

AYA

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ACADEMIC YEAR ABROAD

BGSU. COLLEGE OF ARTS & Sciences
BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

Letter from Salzburg, June 2016

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

It is hard to believe that soon the students will be packing their bags again to leave the beautiful town of Salzburg (my family and I will follow soon after). Luckily, we can look forward to a host of wonderful memories.

One of the highlights of spring semester was once again our Berlin trip. We arrived in Berlin by train on the Friday before Pfingsten (May 13) after stopping in Würzburg for lunch at Restaurant Stachel (built in 1413) and a visit to the Residenz, a UNESCO cultural heritage site, after which the students explored Würzburg on their own before we met again at the Bahnhof to catch our train to Berlin. Highlights in Berlin included a city walking tour with a very thoughtful and well-informed guide, a tour of the Reichstag (with an opportunity to take "Selfies" in front of Angela Merkel's office), visits to the Jewish Museum, the Deutsches Historisches Museum (our guide focused on the Weimar Republic) and Sunday evening's visit to the Theater am Kurfürstendamm, where we saw a performance of "The Ghetto Swinger," the story of Coco Schumann, a German-Jewish jazz guitarist and 'Lebenskünstler' from Berlin who survived Nazi incarceration in Theresienstadt and Auschwitz.



Listening to the guide at Brandenburg Gate

Outside the Stachel in Würzburg



While students surely enjoy our annual Berlin trip as a time away from the classroom, I was struck again by how much this is also a learning experience and a form of learning that cannot be replicated in the classroom. How different it is to stand at remnants of the Wall, cross over the two rows of cobble stones that remind us where the Wall used to divide Berlin, look at the graffiti Russian soldiers left in 1945 on the interior walls of the Reichstag, or stand on the parking lot where Hitler's bunker was and be able to point to the spot where he committed suicide and the Nazi nightmare finally came to an end. The quality of our tour guides also demonstrated that experiential learning does not have to come at the expense of detail or sophistication.

Our stay in Berlin also reminded me that study abroad is also about learning very practical things. I was impressed by how confident the students have become. They did not hesitate to explore one of Europe's largest cities on their own, and ventured far beyond the famous tourist spots (they found a place at the outskirts of Berlin that offered unlimited pancakes for breakfast, went swing dancing on Sunday evening at the end of another S-Bahn line, visited a videogame museum, and of course also Kreuzberg's annual international festival Karneval der Kulturen).

Guest Editor: Dr. Margy Gerber

DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN, RUSSIAN AND EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES
103 Shatzel Hall, Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, Ohio 43403
Phone 419-372-2268 | Fax 419-372-2571 | austria@bgsu.edu



On the way to the Maibaumkraxeln

I encourage everyone to visit our blog at <https://ayabgsu.wordpress.com>, where students have been posting pictures and descriptions of the many things they have been experiencing while in Salzburg. And I want to mention a special accomplishment, a first in my five years as director and perhaps a first ever for the program. On May 8 (the May 1 date was rained out), we headed to the Freilichtmuseum Großgmain for the annual "Maibaumkraxeln" (you may remember, this is when a bunch of not-so-sporty guys in Lederhosen raise a long May pole (a debarked tree decorated with wreaths), followed by young and not-so-young men striping down to their underwear to climb the pole in the hope of reaching one of the Brezen hanging about 45 feet up at the first wreath). Long story short, our Codey Albers did the impossible. He reached the first wreath and was able to grab a pretzel. Moreover, he was the third fastest Kraxler that day (with strong Austrian competition) and won a 2 liter Maßkrug. You can

watch the video of Codey's unbelievable climb at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csmCO65_III.

It wasn't just because of the beautiful spring weather that several students in recent days have approached me, asking about the possibility of extending their stay in Salzburg beyond our academic year. Many of the students will return to Salzburg in the future, but all of them will take Salzburg with them when they leave. They will take with them what they experienced here, the things they learned in and outside the classroom, the friendships they made, which often last a lifetime.

Mit herzlichen Grüßen aus Salzburg – pfiat eich!
Edgar Landgraf



Kraxler Codey Albers at the first wreath



Gazing from the Gaisberg

Nine AYA Students Complete Internships in Salzburg

The director Dr. Edgar Landgraf reports:

This year, with the help of Prof. Mag. Fritz Baier, who teaches the Geography course in the program, we were able to set up internships for more than half of our Salzburg students. They worked a minimum of 30 hours side-by-side with their Austrian counterparts in a wide variety of activities. The internship program, which was established some 15 years ago, brings the students in close contact with the working world of Austrian society and gives them hands-on experience in Austrian work situations—a practical complement to academic learning and travel.

In the fall semester, Holly Robertson-Sciko did an internship at the Polytechnische Schule in Oberndorf (the “Silent Night” town), where she worked as an English tutor in several classes of students going into job training, designing her own lesson plans. She learned how different the Austrian schools are – and how much she likes to teach. Kiel Henry, Codey Albers and Michael Marzian have had similar experiences this semester as tutors for English (Michael also for History) at the Akademisches Gymnasium in Salzburg (incidentally the same school my two sons Allan and Alex have attended this year); Samantha Hudson and Peter Funk are volunteering with Caritas, where they meet regularly with refugees to help them with their German and cultural integration; Malorie Spencer is an intern at the Büro für Internationale Beziehungen at the University of Salzburg, where she has been learning about the administrative sides of studying abroad in Europe; Noel Shanahan is learning about customer service and culinary traditions while working at the counter of the bakery Holztrattner in the Altstadt; and Zach Fleming is helping at a Bergbauernhof on the Gaisberg, learning hands-on (literarily) about traditional farming methods in the area.

As in previous years, the students present on their experience at the end of the semester. The point is not only that the students share their experiences, but also reflect on them and learn how to communicate the benefits of what they have learned to future employers or graduate schools.

In the presentations held so far I have been astounded again how much students benefit from this experience. They learn as much about work environments in Austria as they learn about themselves and what they like and do not like to do. They also are asked to adapt, be flexible, overcome shyness, and develop problem-solving skills. And, last but not least, students improve their language skills and gain confidence in their ability to communicate in German in everyday situations.

Back on the BGSU campus in the fall, the internship students will have the opportunity to present their experiential learning experience to the BGSU community at the annual Embracing Global Engagement conference. The students perform a very important function on campus; they internationalize it and inspire students to work abroad.

“... I have been astounded again how much students benefit from this experience. They learn as much about work environments in Austria as they learn about themselves and what they like and do not like to do. They also are asked to adapt, be flexible, overcome shyness, and develop problem-solving skills. And, last but not least, students improve their language skills and gain confidence in their ability to communicate in German in everyday situations.”

Dr. Edgar Landgraf

Here some of the students speak for themselves:

Kiel Henry tutored English at the Akademisches Gymnasium in Salzburg

I have studied abroad three times – twice now for an academic year – but this is the first time I have been both a student and a teacher in a foreign environment. Making lesson plans, leading class discussions, and introducing new topics and ideas to students are three things I have learned from this experience that can and will be useful for me not only as a graduate teaching assistant next year at BGSU, but in my future career in education. While I was sometimes shocked at the differences in the ability to speak English within the various grade levels at the Akademisches Gymnasium, I was not surprised by the thirst for knowledge of the students. I was honored to be able to share my knowledge with students who also taught me so much. This opportunity gave me the insight to know that the educational field is where I want to go and that teaching older students who are excited about learning and educationally prepared is possible.



Kiel Henry with students at the Akademisches Gymnasium

Samantha Hudson volunteered to help refugees through Caritas

Bowling Green is a small town, the kind where main street is never occupied by homeless people and beggars. Having grown up in little BG where everyone seemed to have a place to call home and all seemed right with the world, I never really experienced being face to face with extreme poverty. Like many other concepts that I only saw in the news or read in articles, poverty always seemed like an abstract idea. In Salzburg, that changed.

