

BGSU'S
ACADEMIC YEAR ABROAD
IN
SALZBURG, AUSTRIA



RESIDENZPLATZ und
UNIVERSITÄT
John Smith

SPECIAL NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2001

New AYA Austria Office

The AYA Austria program is now housed in its own office in Shatzel Hall. The new office, open since September 2000, has increased the visibility and efficiency of the program. It allows AYA Austria secretary Susan Sidor to consult with students and faculty in greater comfort and to transact program business more efficiently. Contact numbers and address remain the same.

Our website address: <http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/greal/AYA-Salzburg.html>

A Great Loss!

In Memoriam

**Anne (February 15, 1926 – January 11, 2001) and
John Eriksen (August 14, 1918 – May 26, 2000)**

Within one year, the AYA Program and Bowling Green State University lost a couple of their great leaders, educators, friends of the arts, and ardent supporters of international relations and of building a global community. They are survived by their son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Jan Eriksen.

Anne and John jointly directed the BGSU AYA Program in Salzburg in 1982-83. During their year in Salzburg they made many long-lasting friendships among the participating BGSU students and the faculty and staff of The University of Salzburg.

Anne's ancestors came from England to the New World prior to the revolutionary war, and several of her relatives fought in the War of Independence. Anne is also a descendant of John Adams, John Quincy Adams and Rutherford Hayes. Her great-great grandmother, Mary Fairfield Hayes, moved from New England to the Midwest and eventually settled on Lake Erie, near Mentor, Ohio in 1834. Anne's grandparents lived in Connecticut and Florida before settling in Belvidere, Illinois, where her grandfather set up a practice in dentistry. He also became an accomplished woodcarver, who had several of his works displayed by the Minneapolis Institute of Arts in the 1920's. In that same town Anne was born in February 15, 1926 to Earl and Winfred Duenbostle, who owned a dry cleaning firm. Her mother had studied music at Northwestern University and was an accomplished musician who taught piano and organ. Anne received a bachelor's degree in political science and French from the University of Minnesota, where she was elected to the Mortar Board. She went on to do graduate work and held a teaching assistantship in political science. It was there that she met John Eriksen. Because of alphabetical seating arrangements (she – D, he – E) they happened to sit next to each other in three courses. They got married in 1948 and later moved on to The University of Oklahoma, where Anne earned a master's degree in library science and studied Russian. She was cataloger of foreign language materials at the University library.

In 1968 the family moved to Bowling Green, Ohio where Anne was Assistant Professor and director of Information Services of the Jerome Library at Bowling Green State University. She also completed coursework for a master's degree in German.

Upon their retirement from BGSU, John and Anne lived in Munich, where Anne did substitute teaching of English at the Volkshochschule and gave workshops in library skills and procedures to Radio Liberty personnel. She also completed, for the American Library Association, a survey and study of children's literature and authors.

In recent years Anne had been a volunteer and avid patron of art, theatre and music in Minneapolis and Santa Fe and, together with her husband John, she made extensive annual trips throughout Europe. Anne was a terrific hostess and managed to bring together people from all areas within the universities and communities, wherever they lived. As a matter of fact, their house on North Prospect in Bowling Green had been the liveliest center of town and gown throughout the 1970's and 80's.

John was born in Minneapolis, August 14, 1918. His parents had come from Norway shortly before and after the turn of the century. John's father, an athlete, came to compete

in the Olympic Games Tryouts held in St. Louis in 1904. Although he had earned honors in sailing and ski-flying, he competed in his favorite sport as a speed-skater. He came in fifth instead of among the top three and therefore did not win a place to compete in the Olympics. As a consolation, his uncle in St. Paul persuaded him to finish his education in the United States and to obtain further training in the "new art" of lithography. It became his life profession and as head of the McGill Lithograph Company of Minneapolis he developed many new techniques for reproducing works of fine art. John's mother was an artist and came from Oslo to Minneapolis in the late 1890's, where she eventually met John's father and got married.

