni continued to support the Salzburg program in a BIG way through their active participation in fundraising. Building on our three existing endowed funds for study in Salzburg (Shllaku, Foell, Koepke), a new fund was added – the Rhonda K. Westerhaus Scholarship for Professional Development, which awards \$1,000 to a current K-12 teacher or community college instructor, or pre-service candidate, who enrolls in the AYA summer program in Salzburg.

Despite ongoing challenges with the global pandemic throughout 2021, our fundraising numbers improved on a year-over-year (YOY) basis. The \$32,405 donated in 2021 was a 7% increase over 2020. Our December 2021 fundraiser brought in \$17,764 across all four Salzburg scholarship funds, an

increase of 34% YOY, and the amount contributed by first-time donors was 42% of the annual total and a 57% increase versus the amount contributed by first-time donors in the previous year.

We continue to be very thankful for the generosity and enthusiasm of our supporters. You are an integral part of the continuing success of the AYA Salzburg program and its future longevity. We appreciate your support, whether it is time volunteered, participation in alumni activities, social media engagement, or your financial support! I personally love to measure success in terms of how many people are giving, not just how much is given! So don't ever hesitate to give – no matter how small the amount!



To make tax-deductible donations to the AYA Salzburg scholarship funds, go to our donations page at www.bgsu.edu/giveayasalzburg. Non-tax-deductible donations to support the work of the AYA Salzburg Alumni Group can be made to the group's operating budget. To do so, please contact Brett Porter at ayasalzburgalumnigroup@gmail.com.

DONORS

The Department of World Languages and Cultures gratefully acknowledges the donors to the four Study in Salzburg funds. *Donors (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022)*

Dzidra Shllaku Scholarship Fund

Sandra M. & Timothy J. Allard
Anna L. Bradley
Heather E. Burke
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Foell International Travel Grant Fund

Renee J. Buker
Darrell W. & Sally A. Foell
Kristie A. Foell
Geoffrey C. Howes & Christen A. Giblin
Sheilah Rosen

Koepke Study Abroad Scholarship Fund

Helen L. Cafferty
Margy J. Gerber
Galen G. & Katja R. Koepke
John C. & Patty Jo Navin
Brett A. & Katherine Porter
James Singh

Rhonda K. Westerhaus Scholarship for Professional Development

Angela K. Arneson
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Michael J. Bowden & Georgia A. Craig
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Dana M. Deal
Beverly K. Everett
Kristie A. Foell
Margy J. Gerber
Larry A. & Laura A. Hansgen
Geoffrey C. Howes & Christen A. Giblin
Leanne M. & William G. Irsik
Cassandra K. Jamet
Edgar & Angela J. Landgraf
Lisa Lipcaman
Karen Long
Lonie D. Moore & Susan Kavaya
Brett A. & Katherine Porter
Shaydon B. Ramey
Vickie L. Sherwood
Linda K. VanBlaricom
Rhonda K. & Michael D. Westerhaus

SUPPORTING THE AYA AUSTRIA PROGRAM

AYA 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 for study abroad in Salzburg. Endowed in 2003, the fund provides an annual spendable amount to award as scholarships. Since 1998 more than 100 BGSU students have received a Dzidra Shllaku Scholarship award. Ordinarily, four BGSU students are supported each year. The amount available for distribution for the 2022-2023 year was approximately \$12,000.

The **Foell International Travel Award Fund** was created by Darrell W. and Sally M. Foell in memory of his mother, Margaret Kaesmann Foell. The endowed fund supports students for study with BGSU's AYA Austria program and is based on merit. The fund yielded approximately \$4,200 in 2022-2023.

The **Galen and Katja Koepke Study Abroad Scholarship** was established by the Koepkes in 2016. The endowed fund supports BGSU undergraduate and graduate students. The first scholarship was awarded for the academic year 2016-17. For 2022-23, approximately \$1,800 was available for distribution.

THE NEW SUMMER SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In 2021 AYA alumna Rhonda Westerhaus (1980-81) established the **Rhonda K. Westerhaus Scholarship for Professional Development**. The fund is intended to support K-12 and community college teachers attending BGSU's summer program in Salzburg. (See separate article.) The sum of \$1,000 was awarded for the first time this summer (2022).

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

You can donate **by check**:

Include the name 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**:

bgsu.edu/giveayasalzburg

The four scholarships for study abroad in Salzburg are:

- Dzidra Shllaku Scholarship
- Foell International Travel Award
- Galen and Katja Koepke Study Abroad
- Rhonda K. Westerhaus Scholarship for Professional Development

A SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR SUMMER STUDY IN SALZBURG



Rhonda and Michael Westerhaus in Mirabellgarten

Announcing the Rhonda K. Westerhaus Scholarship for Professional Development

At the 2021 AYA Salzburg alumni homecoming brunch, AYA alumna Rhonda Westerhaus (1980-81) announced the establishment of a new scholarship fund, the Rhonda K. Westerhaus Scholarship for Professional Development. This fund is specifically for summer study in

Salzburg and gives preference to teachers, pre-service teachers, and other professionals in the K-12 school and community college settings. Rhonda, who recently retired after teaching for 28 years at both the high school and community college levels, perceives a particular need among her peer group. Teachers are required to take continuing education courses in their field, which they ordinarily do in the summer. The scholarship, which currently awards \$1,000, is intended to off-set the cost of attending BGSU's summer program in Salzburg.



Rhonda and her mother, Rita Hitt

Rhonda herself was able to study abroad several times throughout her professional training and career. She received summer study stipends from various organizations. "Now that I have the possibility," Rhonda said, "I want to give back. Teachers are tasked with preparing students to become

global citizens, and I believe that international travel and study abroad help them acquire the knowledge and skills to do so." Rhonda chose the BGSU summer program as the beneficiary of her philanthropy because the year that she spent abroad in Salzburg with the AYA program was her first overseas adventure and a pivotal experience in her life. She dedicates the fund to her mother, Rita Hitt, from whom "I learned tolerance, service, equality, and inclusion."



Rebecca Cevetto

The first recipient of the Rhonda K. Westerhaus Scholarship for Professional Development was BGSU student Rebecca Cevetto, who studies music, science, and theater. "I know that I have the potential to do something impactful," says Rebecca, "and participating in the Salzburg summer program will give me the opportunity to kickstart my journey."

From Austria, Rebecca reported: "This is my first time being outside of the United States. Salzburg is wonderful. The mountains are breathtaking, and the food is delicious. Although it is a bit stressful at times, I strongly recommend studying abroad. The support of the Rhonda K. Westerhaus Scholarship was instrumental to my being here and participating in this program. I want to thank all the donors who made it possible."

THE SUMMER PROGRAM IN SALZBURG – A NEW START

By Ivett Guntersdorfer

"Jedem Anfang wohnt ein Zauber inne." As Hermann Hesse pointed out, every new beginning entails some magic. After Professor Andrea Linecker, the longtime director of the Internationale Ferienkurse (IFK), later renamed the Internationale Sprachkurse (ISK), decided to head toward her well-deserved retirement, we needed to reconstruct the BGSU summer program in Salzburg. Since many teachers do not have time, or want, to teach in the summer, finding new language instructors took time. I was able to find three experienced teachers for the 2021 summer program: Mag. Anna Bauer, Mag. Jasmina Kobinovic and Mag. Doris Gerstlohrer joined us and provided their expertise in language acquisition. All three have more than ten years teaching experience at the University of Salzburg and other institutions. In addition, Mag. Anna Bachmann joined us as a professional "Fremdenführerin" for our afternoon excursions and cultural events in and around Salzburg.

As in the past, the summer program had two sessions. This year's sessions ran July 5-22 (Session 1) and July 24-August 12 (Session 2). Both sessions have at least two language levels (Beginner and Advanced). The program is – as it was before – an intensive language immersion experience. The students have German language instruction Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. In the afternoon, they learn about Austrian and German culture in Salzburg and take advantage of the cultural programs and other local events. Fridays and on the weekends, the students spend time in the mountains and visit nearby cities – and the students also have time to explore other European cities on their own. I was delighted to greet our first group of students in Salzburg!



Learning about historic Salzburg



On the Untersberg. Wow!

NICHT NUR NACH DER GRADUIERUNG, AUCH NACH DER PENSIONIERUNG GIBT ES LEBEN

von Ingrid Schmidt

Salzburg war immer ein besonderer Platz für Klaus und mich. Vor allem verbinden wir die Stadt mit den vielen Studenten, die unter unserer Obhut mit dem AYA Programm dort waren. Bis heute haben wir noch ständigen Kontakt mit einigen, und natürlich freuen wir uns über jede Nachricht, die wir bekommen, obwohl wir gestehen müssen, dass wir absolute Facebook-Muffel sind. Deshalb ist dies eines unserer seltenen Lebenszeichen.



**Klaus and Ingrid Schmidt
in Ann Arbor**

Nachdem Klaus von BGSU nach dreißig Jahren seinen Abschied nahm und dann noch eine Weile in Ann Arbor unterrichtete, entschlossen wir uns, dorthin zu übersiedeln. Seit zweiundzwanzig Jahren leben wir nun schon in dieser vierten Wahlheimat. Es ist nicht zu weit von BG, so dass wir weiterhin unsere alten Freunde sehen können. Das Toledo Museum ist immer noch einer der Plätze, die wir gern besuchen, sei es für Ausstellungen oder Konzerte im wunderschönen Peristyle. Klaus ist noch ziemlich beschäftigt mit seiner Mittelhochdeutschen Begriffsdatenbank. Da das Projekt schon seit vielen Jahren in Salzburg angesiedelt ist, sind wir natürlich sehr oft dort. So pendeln wir zwischen Ann Arbor, Österreich, Italien und Deutschland. Unsere Familie lebt in Stuttgart. Unser Sohn, Christian, den einige von euch vielleicht noch kennen, betreibt zusammen mit seiner Frau Petra eine Tech-Firma mit fünfundzwanzig Angestellten. Die Enkel, Max und Alexandra, haben ihre Studien abgeschlossen und sind selbständig.