For all that Salzburg is a beautiful, wealthy, and well-kept city, it is still large enough for there to be beggars on the street and people who sleep under bridges. It is also a hub for refugees, many of whom are trying to make their way into Germany. Every time I passed a person sitting on a street corner pleading for the kindness of strangers, or when I walked by the tent set up outside the train station for the refugees in winter, my heart hurt. I would feel guilty about the great luck that I have had in my life and compelled to help those less fortunate than me. I don't, however, have endless amounts of



money, so I decided I wanted to do some sort of volunteer work, either to assist the homeless or the refugees.

Throughout the first semester, nothing happened. I didn't seem to have time, and wasn't able to put anything together. Finally, however, this past semester I was able to volunteer through Caritas, a charitable Christian organization. I was placed as a German teacher in a refugee house, which wasn't quite what I had expected: I was still learning German myself, after all, how could I be expected to teach German to anyone?

Still, I did my best, and it worked out all right. Everytime I came in, we chatted a little before the lesson. It was interesting to hear about their lives, and they seemed to appreciate having someone who listened. During the lessons, we laughed together as I made use of crazy charades in my attempts to explain different vocabulary, and even as I taught German to them, they taught me little bits and pieces of their own languages.

I was not doing the most important work, but I hope that what I did do helped.

Refugees and Caritas volunteers





*Bäckerei Holztrattner in the Brodgasse
(built in 1350)*

Noel Shanahan at the Bäckerei Holztrattner

Noel Shanahan learned about Austrian Kaffeekultur at the Holztrattner Bäckerei

Working at the Holztrattner Bäckerei in the Altstadt was certainly one of the most rewarding experiences I had while studying in Salzburg. I went in expecting to practice my German, learn how bakeries are run in Austria, and maybe make and serve baked goods. My experiences did not all quite match up with my expectations, but I am quite happy about that. I had a lot of fun and got much more out of the Praktikum than I expected. I did not learn how to bake, as a central kitchen prepares the baked goods daily and delivers them to the various Holztrattner bakeries. I did interact quite a bit with customers. I took orders for baked goods and hot drinks and brought them to the customers. I made sandwiches in the morning and helped clean up. I used and learned quite a bit of German, even some fantastic words and phrases of the Bavarian/Austrian dialects. The owner, Jörg Holztrattner, is a wonderful man and extremely friendly, as are all the staff.

The "Kaffeekultur" of Austria is alive and well in the small business where I worked. Dozens of regular customers know Herr Holztrattner by name. He and all the staff are personally acquainted with the majority of patrons. Some customers would come in for a few hours nearly daily to read newspapers and discuss a wide array of topics sitting around the small tables in the nearly 700-year-old building. Even having finished my required work hours, I still visited and spoke with my former co-workers and the regular patrons I had gotten to know. Although I am leaving soon to return to the United States, I know I will not only sorely miss Salzburg and Europe as a whole, but also the wonderful relationships I made and the fantastic experiences I had at the Bäckerei Holztrattner.

Malorie Spencer discovered her interest in translation at the International Office

I worked at the International Office at the University of Salzburg, and doing so was a great opportunity to work on my German language skills by speaking with my co-workers. I also truly value the translation experience I got when helping translate portions of the International Office webpage into English. I had never really thought about the possibility of working as a translator, and although I cannot envision doing that full time, I could certainly imagine doing occasional freelance translation work. I expected to get some experience with general office work and maybe to improve my interpersonal communication skills, but this experience gave me far more than just that. It is amazing how much you can learn in 30 hours.



View from the mountain farm

Zach Fleming worked on a Bergbauernhof on the Gaisberg

Over the course of the second semester I was able to experience a small portion of the Alpine farmer lifestyle. Aside from the wonderful views of the Gaisberg and the surrounding Alpine landscape, this internship allowed me to both figuratively and literally get my hands dirty carrying out the daily tasks I was assigned to do. Expecting to only work with trees and lumber, since the farm calls itself a Holzbauernhof (lumber farm), I was both surprised and pleased to be involved



in the other aspects of farm life such as horse grooming and cattle pasture preparation. Overall I could not imagine a better opportunity to experience a true Alpine way of life.



The farmhouse of the Bergbauernhof

ALUMNI NEWS

We received nearly 75 responses from AYA Austria alumni – from the summer program in 1967 (with which it all began) to 2014. That’s a span of almost 50 years! The oldest participants have retired or are retiring, the youngest are just setting out.

For the first 30 years of the AYA Austria program –1968 to1998 – alumni from 25 of the groups responded to the questionnaire. And of the five groups with no responses, four were represented in the 2015 newsletter. The ties that bind!

First Summer 1967 Director Dzidra Shllaku

Sue Mendizza – A member of the very first summer program and the first year-long program (“Die Gruppe”), Sue lives in Trabuco Canyon, Calif. Before retirement she was associate dean of instruction at Santa Ana College. Memories: “So many memories.... Memories are relived when meeting with members of Die Gruppe every couple years.” In touch with Lana Chadwick, Larry Snavey, Steve Harris, Jeanne Karkhuber, Mara Bereksi, Diana Hamidinua, Dallas Hull. E-mail: mendizza@cox.net

Mara (Shllaku) Bereksi (see 1974-75) Too young to be a full-fledged student, Dr. Shllaku’s daughter, Mara, participated in the first summer program as an “honorary member.”

1968-69 (First year-long program) Director Walter Morris

Jill (Saunders) Harris lives in Miamisburg (suburb of Dayton), retired from the medical field. Uses German on her frequent return trips to Salzburg to visit the Austrian friends she met that year. AYA memories: “All those nights dancing to the music of the Tornados at the Yankee Saloon.” In touch with Lyn Metti. “Would love to hear from other members of the group.” E-mail: jee11165@gmail.com

Sue Mendizza (see Summer 1967)

1969-70 Director Ursula Lawson (Ohio University)

Irene Kopan Bass lives in Las Vegas, where, having earned a Master of Science in mathematics, she worked before retiring as an actuary, holding various professional offices. “Not much to do with German, but the value of speaking a foreign language transcends the ability to earn a living from it.” AYA memories: “I often wore a Dirndlkleid, and one day, walking through the Residenzplatz, some German tourists mistakenly thought I was an Austrian. They wanted to take my photo posing with them in my national costume. I didn’t say much so as not to betray my American accent!” She is still in contact with her Austrian roommate at “Hotel Billroth,” as Billrothheim was then called. Reachable on Facebook

Deborah Kavasch lives in Turlock, Calif., has a Ph.D. in music composition from UC San Diego, and is professor of music and department chair at California State University, Stanislaus. She uses German in travels to Europe: “In 1988 I struggled to remember enough German for a radio interview and a televised portion of a presentation on extended vocal techniques during an International Congress on Women in Music in Bremen.” AYA memories: “I have a picture of four of us splurging on ice cream desserts outdoors at Café Winkler (cost more than a dinner anywhere else!). I also remember taking the music history exam in Mozart’s Geburtshaus – how apropos!” A memory from the first day: “Listening to my roommate speak to her girlfriend for about an hour and understanding only two words – “und” und “schon” – and feeling absolutely demoralized.” Until she learned they were speaking dialect.

1970-71 Director Herbert Gauerke

Marcia (Matey) Aschenberger has been living in Austria (Ried im Innkreis) since 1973, where until her retirement she taught English at the University of Passau, at the local school of nursing and for numerous firms. “I love life here in Austria to the full. But since my daughter lives in Vienna, my son in New Zealand (with our two grandsons) and my mother and sister in San Antonio, I spend a lot of time flying in all directions.” AYA memories: Billrothheim (and Mathias in the office), the

D-Bus, Akademiestraße, Café Corso, hiking up the Gaisberg, Müllnerbräu. Still in touch with Robert Hazel, Carol (Warner) Markusic, Charles Brugger, Joelyn (Dumanski) Brugger. E-mail: m.aschenberger@gmail.com

Barbara A. (Citino) Hans lives in Salem, Ohio and seasonally in Bradenton, Fla. She is a retired English and German teacher. Since her retirement in 2009 (after 37 years) German is no longer being taught at her school. “I am truly one of the last German teachers in the state of Ohio.” “I am still learning German and love it!” E-mail: barbarahans@yahoo.com

Steve Harris (Fall Semester) lives in White Stone, Va. Attorney with J.D. and LL.M. degrees. Retired senior international tax partner with KPMG LLP, a global tax, audit and advisory firm. He is now president of Music Publishers of America, LLC. AYA memories: “Riding my bike to my room at a Gasthaus in Parsch after long nights at the Heim. If you ever took the S-Bus, you know it is uphill virtually all the way from downtown Salzburg.” One of the founders of the Shllaku Scholarship Fund, he is in contact with the “Gruppe,” the pioneers of the AYA Austria program.