John did his undergraduate work at The University of Minnesota, where he was an art major. Following his graduation he served in the army in Europe in W.W.II. Initially he was assigned to the engineers during the Battle of the Bulge, later helping to build bridges across the Rhine River. Following the war, he served as an interpreter with the occupation forces in Germany because he was fluent in German. Among other things, he served as an interpreter during some of the Nazi war-crime trials. When he returned to the United States, John pursued an academic career. He earned an M.A. in international relations and his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Minnesota, where he also taught political science. John also studied in Germany at the University of Marburg.

Together with his wife Anne, John moved to Oklahoma in 1951, where he joined the political science department at The University of Oklahoma. In addition to teaching, he was appointed Director of Honors, Assistant Dean of the University College and Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences. As director of International Programs, he organized language and area studies centers abroad in French, German, Italian and Russian. Since, at that time, students and faculty were not readily admitted to study in the Soviet Union, he established a program in Russian language and Soviet area studies in Munich, Germany, in cooperation with the Institute for the Study of the USSR. This resulted in the Eriksen family's spending summers and a 2-year period in Munich during the 1960's.

In 1968 John was selected Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of political science at Bowling Green State University, where he also served as Executive Vice-President and Provost. Following his retirement from academia in 1984, John was hired as Deputy director of Radio Liberty/Radio Free Europe in Munich by the U.S. Board of International Broadcasting. His principal responsibilities included research for programming and policies governing broadcasts to the republics of the Soviet Union, covering 12 time zones in 16 languages. During his academic career John was the author of several articles on the former Soviet Union and edited a major book on the same subject, *The Development of Soviet Society: Plan and Performance*. In recognition of his work in higher education he was listed in *Who's Who in America*.

After their retirement John and Anne continued to lead a rich and creative life together. John took up painting again and exhibited his works at several vernissages. He also became deeply involved with the Santa Fe Council on International Relations as whose President he served up until his death.

Even greater than all their academic and professional achievements was John's and Anne's equally generous spirit of humanity. They deeply cared for other people with no regard to their rank, social status, ethnic background or beliefs. They freely shared their time with everyone and brightened their lives with a great sense of humor. – We will always feel a great loss.

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"Austria Week" at BGSU

9-13 October was "Austria Week" on campus, a time to highlight the university's connections with the University of Salzburg and Austrian culture. Visiting from Salzburg during the week were Professor Manfred Mittermayer, Department of German Studies and German, Professor Helmut Pellischek, BGSU AYA Resident Director, Professor Gerhard Rettenegger, Austrian Public Radio, Professor Nicole Slupetzky, Department of History, and Professor Dorothea Steiner, chair of the English and American Studies Department. Each of the guests made a special presentation and took part in public discussions about Austrian affairs. In addition, Writer-in-Residence Erwin Einzinger gave a reading from his works in German and English. The department was honored to receive these colleagues from Austria, who have contributed a great deal to the AYA program. They enriched "Austria Week" activities with their knowledge, enthusiasm, and friendliness.

Gerhard Rettenegger interviewed Dean Donald Nieman and President Sidney Ribeau for Austrian Public Radio and Television. He also directed the filming of the Thursday evening program, "Three Decades of Zusammenarbeit: The History of Cooperation between BGSU and the University of Salzburg." On this special occasion in the Gish Film Theater, Dr. Helmut Pellischek was awarded an honorary doctoral degree by the university. Vice-President J. Douglas Smith, Dean Suzanne Crawford, and Dean Donald Nieman formally bestowed the degree, after which Professor Geoffrey Howes and Professor Pellischek summarized the three decades of cooperative accomplishments. Individual testimonies were delivered by Professor Jaak Panksepp (Psychology), Professor Verner Bingman (Psychology), Professor Michael Doherty (Psychology), Professor Marc Simon (Political Science), and Professor Guy Zimmerman (Computer Science), representing the BGSU faculty who have taken part in the exchange over the years. Representing the alumni were Katherine Defever (graduate student, 1999-2000), Anna Wein (undergraduate student, 1999-2000), and Eugene Aufderhaar (alumnus, 1981-82 and 1984-85).

Many friends and supporters of the exchange were in attendance, including International Programs Director Jeff Grilliot, Study Abroad Director Sally Raymont, Computer Science Chair Ron Lancaster, and special guest from Salzburg, Mrs. Helmut Pellischek.