Seit fünfzehn Jahren verbringen wir die Wintermonate in Mexiko. Die Stadt Guanajuato, die auch der Provinz ihren Namen gibt, erinnert uns eh an Salzburg. Es ist eine lebhaftes Universitätsstadt mit vielen ausländischen Studenten. Gegründet im Jahr 1559 liegt sie in einem Tal umgeben von Bergen und war einmal durch große Silber- und Goldfunde eine der reichsten Städte Mexikos. Die schöne Architektur ist gut erhalten, besonders nachdem die Stadt 1988 von der UNESCO zu einem Weltkulturerbe erklärt wurde. Wir wohnen jedoch in einem nur eine Stunde entfernten weiteren Kulturerbe, San Miguel de Allende, das bekannt wurde durch die vielen Künstler und Schriftsteller, die seit 1946 dort heimisch wurden. Jährlich findet dort auch ein internationaler Schriftstellerkongress statt. Die Stadt, die bereits im 16. Jh. gegründet wurde, hat etwa die Größe von Salzburg, liegt aber auf 2000 Meter Höhe, d.h. höher als die Spitze des Untersbergs, und es gibt kaum einen Stadtteil, den man nicht schnaufend erklimmen muss.



The Bohemians in San Miguel de Allende

Wir leben sehr gerne dort; allerdings hätte ich nie gedacht, dass ich noch einmal die Konjugation unregelmäßiger Verben pauken müsste. Es macht trotzdem Spaß, noch einmal eine neue Sprache zu lernen und mit den ungemein gastfreundlichen Mexikanern zu sprechen.

Klaus und ich sind gesund und aktiv. Wir spielen immer noch Tennis und machen lange Wanderungen in den Bergen. Das Klima ist angenehm, fast Halbwüste, keine schwülen Tage und kühle Nächte, und es blüht durch den gesamten Winter. Das Leben ist farbenfroh, nicht nur wegen der schönen kolonialen Häuser mit ihren Bougainvilleen. Es sind vor allem die lebhaften Menschen und Kinder, die täglich am Hauptplatz mit der Kathedrale zusammenkommen. Immer gibt es Musik und Kunstausstellungen und bunte, lebhaft Märkte. Wie ihr seht, ist die Stadt zu unserer fünften Heimat geworden. Dennoch bleiben Salzburg und die Erinnerung an euch stets auf einem besonderen Platz in unseren Herzen, und wir würden uns wünschen, euch alle einmal wieder zu sehen, mit euren neuen Familien, euren Erfahrungen und Erlebnissen. Manche von euch sind tatsächlich schon in Pension, und viele denken bereits daran. Aber keine Angst, es gibt ein Leben danach, auch wenn die Welt um uns von einer Krise in die andere taumelt; aber das war schon immer so.



**Bougainvillea in the
narrow streets**

Seid alle herzlichst begrüßt und umarmt (mit Maske, versteht sich),

Ingrid

SYNOPSIS

We decided to leave Ingrid Schmidt's update on her and Dr. Klaus Schmidt's "life after retirement" in German, since translating it into English seemed artificial, and we thought their former AYA students – so many over the years – would prefer to hear Ingrid speak directly.

Instead, we've prepared a brief English "Nacherzählung" with the most important information as a "Lesehilfe" for those whose German has become rusty. First of all, Ingrid sends greetings to their former students, who remain part of their lives. Soon after Klaus retired from BGSU, they moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan, where they still live. Klaus is still involved with his Middle High German Data Base, which is housed in Salzburg. Their son, Christian, and his family live in Stuttgart, Germany. The Schmidts regularly travel back and forth between Ann Arbor, Austria, Germany, Italy, and Mexico. For the last 15 years, Klaus and Ingrid have spent the winter months in Mexico, in the beautiful 16th Century cultural center, San Miguel de Allende, a UNESCO-World Heritage site. Although nearly 2,000 meters high, the city enjoys mild winters – flowers bloom year-round. Bougainvillea hangs from the walls and balconies in the narrow streets. Klaus and Ingrid are both well and active; they still play tennis and go on long hikes.

E-Mail: inkilux@yahoo.com / klaus.schmidt@plus.ac.at.

This year we received some 60 responses from AYA Salzburg and summer program alumni. The responding alumni are spread across the country from North to South and East to West; some are living in Europe. The responses range from the earliest groups in the 1970s through the 50+ years of the program.

1970-1971

DIRECTOR HERBERT GAUERKE

Steve Harris (summer 1970), a member of "Die Gruppe," which established the Dzidra Shllaku Scholarship Fund in 1998, holds a LL.M. in tax law from Capital University. Before his retirement in 2011 he was a senior international tax partner at the accounting company KMPG LLP. But he has long pursued his love of music and lists his profession as music publisher and singer-songwriter. He lives in Virginia Beach, Virginia. E-Mail: sdharris01@aol.com

Karlyn (Korsgaard) McPike lives in Edgerton, Ohio. She retired from teaching German at Hicksville High School in 2014. She and her husband Jim enjoy traveling, which they resumed this year. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family at a cabin on the Ohio River in Indiana, and Karlyn led a group to the Passion Play in Oberammergau in July, finishing the trip in "our beloved Salzburg." Salzburg memory: "Walking around Salzburg with our art professor, Dr. Steinitz, as we looked at specific examples of various historic art styles. He would tell us not to look at the Baroque if it was a Romanesque day. I can just imagine what people thought of a group of students covering their eyes as we passed beautiful monuments." Karlyn is in touch with John Thrash, Marcia Aschenberger and David Swartz. E-Mail: mcpikek@edgertonchurch.com

† Debra (Sendelbach) Peters

Karlyn McPike wrote this obituary: Our fellow Salzburg alum, Debra Sendelbach Peters, passed away on May 16, 2022. After finishing her studies at BGSU, she began teaching German and English at Adrian High School in Adrian, Michigan. It was there that she met her husband Jim, a math teacher. Debra loved to cook. While studying in Salzburg, she tried every "Wurst," "Käse," "Torte" and "Kuchen," and kept a journal of those she liked, along with many recipes. The priest at Deb's funeral stated that she had deep traditional roots, but when she boarded the plane for Salzburg, she grew wings. Traveling with family and students, Deb often included a visit to Salzburg. Auf Wiedersehen, liebe Freundin!



1972-1973

DIRECTOR JOHN STICKLER

Rita Myers-Wieringa lives in Erie, Colorado as a retired registered ED nurse. Her last position was instructor for trauma/cardiac certifications. She now spends her time "doing yoga, playing pickleball, reading, gardening, playing Mahjong, and socializing with members of my and the pickleball community." Salzburg memory: "Christmas in Salzburg." Rita is in contact with Kathy (Foreman) Dobson and Kari (Strasser) Pokorny, who lives close by – the two couples meet monthly "to visit/eat/play cards."

E-Mail: wirehanger5@comcast.net

1973-1974

DIRECTOR BARRY THOMAS (OHIO UNIVERSITY)



Vicki Sherwood and Bob Barnett met up again many years later.

Vickie (Teats) Sherwood lives in Falcon (!), Colorado. Before her retirement in 2015 she worked as manager of mobile library services with the Pikes Peak Library District in Colorado Springs. Her husband recently suffered a heart attack, so they are learning to be more conscientious about exercise and eating. Vickie reports that she finally met up with Bob Barnett from her group, who lives with his wife in Defiance, Ohio. A medical doctor, he recently closed his practice but still works in the ER in Bryan. Salzburg

memory: "The experience of the bus trip to West Berlin and the bus tour of East Berlin." Vickie is in touch with Marta Fordos, Peggy Jaegly, Deb File, David Griswold and now Bob Barnett. E-Mail: v.sherwood@yahoo.com

1974-1975

DIRECTOR BORIS MATTHEWS

Mike Laughlin lives in Centerville, Ohio. Until 2010, when he retired, he taught German at Magsig Middle School in Centerville. Community protest saved his position from being terminated after his retirement. In 2001 he started coaching tennis at the high school, which he continues to do. "My retirement time is spread between coaching and visiting kids and grandkids in Cleveland and Denver." Salzburg memory: "I remember walking from the Schwarzes Rössl to the Hauptbahnhof with a couple group mates on the evening of December 5. We were accosted by some boys dressed in Krampus costumes. One boy started hitting one of the women with chains. For some reason she became irritated with this and started chasing him. He managed to get away. In the end we all had a good laugh." Mike is in contact with Joy (Crews) Lubeck and Sue (Rall) McWhorter. E-Mail: elk10scoach@gmail.com

Jane (Crist) Linden lives in Troy, Ohio, where she cares full-time for her autistic son. "Recently my son has been watching the *Sound of Music* nonstop. So, although I could do without the soundtrack, the scenery is always beautiful and a wonderful reminder of my year in Salzburg." Salzburg memories: "Although I haven't kept in touch with classmates, I have great memories of the bonds we made in that unique setting. Probably the most dramatic thing was meeting President and Mrs. Ford on their visit when some of us went site seeing and shopping with the entourage. But mostly it was the day-to-day hanging out in the dorm, riding the bus to the university and walking in the Altstadt."

1976-1977

DIRECTOR MARGY GERBER

Suzan (Corbacioglu) Arrer lives in Adnet (near Salzburg). She holds an M.A. in TESL from Ohio State University. She retired 3 years ago from the Fachhochschule Salzburg. A daughter married this past July. She and her husband Kurt Arrer, who once taught in the AYA program, have three grandchildren, one on the way. Suzan is in contact with Gayle Godek and Brian Pavlac.



