
AYA Austria Alumni Newsletter

Summer 2010

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From 2009–2010 Director Christina Guenther, May 2010

What a pleasure it was yesterday (10 May) to receive a knock on the office door at the *Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik* here in Salzburg (currently called *Fachbereich Anglistik/ Amerikanistik*) and find a former AYA Austria student beaming at me! In this fifth stint in Salzburg, I was transported back to my first year as AYA director, in 1992–93, when I saw Brian Pfaltzgraff standing in front of my door yesterday. I was reminded yet again of how we grow into a big family after a year abroad together and how that bond remains strong even if we don't see each other for years. Brian, as some of you from AYA 1992-3 probably know, is now an assistant professor of voice at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa where his wife Carita, who was an honorary member of our Salzburg group back in 1992–93, teaches voice as well. After finishing his Master of Arts in German and Master of Music at BGSU, Brian completed a Doctorate in Musical Arts at the University of Michigan. He showed me pictures of their two children, Ethan and Elise. I was so very pleased to see how well he, Carita and the children are doing. Brian is leading a group of 50+ music students through Europe. His visit yesterday really made my week!

As Brian and I chatted, I thought about what had changed here in Salzburg since I began. Some of the faculty members have changed in the last eighteen years since my first time here, of course, although I still am in contact with most of the faculty members from my first year as director. We still work closely with Eva Stuppnik-Bazzanella, our resident advisor who also teaches our students in the Mittelstufe I and Oberstufe. She continues to be “a tough but fair instructor,” ☺ by the way, as well as a tremendous supporter in AYA matters! Manfred Mittermayer as our “stellvertretender Direktor” remains a wonderful friend of the program and an invaluable resource person. He also teaches a key course for graduate students. What would we do without Hannes Baumgartner's MS II and creative writing instruction and Elke Renner's kind concern and careful attention! Wilfried Schaber and Inge Becker provide plenty of culture in their courses while Fritz Baier with his wife Ute Januschka keep us on our toes with geography excursions in and around the *Salzkammergut*! Helga Mitterhumer keeps undergraduates (and graduates) informed about things Austrian in her courses *Österreich aktuell* and *Wirtschaftsdeutsch*. Moreover, she organized our first relay teams for the Salzburg marathon; I recall that some of you ran half and whole marathons here, too. This year at least six current students will be running/walking between 5 and 10 Ks for charities on 16 May in three relay teams! (I offered to step in in case of injury but hope that I won't need to because I haven't run in a decade or more and am not getting any younger.) Our two newest colleagues, Alexander Neunherz and Mario Wintersteiger, teach the history and political science courses, respectively. Both are

affiliated with the University of Salzburg, although Alexander is now the director of the Renner Institut in Salzburg.

Another modification to our program is the development of a service-learning course for undergraduates and graduates in the form of an extension of the internship program. I'm looking forward to the intercultural presentations by our students here and then back in Bowling Green.

Finally, last year Ted and Karen Rippey found a very reasonable and well-situated apartment in Nonntal, at the foot of the *Festung Hohensalzburg*, I've been enjoying it since my arrival. Very important to me is that it comes with two furry four-legged sweethearts—i.e. two cats on loan from kind neighbors. We've held a number of parties, including the Thanksgiving party.

We're getting ready for another long weekend, so our students are planning their trips to England or Hungary or Istanbul or *Oberösterreich*! I'll be happy to see everyone back home in Salzburg safe and sound on Monday with lots to share, no doubt! In a couple of weeks, we shall wend our way up to Berlin for our final major excursion of the year. This time, we'll be flying with Air Berlin, so we are keeping close tabs on the volcanic activity of Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull!

Best wishes to you all and hope to see you back in Salzburg or BG one of these days!

Christina Guenther

The 2009–10 group blog is at <http://avasalzburg0910.blogspot.com>

Austria Alumni Board Formed

The Austria Alumni Board is a representative group of alumni members that consults on improving study abroad experiences of students on BGSU programs in Austria. The first board members have three-year appointments. They have shared brief personal information so that all alumni members will know them. Faculty members associated with the AYA Austria program thank the board members for their willingness to serve!