At the end of the evening, guests viewed first cuts from the new videos about study abroad in Salzburg, filmed by Margot Zappe (Vienna) and produced by Professor Kristie Foell.

Special supporters of "Austria Week" were the College of Arts and Sciences, the Office of the President, the American Culture Studies Program, English Department, College of Continuing Education, Summer and International Programs, Department of Telecommunications, and Austrian Culture Institute in New York.

"Austria Week" was a warm, festive, and informative celebration of the universities' relationship. On this occasion, Salzburg university Rector Adolph Haslinger wrote to President Sidney Ribeau: "I am convinced that academic activities involving mutual cultural exchanges will strengthen our international understanding, appreciation, and acceptance. I am proud of the partnership of our universities which is now already in its thirty-fourth year."

Dr. Pellischek's Speech

(presented during Austria Week)

I grew up during a time when the devastation of World War II and the Nazi years had left their ugly mark on Europe and also, of course, on Austria. It was instilled in me as a child by my parents, teachers and even the GI's with whom we had contact as children from time to time when we got some candies or a chocolate bar from them, that one major reason for the human disaster was a lack of information and understanding, a breakdown in international communication and exchange, which I believe.

We are lacking to a great extent the cultural prerequisites for living in harmony. I belonged to the Boy Scouts and when I attended the world jamboree in Austria in the fifties, I became acquainted with young Americans. I think this was the birth of my very strong wish, whenever the time would arise, to go to "America," as we used to say as kids. The United States for me symbolized the land of generosity and unbridled possibilities. My first opportunity came in 1966, when I was a young psychologist involved in teacher education in Salzburg. I was offered a teaching post at Bowling Green State University for the full academic year, 1966-67. I started out in the Department of German and Russian and ended up, thanks to my dear friends Dr. Malcolm Campbell and Dr. Martha Webber, in the College of Education.

That year in Bowling Green had a tremendous impact on me. I realized something that I had only understood in theory. Communication, education, time, space, happiness, sadness, laughter, tears ... all those concepts are met in all cultures. The outer faces and frames may differ--but actually these differences make the core of the whole thing. It is what makes you curious, what makes you interested in others' lifestyles, and what creates respect and admiration of other people and their cultural backgrounds. That is, what makes the world so colorful and bright!

I found it so exciting that things are contextualized and concepts are defined in many different terms, all at the same time. And I discovered that by communicating across cultures, there is still plenty that cannot be fathomed if one has not had the experience abroad. Indeed, the experience abroad represents a revelation of sorts; it actually changes one's life.

The other fountain of growth is a new language. A new language opens new structures of thoughts and new chances of creativity, while it broadens one's horizon tremendously. So, when I returned home to Austria in 1967 after these edifying experiences at Bowling Green State University, I took home with me impressions and ideas that I could never have received staying at home. I was wholeheartedly convinced that traditions and customs from both of our cultures had so much to offer young people. I knew even then that it would be one of my most significant lifetime goals to provide students the opportunity to experience another way of life, to study abroad -- to open doors for them as the experience in Bowling Green opened doors for me.

I discussed the idea with the people from the Dept. of German and Russian. The chair at that time was Dr. Walter Morris. He felt very positive about the plan. Back home in Salzburg, I immediately went to Professor Dr. Rene' Marcic, the president of our university at that time, and told him about our plan to establish an exchange program between Bowling Green State University and the University of Salzburg. Since I had known Professor Marcic not only as an enthusiastic scholar, but also as a very dynamic and broad-minded personality, I was most certain that he would embrace the idea enthusiastically and provide us with the necessary expertise and guidance to help us realize my dream. He sent me to Professor Stuerzl, the director of International Programs at our university. Professor Stuerzl was a highly philosophical and multiculturally educated person. He was very open to our ideas and encouraged and supported such international ventures.

After the organizational obstacles were overcome, the path was paved for Dr. Walter Morris to bring the first group of BGSU students to Salzburg. The program was initially solely an undergraduate program and continued to grow during the early years. We found in the late Dr. John Eriksen, Dean of Arts and Sciences at BGSU during those years, another active supporter of the Academic Year Abroad program in Salzburg. Dr. Eriksen was so committed to the welfare of the program that he made certain to apprise former President Dr. Hollis Moore of its high quality.