**Jim Singh (left) and
Larry Hansgen, friends
since 1976**

Larry Hansgen lives in Dayton, Ohio, where he is a radio announcer at WHIO in Dayton. He is the longtime host of the morning show and the play-by-play voice for University of Dayton football and basketball. As he writes, "I am of the age to retire, but I have NO intentions!" He often hosts radio listener tours abroad, like his group tour to Ireland this summer (2022). Salzburg memory: "Some students living in Schwarzes Rössl had a Stammtisch at the Trummerstübl

behind the hotel on Wednesdays. I was invited to join. At the end of the school year the owner gave us a discount on a Schnitzel dinner and a free keg, tapped at our table." Larry is in contact with Jim Singh, Dawn Preising and Suzan Arrar.
E-Mail: larry.hansgen@cmgohio.com

Brian Pavlac now lives in Berea, Ohio, where he and his family moved after he retired from his position as professor of history at King's College in 2021. In Berea he is continuing his ministry for the Episcopal church. Brian writes: "Retired to the city in which I was born – full circle? Fussing with the new (to us) home. Finishing a fourth edition revision of my western civilization textbook. Will be teaching a course on the Witch Hunts for retired folk in the fall. Dreaming of visiting Europe again soon." Brian is an honorary member of the AYA Alumni Group. Salzburg memory: "Sadly leaving for home from the Salzburg airport, watching the town and mountains fade away." Brian is in contact with Suzan Arrar, Gayle Godek and Bev Everett.
E-Mail: prof@bapavlac.org

James Singh now lives alternately in Naples, Florida and Eugendorf bei Salzburg. Before his retirement in 2019, he had a long career in international investment banking in Asia. He is a co-founder of BFAM Partners Ltd. in Hong Kong. Last fall he treated the 2021-22 group to dinner in Salzburg. Jim is in touch with Larry Hansgen.
E-Mail: jesingh@gmail.com

1977-1978

DIRECTOR HELMUT GUTMANN

Kathy Best lives in Bowling Green. Before her retirement, she was a senior lecturer in German at the University of Toledo. She currently tutors beginning German. "My mother died in August 2021 — she made it to 103! The family had a nice celebration of life this June out by the pond." Kathy is a member of the AYA Alumni Group. Salzburg memory: "Sitting in backwards-facing seats on the train when I traveled away from Salzburg so I could look at the city just a little bit more." Kathy is in touch with Jan (Brozic) Kinch, Gayle Godek and Bev Everett.
E-Mail: thebestkathy@yahoo.com

1978-1979

DIRECTORS JOSEPH L. GRAY/HELMUT GUTMANN

Ruta (Zemaitis) Bloomfield lives with her husband in Santa Clarita, California. A harpsichordist, specialized in historical performance, she is a professor of music at The Master's University in Santa Clarita. In June she performed a session recital at the annual conference of the Historical Keyboard Society of North America in Hunter, New York. Ruta is a devoted grandmother: "The four shining lights of my own personal constellation are named Leilani (8), Kalea (6), Keanu (4) and Malia (2)!" Salzburg memory: "During one particularly trying German class, a car horn randomly sounded outside and Dr. Stuppnik spontaneously responded 'Komm gleich!'" Ruta is in contact with Chris Zerull, Jeanine (Bartlett) Waisala, Bev Everett, Gayle Godek and Mike Pearlman.
E-Mail: kenandruta@sbcglobal.net

Brian Pavlac (grad, see 1976-77)

Melinda (Mindy) Willer

lives in North Potomac, Maryland. She has an MBA from the University of Boston (London campus) and works today in commercial banking. She and her husband have three grown sons and four granddaughters. They are taking their youngest son and his wife to Salzburg this summer on the way to see the Passion Play in Oberammergau. Salzburg memory: "I went to my first symphony concert in Salzburg. After that, I gladly took the tickets of others in the group who didn't want to go. One of my favorite students at Egger Lienz was studying opera when I was there. And one of our colleagues (Ruta) studied classical music. It opened a new world to me! When I was living in London, I had season tickets for concerts at the Royal Albert Hall and now enjoy the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, DC.
E-Mail: wilhob@gmail.com



**das Festspielhaus
in Salzburg**

1980-1981

DIRECTOR MARGY GERBER

Kathy Best (grad, see 1977-78)

Jan (Brozic) Kinch (grad) lives in Edinboro, Pennsylvania. A professor of English at Edinboro University, she retired in 2016. Two years ago, Jan tore her Achilles' tendon, a very painful condition, which may finally be on the mend. Jan is studying Buddhism, is a novice practitioner and meditator, and has joined a meditation group (Sangra). Salzburg memory: "I look back on my Salzburg daily experience and am in complete awe that I actually rode my bicycle in Salzburg traffic with those double-folding buses and other bikes, motorcycles, etc. What a fearless soul I was at a tender age." Jan is in contact with Kathy Best and Dr. Gerber. She would like to hear more from the group and suggests a second Zoom meeting.
E-Mail: jcbkinch@aol.com

Linda VanBlaricom (grad) lives in Bowling Green. After teaching German for many years at Bowling Green High School, she retired in 2012. Linda is very active in the AYA Alumni Group and is a co-organizer of the annual AYA reunion. "After not having traveled abroad since the 2018 reunion in Salzburg, I was happy to spend time in Austria in May/June 2022." Salzburg memory: "I fondly remember my sweet dorm-mates at Haus Egger-Lienz: Sandy, Marta, and Jennifer!
E-Mail: lindav@bgsu.edu

Michael & Rhonda Westerhaus live in Pratt, Kansas. Rhonda has an M.A. in German studies, Michael a doctorate in biology, from BGSU. They are retired from teaching at Pratt Community College. "We both enjoy German movies, travel back to Germany and Austria, as well as occasional rendezvous with AYA lifetime friends when we make Schnitzel, Rouladen, Strudel, Eiskaffee... Salzburg memories: "The wonderful travel to East Germany and extensive travel during the many breaks including time on the Greek island Corfu with many of our classmates where we enjoyed ouzo and fresh tomatoes!" Rhonda has recently established a scholarship fund for summer study in Salzburg (see separate article) and is an active member of the AYA Alumni Group.
E-Mail: omaopa215@gmail.com

1981-1982

DIRECTOR HELMUT GUTMANN

Gene Aufderhaar lives in Bluffton, Ohio. He has an M.A. in German from BGSU. "The big news: I'm retiring! In numbers: 32 years in high school teaching (Notre Dame Academy, 11; Genoa, 6; Van Wert High School, 15), concurrently 4 years adjunct at BGSU (GERM 670), and 3 years of teaching during my graduate assistantship (GERM 101-102; GERM 217; and GERM 300), none of which would likely have happened without the inspiration and education gleaned via the BGSU German Department and the Salzburg Program." E-mail: eaufder@gmail.com



**Gene Aufderhaar,
retired!**

Matthew Garrow lives in Morenci, Michigan. He is a financial planner and part-owner of Engler, Garrow & Roth in Maumee, Ohio. He and his brother own and work a 562-acre farm, "a nice diversion from my day job." He plans on working another five years at his financial planning firm and then just farming. He is connected with many in his group via Facebook and will be traveling to Europe with Reiner Müller this fall. 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 performed her elder daughter's wedding service last May. This daughter is in her last year of dental school, the second is an engineer for Boeing in St. Louis. Her foster daughter just graduated high school and plans to go to college in the fall. Sarah and her family are very active in the International Farm Youth Exchange and have hosted numerous agricultural exchange students from various countries over the years. Sarah is in contact with many members of her group. E-Mail: pastorsarah@live.com

Craig LaPresto lives in Lexington, Kentucky, where before his retirement in 2017 he taught high school math and German. He remains in touch with several people in the 1981-82 group. E-Mail: clapresto@yahoo.com

Wendy (Zagray) Warren lives in Berea, Kentucky. She has a doctorate in educational leadership from Morehead State University and is currently the director of the Berea College Forestry Outreach Center and the seminar coordinator of the Olga Lengyel Institute of Holocaust Education and Human Rights (TOLI). Before moving to Kentucky ten years ago, she taught school in Montana and, before beginning her present positions, she taught at Berea College for three years. She has written a book, *An Illusion of Equity: The Legacy of Eugenics in Today's Education*, to be published in 2023 by the University Press of Kentucky. Salzburg memory: "Walking down Hellbrunner Allee from Schloss Frohnburg to the Uni every day. Loved that walk..." E-Mail: wendyzwarren@yahoo.com

1982-83

DIRECTOR HELMUT GUTMANN

Daniel Betzel lives in Gahanna, Ohio. After many years working as an attorney ("I say I am a 'recovering' attorney!"), Dan turned to rabbinic studies and was ordained a rabbi in 2019. He works at Wexner Heritage Village in Columbus, providing spiritual care to residents ranging from those in assisted living to those in memory care and hospice. Dan is in spiritual care. He has been amazed how much German he uses when visiting with hospice patients. "I still cherish the time I spent in Salzburg." Salzburg memory: "The group trip we took to East Berlin and other parts of the DDR and the great friendships that were created." E-Mail: dan@rabbibetzel.com



**Rabbi Benzel with a
newly wedded couple**

1983-1984

DIRECTOR JOHN ERIKSON

David Day lives in Tampa, Florida. He holds a master's in international business. After graduating, he was hired by a Dutch bank in Atlanta, which soon transferred him to the head office in Amsterdam, where he spent 23 years. Having studied German shortened the process of learning Dutch. His last position before retiring in 2016 was senior vice-president at State Street Bank in Boston. He moved to Tampa in 2022. He is now learning Portuguese and reading about Portuguese and Brazilian culture: "A new chapter, all created by the seed planted by the AYA Salzburg experience, which continues to grow and encourage the exploration of new cultures and the learning of new languages." Salzburg memory: "On one of the first weekends, we took a field trip to a mountain farmer to get acquainted with the lifestyle of a traditional Austrian farmer family. I grew up around farms in central Ohio, and it was quite a different experience to see how farming on the side of a mountain worked." David is in touch with Brett Porter, Bob Wagner and David Olsen from his group. E-Mail: djday27@gmail.com

Gerrie McManamon (grad) lives in Columbus, Ohio. Since retiring from full time teaching (German and Russian) in Toledo and Columbus schools, Gerrie works as a substitute teacher where needed in central Ohio. She continues to play in various (reggae) bands with her husband, Ed. Salzburg memory: A trip to Greece with Ellen Manning and Terry Kuney. "We ended up on an island, where the locals spoke to us at length in Greek even though we didn't understand a word." Gerrie is in contact with Amy (Thompson) Wexler. "I would love to connect with folks." She asks: "Is there a Stammtisch for AYA alums in Columbus?" E-Mail: gmcmanamon@att.net