Karlyn (Korsgaard) McPike lives in Edgerton, Ohio, a retired German and French teacher. She took her two grandsons (9 and 11 yrs.) to Salzburg, Budapest and Prague last summer. “The best part was introducing them to my AYA roommate and her mother in Villach. AYA memories: “Our group adopted a Canadian student who was studying at the Mozarteum. At our Christmas party, she sang ,O, Holy Night.’ Everyone in the restaurant came into our reserved room when they heard her. We wished everyone ,Frohe Weihnachten!” Still in touch with Deborah (Sendelbach) Peters, John Thrash, David Swartz. E-mail: mcpikek@edgertonchurch.com

1972-73 Director John Stickler

Beth (Holthaus) Fogelsong lives in Noblesville, Ind. “My husband and I went on a Danube River cruise in October 2015.... One of our stops was in Linz, where I met up with an Austrian friend whom I have known since my AYA. It was fun to spend the afternoon with her and to revisit this city.”



Rita Myers-Wieringa (r) and Kathy Foreman Dobson in 2013

Rita Myers-Wieringa lives in Santa Fe, N.M., where until her retirement she worked as a registered nurse. She earned a M.A. in German at BGSU in 1976, but has used her German only occasionally, for travel and at the hospital when German/Austrian tourists sought medical treatment. She is currently contracted with the education department at the hospital to teach cardiac and trauma courses. AYA memories: "Our bus trip along the Romantische Straße." She is in contact with Kathy (Foreman) Dobson, Beth (Holthaus) Fogelsang and Kari (Strasser) Pokorny. E-mail: wirehanger5@comcast.com

1973-74
Director Barry Thomas
(Ohio University)

David Griswold lives in Boston. From BGSU he went on to earn an MBA in international business and a doctorate in finance and economics, and is a university lecturer and financial planner. His first job after the MBA was in Stuttgart, where he used his German. For 11 years he taught economics part-time in the MBA program at the University of Reykjavik in Iceland, and is currently a senior lecturer at Boston University's Questrom School of Business and runs his own firm Vantage Point Financial, LLC. AYA memories: Walking along the



David Griswold and his wife Esther

Salzach to class in the early morning, walking along the path on the Mönchsberg in the evening; enjoying the area around Priesterhausgasse. Hitchhiking to Barcelona and Venice.

Mike Hessenauer lives in Dublin, Ohio. Having earned a MBA as well as a M.A., he works as a commercial real estate broker in Columbus. He uses his German "just every once in a while" and advises students of German to supplement their studies with practical training. AYA Memories: "I was in the AYA program over 40 years ago, but it seems magical to me, even now." In contact with Klaus Schmidt, Geoff Howes, Larry Kalb. E-mail: mrh@hessenauer.com

1974-75
Director Boris Matthews

Mara (Shllaku) Bereksi (Spring 1975) lives in Perrysburg, Ohio. Before retiring in June 2015, she taught Spanish and German for 35 years. Now she is enjoying "traveling the world." She is still in contact with "Die Gruppe," the pioneering members of the 1967 summer program: "How can I forget 'die Gruppe'?"

Susanne (Rall) McWhorter lives in Roswell, Ga. She has been working as an international flight attendant (German speaker) for Delta Airlines for nearly 40 years. In their spare time she and her husband train service dogs for the physically disabled. AYA memories: "I remember fondly the excursions we took as a group...and I suppose those trips set the stage for all of my future international travels throughout the world, working for Delta Airlines." She is in contact with Erika Janke, who also lives in the Atlanta area. E-mail: sue.mcwhorter@gmail.com

1975-76
Director Klaus M. Schmidt

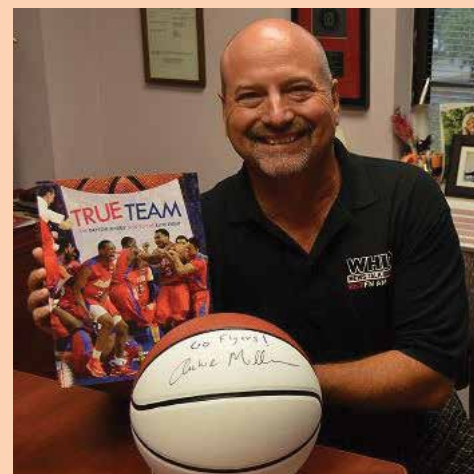
David Dieball lives in Parma, Ohio. He works as a part-time church organist, also playing at some of the German language services at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Cleveland. He recently joined the Cleveland Männerchor. AYA memories: "I used to run in the early morning on the path along the Salzach. What a splendid way to start the day." E-mail: david.dieball@gmail.com

1976-77
Director Margy Gerber

Suzan (Corbacioglu) Arer lives in Adnet, Austria (20 km south of Salzburg) with her husband Kurt (a former AYA faculty member). She works in the administration of the Salzburg Fachhochschule (University of Applied Sciences), where she also teaches English classes. In regard to her using German: "I live it!" She is in contact with Brian Pavlac and Gayle Godek. Reachable on Facebook

Donalee (Sink) Frary lives in Allentown, Pa. She has a M.S. in Leadership and Organizational Development and works for Dale Carnegie as a senior digital online trainer with global clients. She uses German casually with clients, Skypes with German friends, reads German fiction to keep in practice. AYA memories: "I have fond memories of hiking on the Mönchsberg and Untersberg. E-mail: frary@ptd.net

Larry Hansgen lives in Dayton, Ohio, where he has worked as a radio announcer at WHIO Radio for the last 35 years. Larry was recently inducted into the Dayton Area Broadcasters Hall of Fame. Using German: "I help my daughter with her high school German homework and briefly tutored middle school students. We had an intern from Germany at the radio station, and although he spoke fluent English, when he needed someone to confide in he would speak to me auf Deutsch." AYA memories: "I remember our field trip to a dairy farm in the mountains with our geography instructor. We took the train back to Salzburg, at which time he realized he had driven his car to the village near the farm." He keeps in touch with Jim Singh via Facebook. E-mail: larry.hansgen@cmgohio.com



Larry Hansgen – voice of the "Flyers" for WHIO

Brian Pavlac lives near Wilkes-Barre, Pa. He is professor of history at King's College and an Episcopal priest. He is currently co-writing a history of the Holy Roman Empire and doing some translations about witch hunts in Innsbruck. His edited book "Game of Thrones versus History: Written in Blood" will appear next year.

AYA memories: "When I spent a sabbatical month in Salzburg in May 2015, I was constantly reminded of just how beautiful, even magical the city was 40 years ago and still is. To walk in the Fußgängerzone, stroll along the Salzach, wander around the Mönchsberg, stare down from the Festung, pray in the Franziskanerkirche, have a beer in Augustinerbräu, a schnitzel in Sternbräu—all of it just wonderful. Only the Krapfen don't seem as good as they used to be." In contact with Suzan Arrer, Bev Everett, Gayle Godek.

James Singh lives with his family in Hong Kong SAR, China, where he works as asset manager for a hedge fund. He has a M.A. in international development. He is married to an Austrian woman whom he met playing volleyball during the AYA year in Salzburg; they keep a home in Eugendorf, where they visit every summer and winter. He uses German with friends and family there, and with German clients. "I was pleasantly surprised last summer when a friend invited us to dinner at a restaurant near her new apartment and it turned out to be SOG in Nonntal (Erzabt-Klotz-Straße). Ossi (Oskar) Koller has since retired, but the bar we frequented as students is still downstairs, but it looks a lot nicer now. I still enjoy walking in the Linzergasse, by Schwarzes Rößl (our dormitory) in Priesterhausgasse." In touch with Larry Hansgen.