Eugene Aufderhaar (Salzburg 1981–82 and 1984–85) grew up in Lima, Ohio and earned a BAC from BGSU in German and Radio-TV-Film and an M.A. in German. He taught German eleven years at Notre Dame Academy in Toledo and also six years at Genoa. He has led student exchanges to the Liebfrauenschule in Vechta, as well as the Melanchthon Gymnasium in Nürnberg. He is now in his fourth year at Van Wert High School (115 students enrolled next year). This summer he took part in an EF tour to London, Paris, and Berlin in conjunction with French and Social Studies colleagues. He also mentored German teaching assistants at BGSU enrolled in the graduate methods class. Gene's residence is in Bluffton, Ohio, where his wife Kathleen is a librarian at Bluffton University.

Anna (Wein) Bradley (Salzburg 1998–99 and 2001–02) works as a Marketing Communications & Advertising professional in the Cleveland area. After her second stint abroad with the AYA Salzburg program, she worked for Eckart America, the American subsidiary of Eckart GmbH, based in Furth, Germany, where she did marketing and translation work. Anna stays in very close contact with friends from both years in Salzburg and still uses German on a regular basis. She and her younger sister, Ursula Wein (AYA Salzburg 2001–02), plan on visiting Salzburg this fall. Anna lives in Lyndhurst, Ohio with her husband, Michael, and one year old son, Rocco.

Margy Gerber is originally from California, where she studied at the University of Southern California (BA) and Stanford (MA, PhD). Dr. Gerber says that “a major influence on my life was the year I spent abroad in Munich as a junior with the Wayne State program; it set the course for my graduate studies and subsequent academic career.” After teaching briefly at Wellesley and Smith College, and further study in Tübingen and Berlin, she came to BGSU in 1974, where she remained until her complete retirement in 2000. Since then, she has been living in Berlin, teaching an occasional course for American undergraduates from Nazareth College (Rochester, NY), doing some research and otherwise simply enjoying the wonderful city. Over the years at BGSU, she directed the AYA program in Salzburg seven times. “There is nothing I believe more in than in the value of studying and living abroad.”

Steve Harris (Salzburg 1970) is an attorney and a senior partner with KPMG LLP, a global tax, accounting, and advisory firm. He specializes in negotiating with the IRS and other countries' tax authorities concerning cross-border transactions involving affiliates of major multinational companies. His office is in New York City and he resides (when not in New York or traveling) in Virginia, not far from Williamsburg.

Galen Koepke (Salzburg 1971–72) went on to earn his M.A. at BGSU in German where he met his wife Katja. After Grad School he worked for a year in New York City with a commodities brokerage firm and then moved back to Ohio in 1977 and took over the family business. He owns a crop insurance agency and manages and operates a 500-acre grain farm. The year abroad stoked his “Wanderlust,” and he traveled 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, among others. The Koepkes travel frequently to Germany to visit Katja's relatives and he still does get to use his German. The Koepkes live outside Oak Harbor, Ohio with their two Dackeln, Freddi and Trixi.

Judi Lindsley Nath (Salzburg 1987–88) is a biology professor at Lourdes College, in Sylvania, Ohio, teaching primarily anatomy and physiology, pathophysiology, medical terminology, and clinical pharmacology. She received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Bowling Green State University and her Ph.D. from the University of Toledo. She is a multiple recipient of the Lourdes College Faculty Excellence Award, granted by the college to recognize her effective teaching, scholarship, and community service. She is the sole author of *Medical Terminology: A Practical Approach* (published by Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins), the first book to use a “foreign language/total immersion” approach to teaching medical terminology within the context of applied anatomy and physiology. She is also the co-author of *Fundamentals of Anatomy & Physiology*, 8th edition and *Anatomy & Physiology*, 2nd edition

(both published by Pearson Benjamin Cummings). On a personal note, Dr. Nath thoroughly enjoys family life with her husband, Mike, and their three dogs, Bear, Quincy, and Gabbi. Piano playing and cycling are welcome diversions from authoring and her favorite charities include the local Humane Society, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and Real Partners Uganda.