**Wo bitte geht's zum
Stammtisch?**

Brett Porter lives in Dublin, Ohio. He is a registered nurse and sometimes speaks German with older patients in his care. Last fall (2021) he and his wife Kate were in Salzburg, where they met Ivett Guntersdorfer, the new program director, and visited with the AYA students. Later in the year, they spent two weeks in Spain, France, and Andorra. As the coordinator of the AYA Alumni Group, Brett is in touch with many AYA alums. E-Mail: bporter8@columbus.rr.com

1984-1985

DIRECTOR KLAUS SCHMIDT

Gene Aufderhaar (grad, see 1981-82)

Tim Moehlman lives in Lodi, Italy. He is a research chemist and project manager, who assesses research results and possible new projects. "The reality is I'm the crazy scientist in the lab who cooks things." His Sicilian partner, a food blogger, is finishing his first cookbook. Salzburg memory: "Changing trains in Villach in the middle of the night for Venice!" Tim is in touch with Dan Zaremba, Amy (Thompson) Wexler and Patty Conlon. E-Mail: lodibaer@libero.it

1985-1986

DIRECTORS MARGY GERBER/KLAUS SCHMIDT

Gerrie McManamon (grad, see 1984-85)

Tim Moehlman (grad, see 1984-85)

1986-1987

DIRECTOR HELMUT GUTMANN

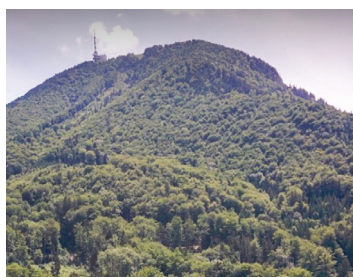
Ellin Iselin lives in Jacksonville, Florida. She holds a Doctor of Arts degree from Harrison Middleton University. She currently works at WJCT, a public media company and the NPR affiliate for Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia. As development data coordinator she services donations and provides support to donors. E-Mail: ellin_iselin@hotmail.com

1987-1988

DIRECTOR KLAUS SCHMIDT

Patricia Conlon lives in Cleveland, Ohio, where she works for Tri-Mark International as a project coordinator. She has master's degrees in German and political science from BGSU. Patty values the many lifelong friendships she made with other members in the group and considers herself lucky to have lived in Salzburg. She is in touch with many AYA alumni from her two groups. E-Mail: patricia.conlon430@gmail.com

Eva (Schott) McMasters lives in Cincinnati, Ohio. She has an M.A. in German from BGSU and has been teaching German in Cincinnati for many years. Every other year she takes students to Germany in connection with her GAPP exchange program. Salzburg memory: "Our climb up the Gaisberg was unforgettable! At certain points on our hike, we weren't sure everyone was going to make it, but in the end, the views were worth every step!" Eva is in contact with many from her two AYA groups. E-Mail: schott_e@ohlsd.org



Salzburg's "Hausberg"
– der Gaisberg

1989-1990

DIRECTOR GEOFFREY HOWES

Patricia Conlon (grad, see 1987-88)

Denise (Swartz) Friend lives in Middleburg Heights, Ohio. She has a master's degree in TESL from the University of Toledo and works as the adult education supervisor at the Cuyahoga

County Public Library. Denise is involved with the Cleveland German Language and Culture Meetup group that meets on Saturday afternoons. The group also organizes activities such as watching movies, attending live music venues, etc. And she hikes and kayaks as much as possible. Salzburg memories: "Hiking up and down the Untersberg, outdoor concerts, mealtime prep with others from my program and local students." E-Mail: denisefriend24@gmail.com

1990-1991

DIRECTOR KLAUS SCHMIDT



After falling, Lori
picked herself up and
kept on running.

Lori Fenneken lives in Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan. She earned an M.A. in TESL from BGSU and is presently working as a program manager for the Rosetta Stone Enterprise. Lori spent most of her time from 1994 to 2010 in mainland China, and then frequently traveled to Shanghai and Hong Kong from 2013 to 2015. "I became more fluent in Mandarin than in German and eventually went on to learn Amdo Tibetan while living in NW China. My experiences during my year in Salzburg were essential for my preparation to travel to even further destinations. I am eternally grateful for the experience." Salzburg memory: "My best times in Salzburg were in the dorm common room on Friday and Saturday nights. Several Austrian students rarely went home, so three of us AYAers spent those evenings drinking wine or beer with them, playing guitar and singing American folk and pop music as well as songs by the then popular STS from Graz." Lori is FB friends with Kelly Schlageter. Update: Lori married just this fall. She is now Lori Hunt. E-Mail: lorifenneken@gmail.com

Eva (Schott) McMasters (grad, see 1987-88)

1991-1992

DIRECTOR MARGY GERBER

Paula Sliefert (grad) lives in Maple Grove, Minnesota. She is presently a senior marketing manager at the Toro Company, which manufactures lawn and landscaping equipment. She travels widely for the company. After being grounded in the U.S. for two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she resumed travel this past June with a trip to Africa. "Felt great to be exploring the world again." Paula made life-long friendships in Salzburg and is in touch with many from her group. E-Mail: paula_sliefert@yahoo.com

1992-1993

DIRECTOR CHRISTINA GUENTHER

Brian Pfaltzgraff lives in Waverly, Iowa. He has a doctorate in music from the University of Michigan and is professor and chair of the music department at Wartburg College. Brian also directs Wartburg's summer internship program in Eisenach, Germany. Salzburg memory: "Wheezing my way to the top of the Gaisberg." Brian is in touch with Dr. Guenther at BGSU. He enjoys viewing the AYA alumni page on Facebook. "Thanks to all who maintain it!" E-mail: brian.pfaltzgraff@wartburg.edu

1993-1994

DIRECTOR GEOFFREY HOWES

Caryn (Dennis) Damore lives in Camas, Washington. She holds a master's degree in special education from Portland State University and has just completed her 23rd year as a general education elementary teacher.
E-Mail: caryndennis@gmail.com

1994-1995

DIRECTOR MARGY GERBER

Amy Young lives in Des Moines, Iowa, where she is a tenured associate professor of German and dean of the class of 2025 at Central College. During the pandemic, Central College eliminated the German major and its study abroad program in Vienna, along with its programs in Spain, Mexico, and the UK. Suddenly she was a professor without students. "Tenure is a lovely thing." Salzburg memory: "Walking across the Mozartsteg and looking up to see the Festung is something I did daily, and it's like the thumbnail image in my brain for my time there."
E-Mail: frauyoung@gmail.com

1995-1996

DIRECTOR MARGY GERBER

Karen (Gideon) Hamilton lives in Wadsworth, Ohio. She has a master's in German from BGSU and works as a substitute teacher. She is also the area representative for the International Student Exchange and places and supervises the students. She has four children, the oldest, Jake, has taken college credit plus (CCP) courses in German through Wright State and will accompany his mother on a trip to Heidelberg with her exchange program. Salzburg memories: "I was wearing a wool sweater I had bought at the Christmas market and had to walk the path from the NaWi to the Anglistik building in the Akademiestraße. I sat in my overstuffed DaF class and kept sniffing and wondering who smelled so bad, until I realized that it was me! During my walk to class my sweater had soaked up the smell of the freshly dunged fields!" Karen is in touch with Peter Doerschler, Ann Pittman, Johanna Dus, John Franz, Bridget Mason, Jennifer Schafer, Christine (Philbrook) Bayer.
E-mail: KarenLynn25@hotmail.com



Greg Miller

Greg Miller lives in Placentia, California. He has an M.A. in educational administration from Concordia University in Irvine, California. Greg taught middle school German until the local high school canceled its German program. He currently teaches 3rd grade math and robotics, using C-STEM, a math/robotics/coding program sponsored by the University of California at Davis. He is a UC Davis C-STEM certified educator and resource teacher in his district.

"Before the lockdown, my school's 3rd grade mathematics scores increased 72% in four years." Greg supplied a link for his school's program: <https://c-stem.ucdavis.edu/about-us/success/mcpherson-magnet/>.
E-Mail: gmiller5020@yahoo.com

1997-1998

DIRECTOR CHRISTINA GUENTHER

Karen (Gideon) Hamilton (grad, see 1995-96)

Anna (Rulka) Kuthy (Spring) lives in Owensboro, Kentucky, where she is an assistant professor of political science and director of the Ursuline Center for Teaching and Learning at Brescia University, a small, liberal arts institution. She holds a Ph.D. in international studies from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. At Brescia she has developed short travel abroad trips to various European countries to introduce students to the study abroad experience. Salzburg memories: "I don't have one specific event, but rather the overarching thoughts and feelings: the feeling of community with other students, the feeling of challenge (safe and positive) from the faculty, the feeling of inclusion and open-mindedness from other students in the dorms, and the sense of connection with the faculty and students in the AYA. Good times! The four semesters total as grad and undergrad in AYA Salzburg are unforgettable and invaluable to my professional and personal development."
E-Mail: anna.kuthy@brescia.edu

Robert Meehan (Fall) lives in Silver Springs, Florida. He describes himself as a "retired autodidact." With two M.A. degrees in linguistics/ESL and Spanish, he taught post-secondary ESL in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, for many years. He uses German to read international newspapers and literature, and the lyrics of German Lieder. As an avid traveler, he's glad international travel restrictions have been reduced. Salzburg memory: "The beauty of the Uni campus surroundings, early mornings after snowfall." Robert is in touch with Carla Jean Schober Herman (summer session 2002).
E-Mail: robroymeehan@yahoo.com

1999-2000

DIRECTOR KRISTIE FOELL

Anna (Rulka) Kuthy (grad, see 1997-98)

Cynthia (Roberts) Whitaker lives in Baltimore, Maryland. She earned her bachelor's degree in German and international studies at Miami University in Ohio and now works as an analyst for the U.S. Department of Defense. She is in contact with Reka (Barabas) and Jeff Moore.
E-Mail: cynthiaroberts77@hotmail.com

Jennie (Maas) Zibbel lives in Bloomdale, Ohio, where she is the owner of a dance studio. She earned an M.A. in history at BGSU. Jennie's two oldest children took German online, and she was able to help them.
E-Mail: fjzibbel@yahoo.com