Jim Singh and his family in Mirabell Gardens



Oma Ruta Bloomfield and her grandchildren

1977-78 Director Helmut Gutmann

Stephanie (Lupe) Enlow lives in Seattle, where she works as an engineer and continues to use German. AYA memories: "It turned out to be the best educational experience of my life."

1978-79 Directors Joseph L. Gray/ Helmut Gutmann

Ruta (Zemaitis) Bloomfield lives in Santa Clarita, Calif., where she is a professor of music at The Master's College and a professional harpsichordist. After graduating from BGSU in 1980, she completed a Master of Music degree at Northwestern University, and 25 years later earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in historical performance practices at Claremont Graduate University. She has released two CDs of harpsichord music (Bernard de Bury and J.S. Bach) and published a critical edition of the music of de Bury. AYA memories: Singing in a choir during the Mozartwoche. In contact with Bev Everett, Gayle Godek, Chris Zerull, Jeanine (Bartlett) Waisala.

Leslie (Kosel) Eckstein (grad.) lives in Tampa, Fla., where she is an associate professor of English for Academic Purposes (ESL) at Hillsborough Community College. AYA memories: "The second semester I lived in the FPÖ Heim, which housed members of two fencing fraternities (schlagende Verbindungen). At a rare "Damenabend" in their chambers in the Getreidegasse they showed me pictures of members before, during, and after their fencing initiations into the fraternity. Indeed several

residents of the dorm had the obligatory 'Schmiss' (fencing scar) on their faces." She is in contact with Beverly Everett, Kathy Best, Gayle Godek, Elsa and Helmut Gutmann. Leslie has recently bequeathed funds to the Shllaku Scholarship Fund (see the donor/scholarships section).

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

Kevin Settlege lives with his family in Potomac, Md., where he teaches English. His oldest son graduated in May from Northeastern University with a degree in finance. AYA memories: "I fondly remember the camaraderie among students at the guys' dorm, Schwarzes Rößl. We spent many hours together playing games ... and having parties in both the common areas and in our rooms. My classmates were some of the best and most caring friends I have ever had." E-mail: ksettlege@yahoo.com

Jeanine (Bartlett) Waisala lives in Aurora, Ohio. With a master's in music education, she had expected "to direct choirs" but instead taught German for seven years at a private school. To have more time for music she now teaches German part time, teaching piano at home and at Baldwin-Wallace, and directing children's musicals. AYA memories: "Just that I am so thankful for the experience. I never would be teaching German now or returning to Germany so often without it. I still have a real love for Austria."

Mindy Willer lives in North Potomac, Md. Having earned a MBA degree she works as a banker. She and her husband have three sons and became grandparents last February. E-mail: wilhob@gmail.com

1979-80 Director Klaus M. Schmidt

Ellen (Ferguson) Broadwell (grad.) lives in Oberlin, Ohio, where she is a librarian at Oberlin College. She uses German in her library work. Her husband is a painting contractor and long-term member of the Oberlin City Council. They have two grown children. AYA memories: "I have so many memories of Salzburg, but I always think of walking in the city, along the river, in the Altstadt, in out-of-the-way places." In contact with Dori Reinhardt.

Cathleen (Johnson) Holman lives in St. Marys, Ga., where she sells real estate. Taking advantage of the increasing German presence in Florida, she advertises in German newspapers to call attention to the Southern Georgia real estate market. Cathy has long been involved with exchange programs, hosting German students and families, and taking part in the Rotary Club's adult exchange program with German businessmen. "It was awesome to be able to speak German with my counterparts when they recently visited here." She will now spend a month with the Rotary Club in Hanover. AYA memories: "Most memorable moment was attending the Salzburg Festspielhaus for the first time. Nothing can prepare you for the impact of that moment."

Christine Klosterman lives in Findlay, Ohio. With a master's in music, she taught music in public schools until her recent retirement. She is now a freelance violinist and teacher. In the summer of 2014 she travelled in Austria and Bavaria and was pleasantly surprised how quickly her German came back. "Best thing to do: get on the train and strike up a conversation, in German, of course!" AYA memories: Living in Schloss Frohnburg on the Hellbrunner Allee, "attending the Mozarteum was superb." E-mail: kloster.chris@gmail.com and on Facebook

Karin (Wahl) Walker lives in Toledo, Ohio, where she teaches English language arts at the middle-school level. Since her parents were born and raised in Germany, she still uses German in the family. Her husband and their two daughters all studied at BGSU. AYA memories: "I will always remember celebrating Thanksgiving in Salzburg with my director and my new group of friends. Also, climbing to the top of the Gaisberg, what a beautiful view!" E-mail: kwalker@evgvikings.org



Karin Walker (I) with her family in Austria



Gerrie McManamon and the band Chittenden Hotel

1982-83 Director Helmut Gutmann

Kristina (Heider) Günsche lives in Olathe, Kansas. She works as a German teacher and librarian. She speaks German regularly with her German husband and family. AYA memories: "I did not address an esteemed professor with all the s.g. Herr Dr. Dr. Dr...that he was due and he fussed at me for being a 'respektlose Amerikanerin'." She is in contact with Melissa Dunn Waegemans and Lindsay Childress-Beatty. E-mail: kguensche@gmx.net

Gerrie McManamon lives in Columbus, Ohio. She will retire in June after 27 years teaching German (and Russian) in Toledo (three years) and then in Columbus. In the early 1990s she co-wrote and taught the first grade FLES curriculum for the Toledo public schools. After retiring she will help develop a private charter school (K-5 or 6) which will focus on global and language studies. "It just seems to me that a country that considers itself a global power should encourage its citizens to be culturally competent." Gerrie and her husband, Edward Needum, play in several Ska/Reggae bands. AYA memories: "Living in Schwarzes Rößl. It was a very welcoming place. I always felt at home there. Herr Roemer (Rest in Peace) was always there to greet me and chat with me when I passed through the foyer." Gerrie is in contact with Amy Thomson and Rayme Marcozzi. Reachable on Facebook.

Brett Porter lives in Dublin, Ohio. He works as a registered nurse. Being able to communicate in German comes in handy because many of his older patients are originally from Germany. AYA memories: "Salzburg will always hold a special place in my heart not only for the time spent there as a student but later when I proposed to my wife in the Schloss Mirabell Gardens." E-mail: bporter8@columbus.rr.com

1984-85 Director Klaus M. Schmidt

Laurie McLary lives in Portland, Ore.; she is a professor of German at the University of Portland, where she has been honored for her teaching. (See Special Recognition section). In 2015 she was named the CASE Carnegie Oregon Professor of the Year. Starting in July 2016 she will be associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Laurie frequently directs the University of Portland's summer study program in Salzburg. AYA memories: "Reading Georg Trakl's 'Die schöne Stadt' for the first time in a seminar with our Austrian professor; long walks down the Hellbrunner Allee to Schloss Hellbrunn. I continue to do research on Georg Trakl." In touch with Paul Rubenson. E-mail: mclary@op.edu

1985-86 Director Margy Gerber

Amy (Thomson) Wexler lives in Toledo, Ohio, where she works at the ITT Technical Institute helping IT, CAD and electronics students find jobs. In the past she used her German regularly when she was a product specialist for Sabre Travel in Moscow, Russia. Aeroflot was a client and, although Russian was the generally used language, she reported in to Frankfurt and Hamburg in German. AYA memories: "too many memories to remember. Rayme [Marcozzi] and Brian [Gingerich] singing for us was tops, Thanksgiving dinners, hiking the Gaisberg, and skiing with the Salzburger Nachrichten Schibus." In touch with Kathy Schwarz, Rayme Marcozzi, Judy Lindsey, Dave Grunwald. Reachable via Facebook and LinkedIn.