Brian Pavlac (Salzburg 1976–77 and 1978–79). After a B.A. and an M.A. from BGSU, he earned an M.A. and a Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame and directed its study-abroad program in Innsbruck, Austria for four years. Since 1993 Professor Pavlac has been a member of the History Department of King's College, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, where he teaches courses ranging from the Greeks and Romans, through Knights and Castles, to Nazi Germany. King's College recently awarded him with the Herve LeBlanc Distinguished Service Professorship. In the past three years he has published two books: *A Warrior Bishop of the 12th Century: The Deeds of Alberic of Trier* and *Witch Hunts in the Western World: Persecution and Punishment from the Inquisition through the Salem Trials*. His third book, *A Concise Survey of Western Civilization: Supremacies and Diversities throughout History*, will be released at the end of 2010. He was ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church in June 2010.

Vickie Teats Sherwood (Salzburg 1974) has been a Mobile Library (Bookmobiles) Specialist with the Pikes Peak Library District in Colorado Springs, Colorado since 1995. Prior to that, she invested twenty-two years in volunteer service providing morale, welfare, and recreation support to United States Air Force families in England and in four states. She is a native of Montpelier, Ohio now living east of Colorado Springs in rural El Paso County.

Larry Snaveley (Salzburg 1967) is a retiree living near Saratoga Springs, New York. After completing graduate school and law school, he pursued a career in higher education administration, and lobbying at both the federal and state level. He has worked for the State of Ohio, the University of Toledo, Syracuse University, and most recently, was Vice President for Government and Community Relations at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute for nineteen years. His hobbies include wine tasting and travel.

Thanks to Alumni

...who have generously given to the Dzidra Shllaku Scholarship Fund. Former students of Professor Dzidra Shllaku started the fund in 1998 to help BGSU undergraduates in any major take part in the AYA Austria program. Their donations and the many contributions of other program alumni have increased the fund. It was endowed in 2003. The current endowed balance is about \$70,000; the "spendable," non-endowed balance is about \$9,000. Current donations are increasing the endowed fund.

Members of the Department of German, Russian & EAL contribute to the Shllaku fund. Like alumni, they realize that it may be difficult to afford study abroad, probably the most transformative experience of their education.

Contributions to the Shllaku fund increase the endowed balance.

Dzidra Shllaku Fund contributors since fall 2009:

Margy J. Gerber	KMPG Foundation
Brian A. Pavlac	Debra K. Peters
Marilyn Roy	Vickie L. Sherwood
Larry M. Snaveley	Toro Foundation
Bill L. Weis	Michael D. Westerhaus
Rhonda K. Westerhaus	

Thanks to Friends

...who have generously supported the Foell Inter-national Travel Award (for the AYA Austria program) Fund in Memory of Margaret Kaesmann Foell. The balance is approximately \$25,000. The travel award is for students from any university and is based on academic merit. This year special contributions were received in honor of Darrell and Sally Foell's fiftieth wedding anniversary (photo below).



Foell International Travel Award Fund Contributors since Fall 2009:

Emily Ballentine
Betty L. Burden
Wayne B. Clark
Eleanor Dunn
Virginia J. Foell
Boynton Hussey
Carol Pape
George Wiley
Janet M. Zimmerman

Richard O. Ballentine
Agnes A. Clark
David F. Dunn
Darrell W. Foell
Franklin T. Gerlach
Diane L. Hussey
Richard Pape
Sally Wiley

Arlene Spoores and Susan Sidor Retire

... in May 2010. On Friday, 7 May, department members and friends gathered in Shatzel Hall to wish Arlene and Sue well. Professors emeriti Joseph Gray and Helmut Gutmann were present, too. The AYA Austria program will miss Arlene and Sue. Faculty members affiliated with the program express their sincere gratitude to them for many years of dedicated service to students and alumni.

From Arlene Spoores

Well everyone, after a career of almost thirty-five years here at BGSU I will be retiring on 31 May. While the decision to retire wasn't an easy one, it is the best one for me at this time. I will miss meeting all the new graduate students coming back from Salzburg. I have met many wonderful people over the almost ten years I have been with the GREAL Department and I will miss you the most. May your years ahead be filled with new challenges, new learning experiences and new friendships. Thank you all for making my time in the department a wonderful experience.