SUMMER 2002

Anna (Rulka) Kuthy (grad, see 1997-98)

Sarah Hagena (see 1981-82)

Robert Meehan (grad, see 1997-98)

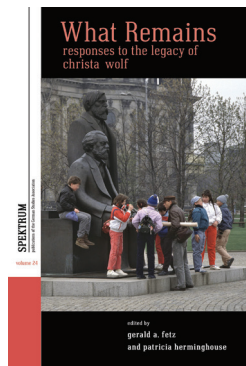
2003-2004

DIRECTOR EDGAR LANDGRAF

Bobby Blankenship (grad) lives in Long Beach, California, where he is an associate professor of German at the University of California at Long Beach. He holds a doctorate in German from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Bobby contributed to a volume on the GDR author Christa Wolf that

CONTINUED ONTO NEXT PAGE...

has just appeared after a long delay: ***What Remains: Essays on the Legacy of Christa Wolf*** (Berghahn, 2022). His chapter is titled "Subjective Authenticity as Realism: Christa Wolf and Georg Lucács." He is presently working on a monograph tentatively titled ***Construing Christa Wolf: Critical and Creative Responses***, which will be part of the Camden House Literary Criticism in Perspective series and should appear in 2023/2024. Bobby was on sabbatical in the spring of 2022.
E-Mail: blankenship.robert@gmail.com



Ashley (Wheeler) Lavalette lives in Toledo, Ohio. She has a B.A. in international studies from BGSU and works at the American Language Institute, University of Toledo. "After eight years of being home with our children, I am now back in university life at the University of Toledo working with international students. I am so excited to be in the international community again and helping others who are studying abroad here!" She plans to enroll in a graduate program at UT this fall.
E-Mail: acwheel@gmail.com

Michael Lawson lives with his Austrian wife Claudia and their two children in the small town of Eferding in Upper Austria. He earned a master's degree in German Education at Kent State University and taught German for some years in Ohio. After moving to Austria, he worked in customer care before he recently changed to technical writing and content creation for Xeometric. The company creates 3D modeling software for architecture and for engineering. Michael maintains their German and English manuals. Salzburg memory: "Will never forget the party in a dorm kitchen where I met a really nice and beautiful Austrian... [see Salzburg Sweethearts!] I have far too many fond memories from that year. I feel as if I lived five years in one school year given all the experiences I collected in such a short period of time." Michael is in touch with Courtney Fowler, Lisa Yunker, Bobby Blankenship and John Klein from his group and with Teresa Rieger and Andreas Fuka (two Austrian students who later studied in BG).
E-Mail: michaeltlawson@yahoo.com

2005-2006

DIRECTOR CHRISTINA GUENTHER

Heidi (Schmoll) Köllmann (grad) lives in Würzburg, Germany. She has an M.A. in German from BGSU. After Salzburg, she found a job in international education in Michigan. Then she decided to go abroad one last time and went to Germany, where she lived in Aachen (North Rhine-Westphalia) and worked in the International Office at the Technical University (NRTH). "I ended up marrying a German and staying in Germany. We moved to the beautiful Bavarian town of Würzburg, where I work at the University of Würzburg as an international relations officer." Salzburg memories: "The amazing cultural experiences like skiing in the Alps, the Krampuslauf, and doing an internship at a local bakery!"

2007-2008

DIRECTOR EDGAR LANDGRAF

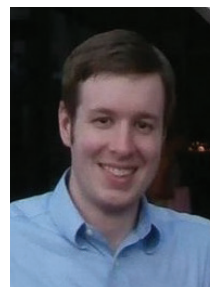
Anja Jones (Fall) lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She has a master's degree in counseling and mental health services from the University of Pennsylvania and works in the clinical research administration at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She reports: "Just bought a home and having my first baby!"

Can't wait to take him on his first European trip to Germany and Austria." Salzburg memory: "The Krampuslauf was one of the most memorable experiences of my 20s. It was so thrilling to experience this cultural event and see the passion and attention to detail that they put into their outfits. There's absolutely nothing I've seen or done since that was comparable, and it's on my bucket list to do it again!" Anja is in touch with several from her group, as well as some of the Austrian friends from the university.

E-Mail: anja3413@gmail.com

2009-2010

DIRECTOR CHRISTINA GUENTHER



Daniel McMackin (grad) lives in Frankfurt, Germany. He is a medical device sales representative and technician. Dan has often given talks on his profession to AYA groups in Salzburg and allowed students to shadow him in his business dealings. He has an M.A. in German studies from BGSU.
E-Mail: katachresis@web.de

2011-2012

DIRECTOR EDGAR LANDGRAF

Kasarah (Menegon) Boiter (grad) lives in Lexington, South Carolina. She has an M.A. in German from BGSU and is a middle school German teacher. Kasarah gave birth to a daughter, Lorelei, in February 2022.
E-Mail: kasmenegon@yahoo.com

Megan Major lives in Newport, Kentucky, where she is a senior panel strategy specialist at NielsenIQ. She started as a panel relations German language specialist and occasionally still translates as part of her job. Megan is getting married to another AYA Salzburg alumna in October. Salzburg memory: "One Sunday when everything was closed in the city, I decided to hike up the Gaisberg by myself. There I sat for a while and watched people paraglide down and wished I weren't afraid of heights so I could try it too."

Megan is in touch with Natalie Ford, Josh Kramer, Bill Whitesmith, Carlo Francisco.
E-Mail: mmajor8671@gmail.com



Paragliding from
the Gaisberg



Alexandra (McCollum) Spradlin lives in Las Vegas, Nevada. She has an M.A. in German from BGSU and a M.Ed. degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. In 2020, she started a German program at Desert Pines High School in Las Vegas. The program is now in its third year. "This year we have German I and German II, with a total enrollment of 70 students. There are tentative plans to offer German III next year if there is sufficient student interest."

E-Mail: anmccollum@gmail.com

2012-2013

DIRECTOR STEFAN FRITSCH

Dana Deal (grad) lives in Jacksonville, Florida. She works as an office manager at the University of North Florida. In March 2022 she completed an M.S. degree in learning design and technology from the University of Maryland Global Campus. Salzburg memory: "I enjoyed walking daily to the university. On my way to the university or my dorm, I could pick up food and other essentials. You could see the bustle of the town, experience different seasons, and find out when events were happening in Salzburg." Dana is in contact with Laura Hoesman. E-Mail: dana.marie.deal@gmail.com

Renee Miller (grad) lives in Monclova, Ohio. In addition to her M.A. degree in German she has a second master's in criminal justice from the University of Toledo. She works for the United States Coast Guard as a credentialing specialist; she received a promotion last October. "My days fly by, and I absolutely love what I do. In my spare time, I still love to read and am also a very avid equestrian – I'm actually busy gearing up for another summer show season with my horse!" Salzburg memory: "It was the best year of my life, and it's on my bucket list to go back overseas one of these days." E-Mail: rmill2007@gmail.com

SUMMERS 2013-2016

Bruce Kwiatkowski lives in Sulzbach-Rosenberg, Bavaria. He holds a doctorate from the University of Toledo and teaches German and history for the University of Maryland Global Campus Europe (UMGCE); he is also the coordinator of German classes for UMGCE as well as for UMGC stateside. In 2022 Bruce received the Drazik excellence in teaching award. Salzburg memory: "Sitting on the terrace at the Stieglkeller with other BGSU students." E-Mail: bruce.kwiatkowski@utoledo.edu

2013-2014

DIRECTORS CHRISTINA GUENTHER (FALL) AND GEOFFREY HOWES (SPRING)

Ann (Jennings) Haack (grad) lives in Des Moines, Iowa. She has an M.A. in German from BGSU and works as a membership clerk for the American Legion of Iowa.

Lorena Haberern (Spring) lives in Bellmawr, New Jersey. She has an M.S. degree in school psychology from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and is a BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) program manager. She is in contact with friends from her AYA year. E-Mail: lohaberern@gmail.com

Shaydon Ramey (Spring) now lives in Halle, Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany, where he is studying English (also Spanish and French) pedagogy at the Universität Halle/Wittenberg with the goal of becoming a Gymnasium-level language teacher in Germany. "Since being back in Europe, I've not only been able to meet up with a number of AYA alumni who live here, but also with the new AYA director, Ivett Guntersdorfer, and the current group. I've had the opportunity to accompany them on a few trips, including the trip to Berlin and Potsdam." Salzburg memory: "The nice weather lately has been reminding me of the fun evenings sitting in the Augustiner Biergarten with



Prosit!

a giant group of not only AYA people, but our local friends." Shaydon is in daily contact with Julian Gillilan, less frequently with Emily (Skorupski) Brancel, Lorena Haberern and Dan Otto, a.o. E-Mail: shaydonramey@gmail.com

SUMMER 2014

Jacob Weinmann lives in Grand Rapids, Ohio. After attending the intensive summer language program (ISK), Jacob took part in the 2014-15 AYA program. Last December (2021) he completed an MBA specialized in supply chain management at BGSU. This past spring semester (2022) he returned again to Salzburg, this time to fulfill a requirement for BGSU's German for Professionals and Educators graduate certificate. Currently he is looking for global business opportunities. Salzburg memory: "This spring I enjoyed exploring the neighborhoods and eateries of Mülln, Maxglan, Parsch, Itzling, and other surrounding suburbs of Salzburg." Jacob is in frequent contact with Molly Shea, Jared Pendleton, Zachary Stein, Molly Closson, Sam Warner, Madeline (Fauser) Brennan, Clayton Frist, Martina Frist, and the spring 2022 cohort. E-Mail: jcbwnmnn@gmail.com

2014-2015

DIRECTOR CHRISTINA GUENTHER

Jacob Weinmann (see summer 2014)

2016-2017

DIRECTOR STEFAN FRITSCH

Megan Major (grad, see 2011-12)

2017-18

DIRECTOR KRISTIE FOELL

Ben Foell received his bachelor's degree in information systems and German from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire this spring and was awarded a teaching assistantship from the Austrian Bundesministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Forschung and Fulbright Austria. Starting this fall, he will assist in English instruction at two schools in Vienna (see the Fulbright article). Salzburg memory: "Snowshoeing in the Alps!" Ben has been in contact with many in his group and other AYA participants, also with Herr Baumgartner. E-Mail: fib98@live.com