Gerrie McManamon (grad., see undergrad year 1983-84)

1986-87 Director Helmut Gutmann

Nancy L. Harmon lives in Stuttgart, Germany. With her master's in international relations, she works as translator/interpreter for high-level United States and foreign government officials. Her five children have all studied German. "They understand much more than I did at their ages, the oldest daughter is almost fluent." AYA memories: "One

of the best memories I have from Salzburg was the visit to the mountain farmer family in the Alps. What an amazing way to live!"

Ellin Iselin lives in Jacksonville, Fla., where she is a professor of humanities at Florida State College at Jacksonville. "I have spoken to my son in German since he was born." AYA memories: "The first evening upon arriving in Salzburg, I went to the "Altstadt" with other AYA members. With the night lights on the Salzach and the Festung in the background, I felt I was experiencing the most beautiful place I had ever seen." In contact with Stephanie Nelson Owen and Janee Kaufman Wieser.
E-mail: ellin_iselin@hotmail.com; also Facebook

Laurie McLary (grad., see undergrad year 1984-85)

1987-88 Director Klaus M. Schmidt

Mark Gustafson (grad.) lives in Euless, Texas, where he is a human resources information systems analyst for American Airlines. Knowing German and French got him the job with AA right after completing his M.A. degree at BGSU in 1989. Working for AA, he has been able to travel extensively. "I have visited Salzburg at Thanksgiving time for the last three years. I LOVE to be there for the Christkindmarkt. I've enjoyed visiting Austrian and American friends there, rediscovering the city and visiting sites and museums I hadn't experienced before. Looking forward to another visit this November." In contact with Judi Lindsey Nath, Kim Scherer, Kathy Schwartz Crooks, Amy Thomson Wexler, Patty Conlon, Klaus Schmidt, Sandra Hahn.
E-mail: weaintgotdat@sbcglobal.net

Amy (Thomson) Wexler (grad., see undergrad year 1985-86)

1988-89 Director Margy Gerber

Amy Bruckner lives in Cleveland, Ohio, where she is a buyer/planner in the automotive industry. She uses German almost daily, travelling to Germany for work every couple of years. She recently returned



from a business trip to Düsseldorf. AYA memories: "Parties in the Rössl, Hotel Traube, Billrothheim. Schnaitl Pub. Backpacking on school breaks. My Austrian boyfriend Fritz. The mountains." Reachable on Facebook

1989-90 Director Geoffrey Howes

Todd Ahrens (grad.) lives with his wife Amy Craft Ahrens (also an AYA alum) in Bowling Green. He is the director of development for the Toledo Museum of Art. He and Amy were last in Salzburg in 2014 after a bicycle trip in Switzerland. Todd is still in contact with his Austrian roommate, who lives in Salzburg and works for the auction house Dorotheum. "We both ended up working for arts organizations." In contact with Patty Conlon, Amy Bruckner, Julie Giffin, Dom Marrone, Carol Kremer, Mary Beth Backus, Jill Sommer, Mark Wright, Eva (Schott) McMasters.

Mary Beth (Dibling) Backus lives in Lusby, Md. She was a linguist in the Air Force immediately after graduation from BGSU and then taught German for two years in a middle school in New Jersey. Currently she works for OMNITEC Solutions, Inc. as scheduler and program controller of Department of Defense projects. She is almost finished with her master's degree in data analytics. In contact with Patty Conlon, Jill Sommer, Todd Ahrens, Denise Freund, Dom Marrone, Amy Bruckner, Carol Kremer, Julie Giffin.

E-mail: Mbackus@hotmail.com

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

Gregory Dykhouse (grad.) lives with his wife and three children in Holland, Mich., where he has been teaching history and some German at the Black River Public School, a charter school, since its inception in 1996-97. He directed a dramatic staging of Nestroy's "Der Talisman" in English, which harks back to the topic of his doctoral dissertation in theatre at Louisiana State University: Popular theater in 18th and 19th century Vienna. AYA memories: "Running in and around Salzburg, attending theatre performances."

1991-92 Director Margy Gerber

Renate (Muller) Wildermuth (grad.) lives with her husband David Wildermuth (AYA 1993-94) and their two children in Shippensburg, Pa. She teaches German as an adjunct lecturer at Shippensburg University and, as a freelance writer, has published three books (two set in Germany) under the pseudonyms Adria Townsend and J.S. Laurenz (see the Special Recognition section). In contact with Paula Sliefert, Janet Holley, Pat Miller, Joe Hracs, Stefan Meyer.
E-mail: WholeOtherStory@gmail.com



The Wildermuths

1992-93

Director Christina Guenther

Brian Pfaltzgraff (grad.) lives in Waverly, Iowa. With his doctorate in musical arts, he is an associate professor of voice and chair of the Music Department at Wartburg College. He directs Wartburg College's internship program in Eisenach, Thuringia (Waverly's sister city), which involves a month-long stay and travel every May. A Goethe-Institut fellowship in October 2015 "was a great way to refresh what Eva Stuppnik-Bazzanella taught me in the Akademiestraße." AYA memories: "The warm welcome that Christina Guenther, Deanna Gladieux and Sharon Johnson-Riegler extended to my wife, Carita. They helped Carita find a direction for her days while I was in class." E-mail: brian.pfaltzgraff@wartburg.edu

Renate (Muller) Wildermuth (2nd yr. grad. – see 1991-92)

1993-94

Director Geoffrey Howes

Tara Campbell (grad.) lives in Washington, D.C., where she is a freelance writer. After completing the M.A. program, she returned to Austria for two years as director of admissions for Webster University in Vienna. Her current writing project involves an ethnographic exhibition in Vienna that she learned about through Peter Altenberg's "Aschantee", which she read for her M.A. thesis. In contact with Gregor and Pamela Thuswaldner, David and Renate Wildermuth, Gregory Woods, Catherine Artemis Edgington, Brendan Grady, Monica Espitia, Adam Bartelmay. Reachable via Facebook: CampbellTaraP

Monica (Drew) Espitia lives in Manhattan. A librarian with a master's in library and information science, she has worked in the cataloging, acquisition, and collection maintenance of materials for the Harvard Law School Library (1997-2004), Harvard College Library (2004-2006), Columbia Law School Library (2006-2015), and currently for the Columbia University Libraries (2015-2016). AYA memories: "The joy of hearing Mozarteum students practicing in the neighboring rooms of Hotel Traube; late night runs to the incomparably tasty (& wallet-friendly) Heiße Kiste on Linzer Gasse; idyllic views of the Festung from the

Kapuzinerberg; the tremendous peal of church bells while traversing the Mönchsberg path." In contact with Tara Campbell, Kimberly (Hoppert) Carey, Alexander Sager. E-mail: m.espitany@yahoo.com

Lisa McCallum (grad.) lives in St. Paul, Minn., where she works as an ESL teacher of adults. E-mail: lkmccallum09@gmail.com

Alexander Sager (grad.) lives in Athens, Ga., where he has been teaching German at the University of Georgia since 1999. He has been married since 2003 and has a six-year-old son. AYA memories: "Jogs up the Gaisberg. Midnight bike rides through the countryside around Salzburg. Declaiming German poetry from the walls of the Kapuzinerberg. Trips to Freilassing with my Austrian floormates to buy cigars. Said floormates attempting (and failing) to convince me to visit a brothel in the Steingasse with them. Introducing Austrians to peanut butter. Babysitting Geoff and Christen's son Coleman. Many a great conversation with Geoff about German literature. My first course on Middle High German, which I ended up specializing in for my doctorate. Embarrassing myself on a date with an Austrian by squeezing lemon into tea with cream. Running the Vienna marathon. Hanging out with students from the Mozarteum." In contact with Geoff Howes, Terry Brennan, Andrew Livingston, Astrid Bayr, Kim Gardner.