Arlene Spoores

Visit from Austrian Alumni

As chaperons of a Student Exchange Program, two teachers from Upper Austria came to visit the BGSU campus in the second week of May.



While their students were attending a senior high school in Temperance, Michigan, alumni Manfred Luimpoeck (graduated in 1978) and Christa Hofer (M.A., 2000) visited BGSU. Mrs. Hofer brought her whole family along on the trip.

Mr. Luimpoeck and Mrs. Hofer are teachers of German and English at the Handelsakademie (Business High school) in Freistadt. The year abroad was a very rewarding experience for both. All through the years they have kept in touch with American friends and colleagues. Among them is Mr. Warren Hunt, who is currently teaching German at Bedford High School. The world wide web has enabled the two schools to establish ties. A student exchange program called "Muehlviertel Meets Michigan" was implemented. The project brings teenagers from both continents together to boost their language skills and exchange culture for mutual benefit; this year "MMM" has been carried out successfully for the third time.

Mr. Luimpoeck has also published two books of satires and given copies to the German program.



Link to the publisher: <http://www.geschichte-heimat.at/?buch=90>

Alumni News

Amy Craft Ahrens (1986–87) and **Todd Ahrens** (1989–90) recently spent time in Salzburg visiting old friends and running the Salzburg Half Marathon, which started and ended in the Altstadt and included the sights of Hellbrunner Allee, Schloss Hellbrunn, Stiegl Brauwelt, Müllner Bräu (foreshadowing of post race fun), Mirabell, Linzergasse, and the Stadtsbrücke. They would also like to report that Schnaitl Pub gibt's noch, leider keine Hängematte mehr! Many other familiar haunts remain unchanged. Mostly, they would like to say thanks to the AYA program for so many great memories and for our wanderlust that never ends! If you're ever in BG, give us a shout!

Andrea Avers (2008–09): I graduated summa cum laude in May 2010 with a Bachelor of Music in Education and a German minor. I will be returning to Salzburg this fall to continue my studies at the Mozarteum.

Maura Callahan (1989–90): I earned an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh and am now an adjunct faculty member in marketing and management at Robert Morris University. Prior to having children, I worked in the specialty metals industry. As a Product Manager and Marketing Manager, I had a territory that spanned the area east of the Mississippi. International trips took me to Paris, and Denmark. Though a German major in college, I was always taken seriously and it opened doors for me.

Tara Campbell (1993–94) returned to Washington, D.C., after heading up the admissions office at Webster University's campus in Vienna, Austria. She is now Director of Admissions of the Master of Foreign Service (MSFS) program at Georgetown University's Graduate School of Foreign Service, which was ranked the top graduate program in international relations in a recent survey by *Foreign Policy Magazine*.

Kai Cote (2006–07): I am currently pursuing a Master in International Relations at the University of Kent at Brussels in Brussels, Belgium. I am concentrating on the UN Security Council and private military and security companies as well as human rights and conflict management. I have an internship starting in July at the German think tank Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Brussels office. I will be organizing and attending conferences as well as conducting research on issues concerning German and EU policy.

Jason Doerre (2005–06) is in his second year as a PhD student in the German and Scandinavian Studies Department at UMass Amherst; he plans to take his comprehensive exams at the end of summer 2010. Although his research interests vary widely, his primary focus is German literature and culture in the long nineteenth century, as well as German film. In the last years Jason has presented papers at professional conferences such as the Northeast Modern Language Association conference and the American

Comparative Literature Association conference. Last summer he participated in the annual summer literature seminar at the National Literature Archive in Marbach, Germany. In addition to having taught beginning and advanced German courses at UMass Amherst, Jason works at the DEFA Film Library, where he—among many other things—subtitles East German films and cares for the 16 and 35mm prints.

Pete Doerschler (1995–96): I am an assistant professor of political science at Bloomsburg University in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania: One thing that might interest the wider GREAL and Salzburg communities is that I'm planning to start a short-term study abroad course for the summer involving the study of globalization in Austria. The course would cover 6 weeks traveling and staying with host families in Austria. Students would conduct interviews with Austrians on different dynamics of globalization in their community. Hope all is well.