Rachel Harris

Rachel Harris (Spring) lives in Atlanta, Georgia. She finished her M.A. in European studies this August (2022). Because the 2020-21 AYA program was cancelled due to the pandemic, Rachel spent her first graduate year at BGSU and completed her master's in Salzburg in 2021-22. She is now looking for full-time employment in a study abroad setting, ideally at a large university. E-Mail: rachemh@bgsu.edu

Hannah Olson (Spring) now lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. She has undergraduate degrees from Iowa State University. This past May AYA alum Will Kanwischer and Hannah got engaged. "We moved from Minnesota to Chapel Hill in July 2021 as Will is pursuing a Ph.D. in philosophy at UNC Chapel Hill." Hannah is working as the marketing and communications coordinator at the Chapel Hill public library. Salzburg memories: "Lots of little

things! Baking together in Haus Humboldt, meeting my future husband on the bus on my first day in Salzburg, traveling with friends, late night trips for O'Malleys and kebab, sitting in Café Alchemie before Deutsch als Fremdsprache." Hannah is also in contact with Alex Brinkman and Julian Gillilan.
E-Mail: hannah.olson1397@gmail.com

Shaydon Ramey (grad, see 2013-14)

Jack Riegert currently lives in Vienna, Austria, where in the fall he will begin his second year as a Fulbright teaching assistant (see Fulbright article). He has a bachelor's degree in history and German. While in Vienna, he hopes to work on his master's degree.
E-mail: riegert.jack@gmail.com

2021-22

DIRECTOR IVETT GUNTERSDORFER

Rachel Harris (grad, see 2017-18)

Jacob Weinmann (grad, Spring only) (see Summer 2014)

JETZT GEHT'S UM DIE WURST!

By **Katie (Portnoy) Schober (2009-2010)**

How many of these German sausage sayings do you (still) know?

"Jetzt geht's um die Wurst."

"Es ist mir wurst."

"Wir werden uns schon irgendwie durchwursteln."

"Spiel nicht die beleidigte Leberwurst!"

"Sie will immer eine Extrawurst gebraten bekommen."

"Armes Würstchen!"

"Er lässt sich nicht die Wurst vom Brot nehmen."

"Jetzt ist aber Schluss mit dem Herumwursteln!"

"Es hat alles ein Ende, nur die Wurst hat zwei."



Und was bin ich?

RECRUITING AT MODEL UN IN CHICAGO

Last November four members of the Salzburg Alumni Group – Lonie Moore (who regularly attends), Lisa Lipcaman, Linda VanBlaricom, and Rhonda Westerhaus – travelled to this year's American Model UN (AMUN) meeting in Chicago to recruit students for the BGSU AYA and summer Salzburg programs. They set up a large display and were on hand during the 4-day conference to explain the programs and answer questions of students and faculty who stopped by. The booth drew a large crowd. More than 60 people left contact information, which was subsequently forwarded to Dr. Christina Guenther, the AYA faculty advisor.



Lisa Lipcaman, Rhonda Westerhaus and Linda VanBlaricom (l-r) recruiting at Model UN

All 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:

bgsu.edu/AYASalzburg

Three Alumni Interviews

The Newsletter wants to call attention to particularly successful AYA alumni. There are many! Some were highlighted in the past, and 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.

Dr. Geoff Howes



INTERVIEW WITH SHAYDON RAMEY

(Spring 2014, AYA 2017-18)



Shaydon Ramey

Shaydon Ramey first participated in the BGSU Salzburg program in spring 2014. He graduated from Wittenberg University in 2015, was a Fulbright teaching assistant in Wittenberg, Germany from 2015 to 2017, and returned to Salzburg as a graduate student in 2017. He finished dual M.A. degrees in German and Spanish at BGSU in 2020. After teaching Spanish at Notre Dame Academy in Toledo, Shaydon returned to Germany to join the teacher training program in

English and Spanish at the Universität Halle-Wittenberg. He plans to teach on the Gymnasium level at German schools. Shaydon also has extensive experience as a professional translator.

Shaydon responded to the interview questions by writing a brief essay.

My career path has been a constant back-and-forth between teaching and translating. I started translating while I was in Salzburg as an undergraduate. It was a great experience because I was translating a book by a contemporary Turkish-Austrian writer, and I was able to go to Vienna and actually meet him. Freelance work came later, while I was living in Germany as a Fulbright English teaching assistant and stood in front of classes for the first time. Juggling the two activities had the advantage of experiencing what both fields were like.

This helped me to see that I am much more interested in the teaching route. Firstly, translation can be very lonely: you generally work at home, and it's rare to have someone you can talk to about it. The work is also highly unstable, and that can cause a lot of financial stress. The lack of a consistent schedule can also be frustrating. In theory, freelancing means you choose when you work, but that's within the confines of when work is available. Teaching is of course a stressful job, but it can be a lot more consistent.

Going back to Salzburg as a graduate student helped confirm the views I formed during my two years in Wittenberg as a Fulbright TA. By that point, I had gathered enough translation experience to have contact with more agencies, and (unexpected) translation assignments interfered with my studies and graduate assistant duties. I was translating between classes to keep up, but then there would be weeks when nothing came, and I worried about money. Teaching, on the other hand, went well: I held the tutorial for the German literature class that Dr. Foell was teaching and for one of the DaF classes, and I felt like I was able to help the students. I also did an internship at the Bundesgymnasium Nonntal across from Unipark.

As a result, I've decided I want to teach, but specifically in Germany. In my experience, teachers are much more respected in Germany and Austria. They also receive better salaries, and they are less overworked (though they still have a lot of extra hours). They are also trained to teach at least two school subjects, which is appealing to me since I had multiple majors for my American degrees. Languages play a bigger role in the European context; it's much more likely that my future students will take my classes seriously than it would be in the U.S.

That doesn't mean I'm giving up on translation. Although I found it difficult to establish a career path as a translator, it really does make for a great side gig as a student or teacher. It has supported me through my studies, and I plan to continue translating as a teacher.

I definitely wouldn't be where I am today without the AYA program. It gave me additional teaching experience and helped me with my first experiences in translation. Although I have a much longer history with Spanish and French, German was the language I started translating. Additionally, Dr. Guenther put me in touch with Kimberly Scherer, an alumna of the AYA program, who lives in Salzburg and works as a translator. She has played a key role in my development as translator. What started as short conversations about getting into the field became a great friendship and professional collaboration. I've also had a lot of support from BGSU professors in pursuing my goals of studying in Germany and becoming a teacher there, and my networking with other alumni and our new AYA director, Dr. Guntersdorfer, has helped a lot with the big move to Europe.

If others want to pursue translation, my biggest advice would be to seek professional training. I took the wrong route. It's not enough to simply speak two languages. You need excellent writing skills, and you also need to know something about the subject matter you're translating. I never studied medicine, my main area of translation, so it has been a really steep learning curve. It's also very limiting when applying for jobs if one has no expertise in that particular field.

I don't regret the route I took, though, my language studies made me much more well-rounded than I would have become with translation studies, and I've nevertheless gotten my foot in the door. And I've found that teaching really makes me happy. Not to mention that I've been able to live in Europe for a goodly time, and now I'm here to stay!

INTERVIEW WITH JAY LEEMING

(AYA 1989-90)



Jay Leeming

Jay Leeming was born in Ithaca, NY and earned a B.A. in music from Bates College and an MFA from the New School. He is the author of *Dynamite on a China Plate* (Backwaters Press, 2006) and *Miracle Atlas* (Writers and Books, 2011). He spent years as a singer, songwriter, and guitarist in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and moved from that to poetry and then to professional storytelling. Jay has taught poetry workshops in the U.S. and abroad and received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. In 2010 he was Summer Poet in Residence

at the University of Mississippi, and from 2010 to 2013 he was editor of the journal *Rowboat: Poetry in Translation*. Jay has a website: <http://www.jayleeming.com>

Please tell us about your career as a storyteller, poet, author, and podcaster.

I'm a performance storyteller, which means I tell myths, fairytales, legends, and epics to audiences in schools, libraries, and theaters. Some of the stories I tell include Norse and Greek myths, Russian fairytales, various stories from Africa and Asia as well as *Gilgamesh* and a six-hour version of *The Odyssey*. I tell these stories with music (guitar and drum) and with as much poetry as I can come up with at the moment, as the words I say are not written down: each story is an improvised one-person show.

When I graduated from college, I set out to be a songwriter. After playing in various bands in Minneapolis, Minnesota, I then spent roughly twenty years as a poet before becoming a professional storyteller. I have three books of poetry in print, and share my storytelling with others through the Crane Bag Podcast.

What have been some of the most satisfying, and the most challenging, aspects of your jobs and creative activities?

I love connecting with audiences through these fierce and beautiful stories. I love banging the dust off such stories as *The Odyssey* and making them sing. When I primarily called myself a poet, making a living was often a challenge, as I chose not to teach in academia. But I gained many experiences through that, which definitely broadened my horizons, and the flexibility I enjoyed allowed me to take on new adventures – such as working as a ranger-naturalist in Yosemite National Park for five seasons.

Looking back, it feels like my work as a songwriter and poet has been the perfect preparation for a career as a storyteller. Somehow it just worked out that way. And perhaps being a storyteller is preparation for whatever comes next!

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

Living in another country is such a soul-broadening experience that I hesitate to connect it with my "professional life." For me it's in the same category as falling in love, breaking your leg, or climbing a big mountain: an experience that changes you so fundamentally that it becomes intrinsic to who you are. So I would say that the BGSU AYA Program changed my life, first,

and that in turn has affected my professional life.

Living in Salzburg helped me to realize that other countries really do exist. I'm sure that sounds flippant, but as an American I think the reality of other countries and cultures is something that we don't quite "get." But it's a different thing to stand in Vienna, Florence, or Paris and to hear the languages flowing past you; it's a different thing to get on a German airplane and realize that you can't just tell everyone to knock it off and go back to speaking English. These experiences helped me to see my own culture as simply one of many, and to understand not only something of Austria but something of America as well. You could say I returned home with new eyes and a new heart and a new head.