1994-95

Director Margy Gerber

Nick Busse (grad.) lives in Toledo, Ohio, where he works as a financial analyst. After receiving his M.A. in German at BGSU, he taught German for two years in Bloomington, Minn., before moving to Toledo. AYA memories: "I remember riding my bike all over Salzburg at all times of the day or night, and no matter where I was there were beautiful views; such a panoramic city!" E-mail: ndbusse@juno.com

Kristy (Beers) Fägersten (grad.) lives with her Swedish husband and their three children in Stockholm, where, after teaching at various Swedish and German universities, she has been at Södertörn University since 2010. She was recently promoted to full professor of English linguistics. Kristy earned her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Florida. AYA memories: "I have

wonderful, amazing, and hilarious memories of my year there. I was back in Salzburg just a couple of years ago, and it was as beautiful as ever. And sometimes very ordinary things or moments will suddenly transport me back – music, especially." E-mail: kristy.beers.fagersten@sh.se

David Hammers lives in Strongsville, Ohio, where he teaches 7th grade social studies and English. AYA memories: "There was that time I fell down the Gaisberg...." In contact with Dee Rooney, Kristy Beers, Jason Walter, Nick Busse, Erin Christian, Tricia Riley. E-mail: teirdal@hotmail.com

Michelle Jacksier (grad.) lives in Chicago and works in financial communications. "I read quite a bit of German still...I started my career in corporate communications because I spoke German, but it has been a while since I've used the language professionally." AYA memories: "I still consider my time in Salzburg to be the happiest year of my life. I suppose having the good fortune of living in Hotel Traube (RIP) had a lot to do with it. I seem to have lost Paul Heinrichs somewhere around Katsdorf. Anyone know how to find him?" In contact with Nick Busse, Glen Freyman, Amy Young, Jason Walter and Jamie Bernhardt. E-mail: mjacksier@gmail.com and Facebook

Deirdra Rooney lives in Strongsville, Ohio, where she works as a product manager. "Although I do not use my German today (forgot most of it), the experience provided me with confidence and knowledge I otherwise would not have. Living far away from home (both actual home and country) taught me very important life lessons. I learned more about my own country outside of the U.S. The experience made me a better person and better citizen." AYA memories: "Playing games in the common room of our dorm with a host of international friends. We spoke a combination of German and English. It was probably the most fun I have ever had!" In contact with David Hammers, who lives nearby.

Tricia (Riley) Terlep lives in Kensington, Md., with her husband and three daughters. She has a doctorate in audiology and works in a private practice. She speaks German occasionally with patients from Germany and Austria. In contact with Missy Washtok Weisenburger, Erin Christian Golsen and Jason Walter.

Melinda Van House (grad.) lives in Lawrence, Kansas. After earning her M.A. in German and teaching high school German for 10 years, she changed to international education and is now an education program specialist in the Applied English Center of the University of Kansas. She is working on a second M.A. in higher education administration. In contact with Nick Busse.
E-mail: nimpke@yahoo.com

Jason Walter (grad.) lives in New Orleans, where he is a chef. He frequently encounters travelers, co-workers and other professionals from German-speaking countries.

"Being familiar with recipes, dishes and traditions from other countries has given me a very broad palette to paint with. Not to mention when I make beer, I know how it should taste, lol!" AYA memories: Spending Easter with the family of an apartment-mate. "Her dad was an internationally known wine collector, who I really hit it off with. He gave me a bottle of liquid sunshine from his private stash, used my pipe as an excuse to smoke cigars in the house, and ate the ears off my chocolate bunny. That, and I got naked on stage once for a play in Billrothheim."



In contact with Bill Weisenburger, Amy Young Nick Busse, Michelle Jacksier, Virginia Cooper, Dave Hammers, Missy Weisenburger, Tricia Riley Terlep, Jill Sommer Stchur.
E-mail: chesenwalter@hotmail.com

Amy Young (grad.) lives in Pella, Iowa, where she is an associate professor (recently tenured) of German at Central College. She earned her M.A. in German at BGSU, her Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska. She will be on sabbatical in the summer and fall 2016.

1995-96 Director Margy Gerber

Paula Steinker (grad.) lives in Bowling Green, and is a retired professor of geology at BGSU.

1996-97 Director Klaus M. Schmidt

Mike Bartz (grad.) lives in Tomah, Wis., where he is a German teacher.
E-mail: mabukajr@hotmail.com

Shannon V.H. (Hebel) Parry lives in Alexandria, Va. After graduating from BGSU she attended Georgetown University and then joined the U.S. government as a German language analyst, translating and interpreting for national security matters; currently she is in a leadership position for Foreign Language Operations, Training, and Protocol with the Intelligence Program. AYA memories: "I enjoyed living in St. Sebastian on the Linzergasse—just up the street from the river and the cafes."

1998-99 Director Geoffrey Howes

Michael Fahlander (grad.) lives in Urbandale, Iowa, where he is a stay-at-home dad. His wife is expecting their fifth child in September. AYA memories: "Chris Stergar and I had to help Billy Barnes one night."
E-mail: fahlander@q.com/Facebook

E. Kirk Ross (grad.) lives in Toledo with his wife Kate O'Leary Ross (AYA 1987-88, 1998-99) and their children. An attorney and certified trust and financial advisor, he is the director of gift planning at BGSU. He has used German in nearly every job he has had, primarily in the financial sector. Their oldest daughter is about to take her first German class at BGSU as a high school student. "AYA is only a few years away for her." In contact with Billy Barnes. E-mail: ekirkross@hotmail.com



Kirk and Kate O'Leary Ross and their children

1999-2000 Director Kristie Foell

Reka Barabas (grad.) lives in Cleveland with her husband Jeffrey Moore (AYA 1999-2000) and their two daughters, who are also learning Hungarian. She works as a program and market manager at a business education nonprofit organization. "We visited Salzburg twice in the last few years and were able to run into 'old' friends: Billy and Anna Barnes, Dr. Howes, Linda Van Blaricom." In contact with Cynthia Roberts, Cathy DeFever, Sandro Alisic.

Summer Program 2001

Norene Holmes lives in Lima, Ohio and has a master's in applied linguistics and works as a language teacher, currently teaching ESOL to adults in Apollo's ABLE/GED/ESOL program in Allen County, Ohio. Memories: "Walking to and from the Lehreraus, field trips, especially to the salt mine, riding on the local buses and noticing an Aldi symbol, but the name was Hofer, viewing the Salzach, taking lots of pictures, spending time in the home of a local family...wonderful concerts, the opening of the Salzburg Festival and watching "Jedermann" – good memories.
E-mail: norene.holmes@wcoil.com

2003-04 Director Edgar Landgraf

Ashley (Wheeler) Lavalette lives in Toledo, Ohio. Until recently, when she and her husband adopted two children, Ashley worked as an international student academic and immigration advisor in college and university communities in Toledo. In 2017 they will move to Glasgow, Scotland to help start a church through a ministry to poor communities there. In contact with Jessie Adams McLeod and Jessie Tantardini.
E-mail: acwheeler@gmail.com and on Facebook

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

2006-07

Director Kristie Foell

Jennica Magers (grad.) lives in Ft. Sill, Okla. She is a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery. After completing her training she will be a Patriot Platoon Leader stationed in Ft. Hood, Texas. For the NATO portion of the training, she has German Luftwaffe instructors and follows along with the German notes, "an advantage my classmates do not have." Her language skills will influence her future duty stations and career opportunities. AYA memories: "One of my favorite memories is when Don Vosburg, Brandy (Carr) Businger, and I attempted to climb the Untersberg – without first checking the weather conditions. Upon hitting snow we trudged on for another two hours or so, but never made it to the top. Despite our failure, it was still a great experience." In contact with Fredrick Hadding.

Amanda Scherer lives in Saint Paul, Minn., where she is the assistant director of leadership gifts at Augsburg College. E-mail: amandascherer88@gmail.com

2007-2008

Director Edgar Langraf

Laura Van Fossen lives in New Albany, Ind., where she is a program developer at Corydon Capitol State Historical Site. She occasionally gives tours to German visitors when they speak little English, and also uses German in singing performances. She married this May. AYA memories: "I love springtime in Salzburg. Despite all the rain, it's still beautiful." E-mail: sail.on.by@gmail.com and Facebook

2008-09

Director Theodore Rippey

Tim Cable (grad.) lives in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. He works as a technical editor at Pepperl+Fuchs, a German-based, international company specialized in industrial sensors and explosion protection in process automation.