Jeff Frazier (2007–08): I've completed my first year of coursework in Ohio State's PhD program in German. In spring 2010, I was an actor in OSU's production of Heiner Müller's "Hamletmaschine." Recently I was awarded a Berlin Exchange Fellowship, and for the 2010–2011 school year I will be studying at the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin.

Amy Gates-Young (1994–95): My biggest news is that I have a tenure-track position at Central College in Pella, IA. Other good news: I'm headed to Germany and Austria this summer with an exploratory grant for an interdisciplinary course I'm planning to team-teach next summer on salt.

Kyle Greetham (2005–06, 2007–08): As of last september I have been working for Qomo HiteVision, a manufacturer of interactive educational equipment (interactive whiteboards, document cameras, etc.). I am now doing International Support and Content for them and traveling to different countries to help out foreign distributors there. This includes the German-speaking countries and when I am not traveling, I communicate with our German and Swiss partners and update the website.

Lisa Heinrich (2001–02): I completed my Masters of Music degree from Cleveland State in December 2009.

Jonathan Klein (2003–04) After graduating BG with the dual History/German degree in 2006, I was hired by Lake Erie College in Painesville, Ohio as Coordinator of International Programs. As of last year I am also Coordinator of the Academic Learning Center, handling the day to day work regarding the student tutoring program, and an assistant to the Director of Academic Advising (mainly during the summer) helping incoming freshmen with their schedules and course selection.

Ruxandra Looft (2002–03, 2003–04): I just completed an academic research year in Munich, Germany, where I conducted archival research for my dissertation in German and Comparative Literature. While I continue to write my dissertation for my degree with Washington University in St. Louis, I will also be starting a lecturer position at Iowa State University in the Fall of 2010, teaching introductory German classes. As of August of last year, I am happily married to my husband Torey, who I met at BGSU during my last year there. Thanks, BG! I also just wanted to confirm that you had my current address on file because I would not want to miss out on my copy of the newsletter. Just in case, here is my address in Iowa, where I now live with my husband:

227 Dotson Drive
Ames, IA 50014

Timothy Moehlman (1984–85, 1985–86): I have been living and working outside of Milan, Italy for the last 15 years. I get to Germany usually twice each year; Berlin in January and Munich in August, or in winter for the Christmas market.

Carla Neiderhiser (2006–07): Since graduating in May 2009 with a BS in Apparel Merchandising, BA in German, and an AAS in Advertising and Marketing, I've been putting my education to work. With much thanks for your referral, I am currently employed at QOMO HiteVision, a systems integrator for presentation solution. I hold the position of International Marketing Specialist, but that's only the

beginning. Through this company I have the excellent opportunity to explore a variety of tasks from event planning, promotional writing and design to video production, translation, and logistics. It has been very much a professional, as well as personal, growing experience for me. There is for sure something new to learn each and every day.

Pat O'Connell (2007–08): I finished my year as a Fulbright Teaching Assistant in St. Pölten and now I'm in Vienna. I am the Energy Researcher at the Korean Embassy. My office is actually about 15 feet from Peter Clayson's.

Lisa Pietras (1998–99): Although I am not teaching German right now, I am the current President of the Florida Teacher's of German Association. I taught German I-AP for three years in Florida, at Leesburg High School, until budget cuts forced the program to be closed. I just finished my first year teaching ESOL at Montverde Academy, an international boarding school located about 30 minutes from Orlando. I will continue teaching ESOL at MVA for the coming school year.

Amy Thomson Wexler (1985–86, 1987–88): My German skills took me and kept me in Austria where I studied with the AYA program as both an undergraduate and a graduate student. I got a job as an “englisch Lehrassistentin” in Bad Ischl via the Fullbright Program. Many years later I lived and worked in Moscow, Russia, where the company I worked for was based out of Germany. My boss was German and our regional office was in Hamburg. Even more years later I am back in Toledo, Ohio where I most recently worked as a long-term substitute German Teacher at Eastwood High School for the full time teacher who was also an AYA Program Participant. It's a small world!

Send us your updates! E-mail: Austria@bgsu.edu

*Give to the scholarship fund for students on the AYA Austria program
at the BGSU Alumni & Friends website:*

<http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/alumni/>