And of course, my professional life has been affected in a big way. I tell stories from many different cultures, and my experiences in Europe have helped me to see those cultures from the inside as much as possible; not to impose my own ideas on a story but to let it speak and sing in its own way, which is often very different from my own.

Based on your experiences, what educational or professional advice would you give to students or recent alumni seeking employment or embarking on creative careers?

"Do what you love, and the money will follow." That's classic advice, and it's still true. The money may not follow immediately, but it will follow. It's much better to think about who you are and what you want out of life than it is to figure out which box of employment you can fit yourself into. Doing what you love may not give you an easy life, but it will give you an interesting one.

Studying abroad is an amazing experience that gives you the opportunity to see life from many different perspectives. These experiences are crucial to discovering who you are and what you love, and that wisdom is crucial to any successful professional career.

Are there any other thoughts you'd like to pass on to your fellow AYA alumni?

It was lovely to share a big journey with you!



INTERVIEW WITH TARA CAMPBELL

(AYA 1993-94)



Tara Campbell

Tara Campbell, originally from Alaska, participated in the graduate program in Salzburg in 1993-94 and received her M.A. in 1995. After working in international education and university admissions at Georgetown, Johns Hopkins, and Webster Universities, she earned an MFA in Creative Writing from American University in 2019. She lives in Washington, D.C., is a fiction co-editor at Barrelhouse, and teaches creative writing at American University, Johns Hopkins, and other venues. In

addition to a novel and four mixed-genre collections, she has published short fiction, non-fiction, satire, and poetry. You can find out more about her at www.taracampbell.com and follow her on Twitter: @TaraCampbellCom or Instagram: @thetreeevolution

Please tell us about your work in study abroad in higher education, and your newer career as a writer and writing instructor.

My world opened up when I studied in Germany as an undergrad and Austria as a graduate student, so I wanted to work in a field that helped other students access the same opportunities for growth. I started with high school student exchange at AFS Intercultural Programs; then after a brief stint working with overseas musical tours, I saw a job ad that seemed to have been lifted straight from my resumé: a student affairs position at the (now BMW) Center for German and European Studies at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. They say you never find a job in the paper, but I've found some of my favorite jobs just that way.

I loved working with bright and motivated students from all over the world with an interest in European affairs. Meanwhile I kept an eye out for new opportunities, and through another job ad (!) I found a position with Webster University in Austria, where I spent a wonderful two years heading up an admissions office in Vienna. With that experience, I came back to D.C. and was honored to work with top graduate programs in international affairs at Georgetown and Johns Hopkins.

At the same time, I'd been pursuing creative activities on the side: painting, music, and writing, coming back to a side of my life I'd given up for more "practical" pursuits. I eventually focused on writing and began submitting and building up my publication credentials. After my first book was published, I felt like I had enough of a track record to propose my first class. Now I teach everything from one-off flash fiction classes at community-based writing centers to semester-long graduate-level speculative fiction classes. I enjoy the energy of being in a room full of people who are passionate about writing and learning new things. That's what keeps me coming back to the classroom again and again.

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

When I was in admissions, it always broke my heart to see admitted students with real talent and motivation not be able to come up with the resources to enroll. Even when I had

access to scholarship funds, it was never enough to go as far as I wanted it to. I've been on both extremes: being able to tell someone their educational dream has come true and having to break it to students that we aren't able to help them.

That's one of the reasons I like to teach at a mix of venues now: access. There are so many people with amazing voices and enlightening ways of looking at the world out there, and opportunity shouldn't always be tied to money.

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

When you're an introvert, living in a dorm always teaches you something about how to balance your need for space with your curiosity about the world. The program cemented my desire to have an international component in my career. Even now, from time to time I'm able to help correct a bit of German that pops up in a student's manuscript.

But on a more fundamental level, the ability to communicate between cultures is not just a matter of international diplomacy. The past several years have shown us that cultural competence is a skillset we need right here at home. Attention to language – whether in German or English – can mean the difference between an assertion and an accusation and keep a fruitful debate from devolving into a corrosive argument. Being careful with our language doesn't have to mean avoiding hard topics; it means being deliberate and precise, figuring out exactly what we want to say, and being prepared to back it up. We can all use a reminder to be more careful with our words.

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

Follow your passions: it's hackneyed advice, but it's been true for me. Even if a particular job turns out to be less than ideal, you can still find meaning in the mission while keeping an eye out for other opportunities.

Your job is not your life: one of the things I appreciated about working in higher education is the relatively humanistic attitude. My employers acknowledged that I had an actual life outside of work, allowing me the flexibility to pursue creative interests that wound up shaping my current career. Yes, I could have made more money in other fields, but for me, the culture of lifelong learning was more valuable.

There is life after a German degree; it may not always be direct or even relevant to what you studied, but precious little seems to make sense in the do-it-yourself job market these days. The sense of curiosity and adventure that brought you to the program will be your key advantage in your future career.

Are there any other thoughts you'd like to pass on to your fellow AYA alumni?

Say "Yes" - my writing and teaching career began to take off when I started saying "Yes" to things, even if I hadn't done them yet. Be it a panel, a class, or a committee, as long as I could see a reasonable way to get there, I'd take on a new challenge. This is not the same as lying about your abilities; it's about taking stock of how the things you've done before can map onto the new challenge, knowing where you're ready to stretch, and being realistic about what you might have to give up or put off while taking on the new challenge. The ability to keep adapting and changing is a powerful thing!



SYMPOSIUM: Austrian-American Studies and The Future of Study Abroad in Austria

By Edgar Landgraf

From June 9-11, 2022, the University of Redlands Salzburg Program hosted a symposium in Salzburg that focused on the future of study abroad in Austria and on how Austrian-American studies can contribute to the educational experiences of American students in Austria. The event was co-hosted by the University of Portland and the BGSU Salzburg programs and was supported by the Botstiber Institute for Austrian-American Studies.

The symposium gathered faculty from University of Redlands (Drs. Katherine Baber, Joseph Magedanz, Sharon Oster, Mag. Wolfgang Schmutz), Bowling Green State University (Drs. Ivett Guntersdorfer, Christina Guenther, Geoff Howes, Edgar Landgraf), the University of Portland (Dr. René Horcicka), Ohio University (Dr. Nikhil Sathe), and the University of Michigan-Dearborn (Dr. Jacqueline Vansant). A full schedule of the presentations and activities can be found here: <https://www.redlands.edu/study/study-away/cas-study-away/programs/salzburg-semester/symposium-june-2022/>.

As the first speaker, I discussed the challenges American study abroad programs face today: a declining number of language majors, changes in the understanding of the role of higher education, the diversification of the student body, the impact of social media, and changing student interests, let alone the continued efforts by upper administrations to streamline curricula and focus more on skill development than on the broader ideal of Bildung.

I detailed how BGSU's Salzburg programs have been responding to the existing challenges and opportunities, including lowering the language requirement, creating a parallel "English" track, and reimagining the study abroad curriculum to attract a broader student body.

Indeed, many of the presentations that followed offered examples of

innovative courses and co-curricular programming. Ivett Guntersdorfer's presentation on intercultural competence emphasized that students studying abroad will not acquire intercultural competency on their own, that this needs to be taught and put in practice.

Christina Guenther, who joined the symposium via Zoom, offered details about her course "Transatlantic Race Matters. Decolonizing the German Studies Curriculum," which is designed to attract a more diverse student body. Nik Sathe reflected on the specific demands of OU's study abroad program which, once reactivated, will revise its curriculum to fit students with a much lower proficiency in German. Jacqueline Vansant described a recent course that explored the cultural geography of Vienna by asking students to investigate specific locations around town in person. The students could use their smart phones and other digital media to create projects that can be used by future students. Geoff Howes's course idea with the title "Authorized Austria" would encourage BGSU's writers-in-residence to use literature as an introduction to Austria's rich culture, history, and society, bringing together returning with outgoing study-abroad students.

The theme of curriculum innovation was continued on the second day with a more specific historical and ethical focus. Sharon Oster presented her course "Timescapes: Exploring the Remnants of Holocaust Memory," which detailed the challenges of visiting Holocaust memorial sites with students who may not react in expected ways. The problem raises a larger question concerning the limits of "critical

tourism." Such visits can offer students the possibility of reflecting on more familiar concerns (e.g., social justice in the U.S.).

Wolfgang Schmutz's presentation "Austria in Europe: History, Identity, Remembrance" continued the theme as he reflected on how students can learn from eyewitnesses of the everyday evil. His example included a video of three older Austrians who lived in Mauthausen and who recount their experience of the camp, the guards, and their "normal" lives as young Austrian women during the Nazi era. René Horcicka likewise reflected on how to guide visits to Holocaust memorial sites in ways that engage students in a manner that has a lasting effect on them.

In the afternoon Wolfgang Schmutz took the participants on a tour through Salzburg focusing on several sites that commemorate – or fail to appropriately commemorate – the darker sides of the city's history. We discussed, for example, both the design and placement of the "Book Skeleton" on Residenzplatz, an artwork that commemorates the book burning in Salzburg.

On Saturday morning we discussed Joseph Magedanz's proposed course that would focus on immigration stories of Austrians coming to America, a course that would ask students to relate such reports to the immigration stories of their own families.

The symposium continued Saturday afternoon with a tour guided by director Manfred Mittermayer through Salzburg's Literaturarchiv and its latest exhibit "Out of Order" – which reflects once again on the larger theme of the difficulties of adequate commemoration.

The symposium concluded with an extended session in which we took stock of the various presentations and the new perspectives they offered, and where we pinned down plans for future collaborations and innovations.



Dr. Nikhil Sathe (Ohio University, AYA 1991-92) discussing the particular challenges of OU's Salzburg program



Salzburg Sweethearts

In the last newsletter we started a series about AYA students who found their future partners while studying in Salzburg. The first issue featured AYA alumni who married another student in that year's group. This time we collected stories of three AYA alumni who married an Austrian or German they met during their AYA stay in Salzburg. Such romances face life-changing questions – in which country will the couple live, what language will they primarily speak, with which country will their children identify, what about the relatives back home ...? Read how the three couples met and how their lives evolved.