2012-13

Director Stefan Fritsch

Dana Deal (grad.) lives in Orlando, Fla., where she teaches high school German. After completing her M.A. in German (2014) she spent some time in Helen, Ga. at the Volkswagen/German car enthusiast event SoWo – an American version of Southern Wörthersee. She has also transcribed and translated early German immigrant recordings from the Ellis Island Museum. AYA memories: "My favorite excursion was snowshoeing in Hohentauern National Park. Being from Florida I didn't think I would like the cold, snowy weather, but it was great!" In contact with Laura Hoesman and Sam Hohneke. E-mail: dana.marie.deal@gmail.com and Facebook

Renee C. Miller (grad.) lives in Columbus, Ohio, where she works for the Ohio State Highway Patrol. In addition to her M.A. in German she has a master's in criminal justice. She returns frequently to BGSU to do a murder mystery for the German Club. AYA memories: "All of it was great. I would go again in a heartbeat."

2013-14

**Directors Christina Guenther/
Geoffrey Howes**

James Allen Jenkins (Sp 2014) lives in Westlake, Ohio. He is in the military. AYA memories: "The Berlin trip was a lot of fun. Dr. Howes was very knowledgeable and kept us busy with plenty to do. The group took a day-trip to Leipzig, not knowing that there was a huge Gothic festival going on that weekend. Definitely gave a unique feel to a very traditional, historic city..." E-mail: jjenkin3@citadel.edu

William Whitesmith (Sp 2014) lives in Westerville, Ohio. He is a student at BGSU. In contact with Emily Skorupski, Noel Welch, Shaydon Ramey.

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

Dr. Bobby Blankenship

(AYA 2003-04) has received a tenure-track appointment as assistant professor of German at California State University Long Beach.

Janet Holley

(AYA 1991-92), high school German teacher in Stafford County, Virginia was selected Teacher of the Quarter by students in the school's National Honor Society.

Dr. Janet (Brozic) Kinch

(1980-81), professor of English at Edinboro University, Edinboro, Pa., donated books to the GREAL library, some of which are being used as prizes for the best students of German.

Dr. Laura McLary

(AYA 1984-85, 1986-87), professor of German at the University of Portland, was named Oregon Professor of the Year by the national Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the International Council for the Advancement and Support of Education in November 2015. To appreciate why Laura was so highly honored for her teaching, watch her presentation on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9RVgzkKrwGI>

Dr. Judi Lindsley Nath

(AYA 1987-88), professor of biology at Lourdes University, Sylvania, Ohio, and author of anatomy/physiology and medical terminology textbooks: *Using Medical Terminology: A Practical Approach*, *Fundamentals of Anatomy & Physiology* (Co-author), has been appointed writer-in-residence at Lourdes.

Renate Wildermuth

(AYA 1991-3), freelance writer and adjunct lecturer of German at Shippensburg University, has recently published her third book, *Home Sweet Stranger*, under the pseudonym Adria Townsend. The prose text, set in post-Wende Germany, tells of a woman's return to the East to reclaim her childhood home, only to find that a childhood friend has made a claim of his own.

DIRECTOR UPDATES

Dr. Kristie Foell

I began studying Arabic following my first trip to Egypt (from Salzburg) in 2007. Since that time I've made numerous trips back and spent my most recent sabbatical year in Egypt in 2012-13, with two unexpected results: not only did I witness the second Egyptian revolution, the "Tamarod" movement that ousted Mohammed Morsi; I also married Egyptian Ragab Taie and am now working on a visa for him to come to the U.S. These experiences have fundamentally altered my perceptions of the encounter between "Islam and the West" that has played such a central role in recent headlines across Europe, and I've been able to bring those insights into a course on Turkish-German film that I just taught for the third time. This summer I'll be giving a paper on Fatih Akin's recent film, "The Cut", at a conference in Berlin. . . . and I will finally travel to Istanbul, which is where I had intended to go when I took that first trip to Egypt.

This fall I'll be working with the German teachers and AYA alums Libby (Heineman) Dulaney and Gene Aufderhaar as part of the College Credit Plus program that allows high school teachers to offer college credit for their courses.

Dr. Christina Guenther

In August 2015, I returned from Salzburg after a rich and rewarding seventh year as director of our Salzburg program. This summer I'm teaching a Holocaust course for the BGSU history department, which is proving to be a challenge. I am looking forward to the fall when I will serve as scholar-in-residence at BGSU's Institute for the Study of Culture and Society. I will be able to focus on my interests in migration and (transnational) memory studies and, in that context, plan to expand my work on Austrian writer Julia Rabinowich's transnational poetics. I also plan to take part in an interdisciplinary migration conference here at BGSU, which should help launch our brand new European Studies MA program.

Dr. John Stickler

Until a few years ago Norma and I owned a house on a small lake in Michigan where we spent most of the warmer months, coming back to BG as necessary. There was a nice community of neighbors, and I enjoyed fishing, especially for bass. We have missed being there. Here in BG I have been pursuing a variety of interests, often by going through the Great Courses, on subjects in the sciences, history and more. Norma does this too, and between us we have accumulated about two dozen such courses. Norma also belongs to Women's Club where she is often an officer, to a book club, and to the Shakespeare Round Table, now in its 110th year of existence. In this connection we have been going every summer to Stratford, Ontario to see plays at the Shakespeare Festival – plays by the Bard, as well as other playwrights, and we have enjoyed their musical performances as well. Otherwise, except for an occasional trip to Chicago where my sister lives, we are not traveling much. A few years ago, we did take a 10-day trip to England where we visited London and Stratford On Avon. I marked my 80th birthday a few months ago, and the present slow pace suits me. Best wishes to all!

Students Benefit from Fund Awards

The Department of German, Russian, East Asian Languages gratefully acknowledges the donors to the Dzidra Shllaku Scholarship Fund and the Foell International Travel Award Fund. Their generosity enabled seven students to live and study in Salzburg in 2015-16.

Donors to the Shllaku Scholarship Fund 2015-16

Ms. Tara Campbell
Dr. Narbeth R. Emmanuel/Mrs. Ann Emmanuel
Mrs. Leslie K. Eckstein
Dr. Margy J. Gerber
Dr. Geoffrey C. Howes/Ms. Christen A. Giblin
Mrs. Meghan N. Kollas
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Dr. William L. Weis/Mrs. Marilyn J. Roy

The Dzidra Shllaku Scholarship Fund, which was established in 1998 by former students of Dr. Shllaku, supports undergraduate BGSU students in all majors. The fund was endowed in 2003. Interest generated from the endowment provides an annual spendable amount to award as scholarships. Since 1998 almost 60 BGSU students have received a Dzidra Shllaku Scholarship award for study in Salzburg. Currently, four BGSU students are supported each year. The 2016-17 stipend for the two-semester program will be \$1,200. The longterm goal is to increase the stipend to \$2,000.

Donors to the Foell International Travel Award Fund 2015-16

Mr. Darrell W. Foell/Mrs. Sally A. Foell

The Foell Travel Award Fund, which was created in memory of Margaret Kaesmann Foell, supports students from any university for study with BGSU's AYA Austria program and is based on merit. It awards scholarships of \$850.

AYA Austria newsletters from 1971 through 2015 are available online at the BGSU AYA Austria website: www.bgsu.edu/AYAnewsletters



New AYA scholarship fund established

The Department of German, Russian, East Asian Languages announces the creation of a **third** AYA Austria scholarship fund, the **Galen and Katja Koepke Study Abroad Scholarship**. The first student supported by the fund will go to Salzburg this coming fall.

The Koepkes in Südtirol



Galen Koepke (AYA Austria undergrad, 1971-72) went on to earn his M.A. in German at BGSU, where he met his wife Katja, who, having spent her junior year in Heidelberg with Heidelberg College, was also studying in the master's program. After graduate school Galen worked for a year in New York City with a commodities brokerage firm and then moved back to Ohio in 1977 to take over the family business. He owns a crop insurance agency and manages and operates a 500-acre grain farm near Oak Harbor, Ohio, where the Koepkes also live.