Shari (Poffenberger) Klein (AYA 1990-91, grad)



Wedding in Salzburg in 1991

We met at a Fest in Rehr Heim in the Petersbrunnstraße not far from Akademiestraße and today's Unipark. Gerhard had "Bardienst" and I asked him what a tequila slammer was. He then proceeded to give me free Tequila and Anti-Alk for the rest of the evening. He was from Schwarzach im Pongau and was studying law in Salzburg. A few days after the Fest I helped organize a group birthday party in Rehr Heim for everyone with an October birthday.

Gerhard came, we got to talk, and he asked me for a date. We married towards the end of the school year, in May 1991, and continued to live in Salzburg. Gerhard went to work as a Finanzbeamter (tax auditor), and I stayed home with our children, doing some tutoring on the side. In 2015 I began a 3-year radiology training program and worked for 9 years as an X-ray technologist in Salzburg. Now I am an application specialist for Siemens X-ray technology specializing in women's health (mammography). Gerhard still works as an auditor and runs children's judo courses in the local elementary school. We live in

Hallein-Rif as soon-to-be empty nesters. Gerhard couldn't imagine living in the States without being filthy rich, plus his education would have made finding a job difficult there.

I still have family in the States – my mom and sister live in Maryland, and I visit them at least once a year. We have three (now) adult children (30, 28, 25). Our oldest is currently living with his fiancée in North Carolina, where he works as the manager of a fast-food restaurant. The middle one has chosen to remain in Salzburg and works with her fiancée in the Landestheater as a lighting designer and technician. The youngest is moving to Galway, Ireland this fall to continue her studies in the Drama and Theater Studies Master's program. All the family is fluent in German. However, perhaps due to our geographic spread, Germlish has remained the family language, as we often start in one language and end in the other. Our kids say that they feel themselves to be Austro-American.



In Tokyo for the Judo World Championships, August 2019

Christine (Philbrook) Bayer (1995-96)



Christine and Klaus: Frisch verliebt!

It all began in 1995 in Salzburg when I joined the BGSU Academic Year Abroad Program. Every Thursday, my dorm (Die Traube) hosted a bar where all the other students would come to drink, mingle and have fun. I had never experienced anything like that in the U.S., and it was great fun. One Thursday in October, I met my now husband, Klaus, an Austrian ecology student, who lived across the street

in Schwarzes Rössl. Instead of spending the evening with the American I had come with, I ended up talking to Klaus until the bar closed. For the next couple of weeks, we met at each other's dorm and at various activities until things finally got more serious at the Thanksgiving Fest. On this night, we almost became a couple. The next couple of months were spent going back and forth on whether to get into a relationship knowing that I would be leaving soon. Luckily, we decided to take the risk and were able to make it work!

The next years were tricky. Klaus flew to the U.S. to spend the summer only two weeks after I flew home, but after that we didn't live in the same city until we moved in together in 2004 (9 years after meeting each other). After finishing my bachelor's at BGSU, I moved to Freiburg, Germany in 1997 to get my master's

in molecular biology – a 6-hour train ride from Salzburg, where Klaus was still living. Then in 1999, I moved to Munich to get my Ph.D. We moved to Prien am Chiemsee in 2004 and got married in 2005. In 2008, we moved to Munich.



Christine, Klaus and Adrian today

Now we live outside of Munich in the Bavarian town of Ampfing. I work at the company Brainlab, where I run clinical studies for medical devices. Klaus, although he studied ecology, ended up becoming an antiquarian dealer and now works in an auction house. In 2009, the two of us became three. Our son Adrian is now entering his teenage years. In regard to language, we basically mix up German and English, depending on the topic. However, Klaus and I are consistent in talking to Adrian only in our native language. He is truly bilingual. I would say the three of us speak English about 70% together as a family. Fun fact: Adrian has 3 citizenships: U.S., Austrian and German.

I am not thinking of moving back to the States any time soon, but we spend every Christmas and New Year's in Florida and will probably spend our winters there after retirement.

Michael Lawson (2003-04)



**Michael and Claudia
in Salzburg 2004**

When I headed to Salzburg in 2003, I had no idea that my year abroad as an undergraduate student of German would completely change the trajectory of my life. After several months, I had (somewhat) gotten used to the Austrian dialect and was thoroughly enjoying the experience. In March 2004, I visited American friends in Haus Paracelsus, nothing unusual per se – but this time there were two parties happening in the communal

kitchen. And this is where I first met Claudia, an Austrian student majoring in English.

With only a few months left in the school year, we made sure to spend all our free time together. Exploring the Altstadt and enjoying romantic bike rides along the Salzach felt magical. Time passed much too quickly and when it was time for me to return to Ohio, we vowed to make the long-distance thing work until Claudia could come to BGSU as an exchange student the following year.

In a time before smartphones and Skype, we spent all our money on long-distance phone calls and plane tickets. After Claudia had completed her year abroad in Bowling Green, she returned to Austria to finish her degree. Tired of the many sad goodbyes at

airports, we got married in a small Austrian chapel in June 2007. When Claudia moved to Ohio later that year, she fully intended to stay in the U.S. forever. So we settled down in Ohio, Claudia working as a translator, and I as a German teacher. Over the years, however, we realized that for a couple hoping to have children, Austria was really a better fit.

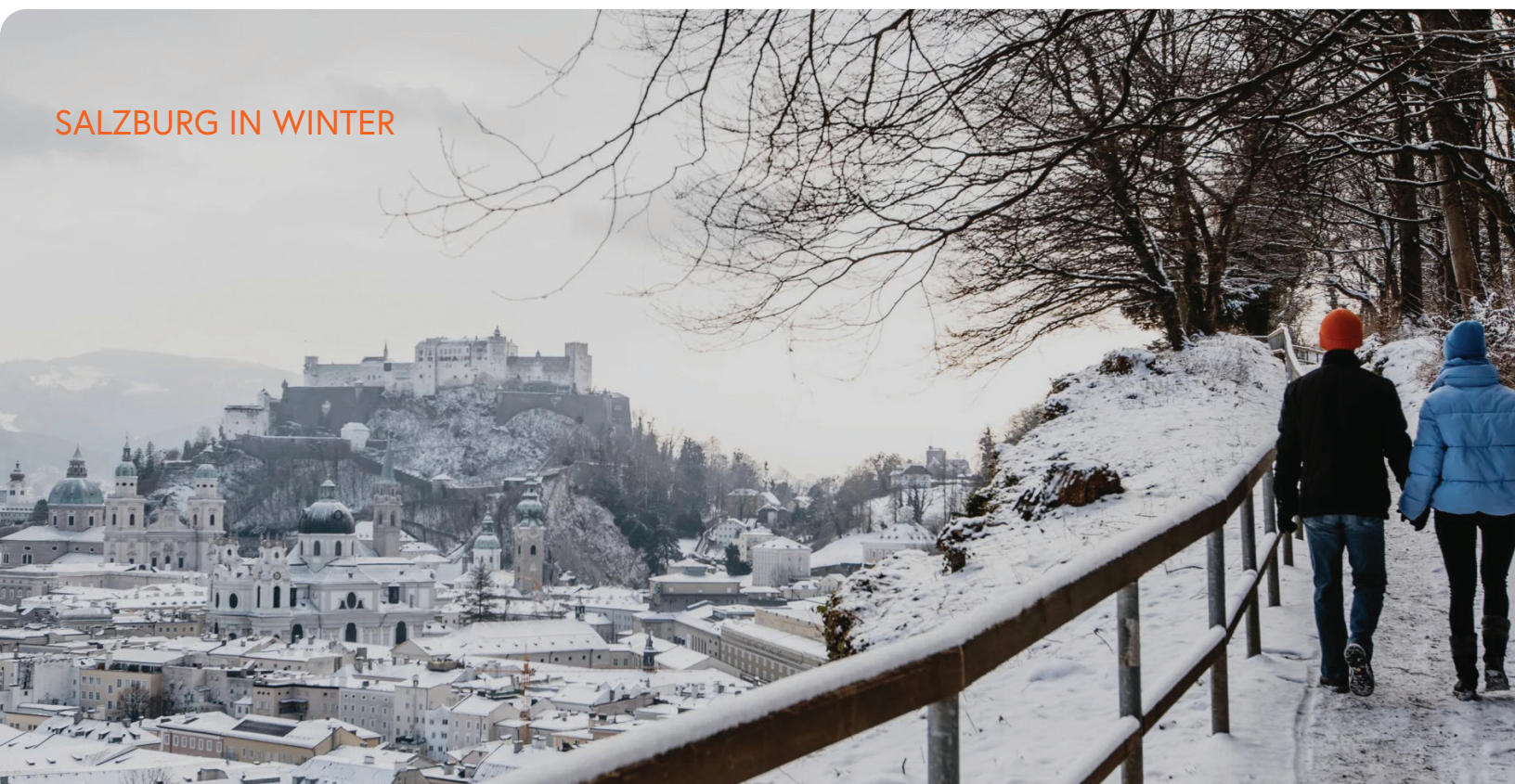
So in 2010, we got on a plane with our two cats and moved to Austria. I now work as a technical writer in Linz, and Claudia is a freelance translator. We live in Claudia's hometown, beautiful Eferding, with our children Melissa (6) and Lukas (3). We consider ourselves to be a primarily English-speaking family. Claudia and I use English with each other, and Claudia uses her native German with the kids. As a family we embrace and celebrate both cultures and have achieved a fairly well-balanced blend of Austro-Americanness in our home. For these kids, it is normal to attend the Martinsfest in November and celebrate Thanksgiving shortly after. And they equally love their Kaiserschmarrn and PB&Js.



**Almost 20 years later
in Eferding**

Claudia and I feel extremely fortunate that our paths crossed all those years ago, and to this day, Salzburg holds a very special place in our hearts because it is where our story began.

SALZBURG IN WINTER



Das Christkindlmarkt in Salzburg