Katja Koepke taught high school German for two years in Sandusky, Ohio, before accepting full-time employment with the amusement park Cedar Point. While working as its human resources director for 20 years, she initiated a J-1 Visa Work and Travel Program with CIEE, the Council on International Educational Exchange, bringing more than 10,000 international students to work summers at the park. After more than 34 seasons, Katja retired from Cedar Point in 2008 and accepted a post-retirement human resources position with a Sandusky-based credit union, where she worked until 2015.

Participating in their respective Junior Year Abroad programs stoked Galen and Katja's "Wanderlust," and they have traveled together extensively in Europe, Asia, Africa and South America. Among the highlights have been hiking the Inca Trail, trekking in the Himalayas, and visiting the Galapagos Islands. The Koepkes also travel frequently to Germany to visit Katja's relatives.

"We strongly believe that the opportunity to live and study in Europe, to become immersed in a foreign language and culture, can be a defining experience for any university student. It was for both of us as undergraduates. And so, we are pleased to be able to assist BGSU students in taking advantage of the extraordinary opportunity to live and study in Salzburg with the University's AYA Austria program."

DONATIONS TO ALL THREE FUNDS – the Shllaku Scholarship Fund, the Foell International Travel Award Fund, and the Galen and Katja Koepke Study Abroad Scholarship – can be made online: www.bgsu.edu/give

Or by mail to: BGSU Foundation, Inc., 132 Administration Building, Bowling Green, Ohio 43403

Estate gift is first for AYA program

Leslie Kosel Eckstein (AYA 1978-79) has bequeathed a portion of her estate to the Dzidra Shllaku Scholarship Fund.

After she completed her MA in German at BGSU, Leslie went back to Austria as a Fulbright teaching assistant at the 1. Bundesgymnasium in Klagenfurt. The one-year appointment turned into two, and then she remained in Austria another four years, teaching at the Austrian-American Society and giving guest lectures at the Klagenfurt Pädagogisches Institut, among other things. She later worked for the Salzburg-based company Young Austria, which organized summer camps in the Alps. She became the director of their English camp in Obertauern, where she spent 10 summers from 1986 to 1995. In the meantime, she moved back to the States and received a second master's from BGSU in English/TESL. She currently lives in Tampa, Fla., where she is an associate professor of English for Academic Purposes (ESL) at Hillsborough Community College.

"I firmly believe that once you live in a foreign country – live, eat and breathe the language of that country, you are never the same again. I know I wasn't. In brief, I am the person I am, in large part, because of the



experiences I had while participating in the AYA program. Once you have been bitten by the knowledge bug, you only desire to learn more and more. While I am by no means a wealthy woman, I am rich in experiences, and I hope that

including the Dzidra Shllaku Scholarship Fund in my will enables future BGSU students to experience what I did."

Two Generations of AYA Austria Participants in One Family?

When a program has existed for almost 50 years, it's certainly possible for participants in the earlier groups to have children who also went to Salzburg to study. We know of two such cases, and think there may be more. In future AYA Austria newsletters we would like to tell their stories. Please step up if you are such a family or know of others!

2015-16 Scholarship Recipients

Codey Lee Albers (Junior, German & Communication)
Peter Funk (Junior, German)
Samantha Hudson (Junior, German)
Malorie Spencer (Sophomore, German, International Business & Supply Chain Management)
Jennifer Wohlgamuth (Junior, German & International Studies)
William Lee Bosch (Sophomore, German & International Business)
Tyler E. Burg (Senior, German & Audio Recording)

SAMANTHA HUDSON (SHLLAKU AWARD)

June is almost upon us, and as the months I have left in Salzburg dwindle down to a scant handful of weeks, I often find myself reflecting on my stay here. The very first day I arrived in Salzburg, it took my breath away. The graceful Salzach river with its pastel blue-green tint; Salzburg's grand church towers and the sonorous chiming of bells; the colorful and ancient buildings of the Altstadt, and the whole of it crowned by the towering fortress: Salzburg seemed almost unreal to me, more like a fairy tale city than an actual place.

My opinion about Salzburg's beauty has not changed, but many other things about me certainly have. Not only has my German improved, but I can tell that I have grown as a person. This year has been full of firsts for me, and each of the new experiences has helped make me into a more adventurous and confident person. It has also been a year when I have come to know a myriad of people from many different backgrounds. From my Austrian friends to the refugees that I have been helping, to fellow students in the Bowling Green program, I have been given the chance to see the world from dozens of different points of view. Getting to know these people has unquestionably made me more open-minded and readily accepting of those who are different from me.

This year has been absolutely amazing; it will almost certainly leave a permanent imprint on me, and the memories I have made here will stay with me for life. With that in mind, I am thankful every day for those who made this trip possible for me.

MALORIE SPENCER (SHLLAKU AWARD)

I cannot express how grateful I am to have had the opportunity to spend a year going to school in Salzburg. The months have flown by so quickly, and it is difficult to believe that it is almost time to go back to Ohio. I love it here so much that I have sometimes felt a sort of anti-homesickness whenever I think about leaving. The people I have met here, the classes I've had, the adventures I've gone on, and the culture I've been surrounded by have brought out the best in me; I am more confident, adventurous, independent, and open-minded, and I am quite proud of how much I have grown as a person. I will leave Europe with countless unforgettable memories and valuable lessons learned. I came here

with the intention of improving my German language capabilities, which I most definitely have done; sometimes I accidentally start thinking in German in the middle of some sentence I'm speaking in English and cannot remember the English word I am looking for – what an odd but satisfying problem to have. Salzburg immediately felt like home to me, and I am absolutely certain that I will return here in the future, hopefully the near future. I'd love to work here. I'd love to live here. I just absolutely love it here! So thanks a million times over to everyone who made it possible for me to come to Salzburg.



Malorie Spencer, Jennifer Wohlgamuth, Samantha Hudson, l-r

WILLIAM LEE KUAN VENG BOSCH (FOELL AWARD)

Over the course of my semester in Salzburg I have had many positive experiences. I won't lie, it was not all smooth sailing and sunshine, but without a doubt, it was well worth it. I have made many new friends, foreign and American, learned much about new cultures, and put my German to the test. Frankly, the latter is far from perfect. Traveling abroad gives you a wider global perspective, makes you adjust to new cultures and witness your own culture from an outsider's perspective. Being able to discuss and debate with Austrians, Germans, French, and others gives you an ever larger appreciation of other countries, and even makes you question moving back to the States. I often think of my experiences, and am thankful for the Foell Scholarship. I highly recommend participating in the program, even if the curriculum doesn't offer classes in your major.

CODEY LEE ALBERS

Dear Donors to the Shllaku Scholarship Fund,

Thank you so much for affording me this amazing opportunity to learn a second language, absorb a new culture and become part of the global community. During the two semesters in Salzburg I've developed a passion for languages. Had I not been able to live and study in Austria, and to travel to other European countries while I was here, I would never have known how much I love languages.



Victorious Codey

JENNIFER WOHLGAMUTH (FOELL AWARD)

I would like to say a huge thank you for the generous Foell Scholarship that I received so that I could study abroad. This experience has changed me in so many ways, more than I could possibly imagine. Not only was I given the opportunity to learn about a new culture and improve my German language skills, but I also had the opportunity to learn personally about myself and grow in ways I didn't know were possible. I am a different person because of this program, and without the gracious scholarship provided for me, I wouldn't be the person I am today.

For the 2016-17 academic year seven students have been awarded scholarships for the AYA Austria program.

Shllaku Fund:

Andrea Danzinger. German, Political Science
Lucas Liner. Psychology, German
McKayla Raines. International Studies
Wing Sze Liu (Kailei). Three-Dimensional Studies

Koepke Study Abroad Scholarship

Celina Penn. German

Foell Fund:

Emily Fitzpatrick, Iowa State. Integrated Studio Arts & German
Ellice Lueders, Bowdoin College. History