Almost at the same time that I came to Bowling Green, another young man from Germany accepted a post there. He later became Chair of the department, Professor Dr. Klaus Schmidt. He deserves the greatest credit for steadily raising the academic standard of the program. By successfully adding a graduate component to the undergraduate exchange, he further solidified the high academic quality of the program and strengthened the student and faculty exchange between the universities.

Thanks to the active support of Professor Dr. Leo Truchlar, the successor to Professor Dr. Dr. Stuerzl, the exchange program between BG and Salzburg continues to flourish.

Upon the untimely and tragic death of President Moore, again Dr. John Eriksen and Klaus Schmidt succeeded in securing crucial support for this joint venture from the next President of BGSU, Dr. Paul Olscamp. In fact, during his tenure as President, Dr. Olscamp visited Salzburg no fewer than three times. Maybe I should mention that President Olscamp and I are both licensed pilots, which allowed us to charter a single-engine plane from my flying club in Salzburg and make a gorgeous flight over the Austrian Alps--Dr. Olscamp of course as "pilot in command" and Helmut as his "copilot".

I should like to add that the current undergraduate and graduate Bowling Green AYA-Program has been immeasurably enhanced by my dear colleague, Professor Dr. Margy Gerber. It was with great regret that I received the news of her retirement this past year. She will be sorely missed as a director of the program.

I also remember the other directors of the program who have retired, and here I feel wistfully nostalgic and am reminded of the transitory nature of time. I think back fondly to the many students with whom I have worked over the past 34 years. They were the ones who, through their youthful exuberance and their vigorous fascination, inspired us to continue to strengthen and expand this program.

Concluding these, my memories, I fondly recall many undergraduate students who have returned to Salzburg as graduate students. Quite a few, after having successfully completed their MA in German, returned to Austria to work as teaching assistants at Austrian high schools.

The other most important part within the partnership between BGSU and Salzburg University, which has developed wonderfully and which I have mentioned before, is the exchange of faculty. Some of the BGSU professors, for example, Dr. Guy Zimmerman, Dr. Charles Crow, Dr. Jaak Panksepp, and Dr. Marc Simon, taught at the University of Salzburg while my colleagues from Salzburg were offered teaching positions at BGSU.

Occasionally I am pleasantly surprised by a knock on my door and I find a former student on my doorstep who just wanted to come by and say hello. It is also a wonderful experience to meet students or colleagues on campus here for a little reunion and share some common ideas. I know from these encounters that for our students and I think also for faculty members, wherever they might be, the experience in Salzburg has become an integral part of their lives.

December Report

The last two months have passed quickly for the students of this year's AYA Salzburg Program here at the University of Salzburg. We've kept everyone busy with excursions, cultural events and, of course, classes. Our visit to Vienna included an obligatory trip to the Weinviertel and a Heurigen, a restaurant where local foods and wine are offered and where the very cozy atmosphere is enhanced by Schrammelmusik. The trip also made names, places and events that students had discussed and memorized for Austrian culture class come alive. We speculated where the dungeon that held Richard the Lionhearted captive for a year might have been up in the Duernstein castle. We drove along the Danube in the Wachau and were dazzled by the fall colors. We explored the streets of downtown Vienna together and compared the different architectural styles that were popular here during the last several centuries, and we saw some of the major works of the Wiener Moderne in the Belvedere castle.

November was a beautiful month here in the province of Salzburg, perfect for long walks through the town and over the Moenchsberg and the Kapuzinerberg right here in the middle of the city. Although I had warned the students that sometimes it rains quite a bit during November (you all remember the Schnuerlregen), we had one sunny day after another. Our big Thanksgivingfest was a success again. We all got together in the cafeteria and cooked and baked for several hours. Many of the students had never cooked before, so it was a bit daunting to be cooking for almost 70 people. But all went well; even the pumpkin pie was tasty, although we had to make the pumpkin filling from scratch and the texture was a little odd. The students' Austrian roommates and new friends, our colleagues from the Departments of English and German, Herr Jordan from the Hypo-Bank, various HeimleiterInnen and former program participants joined us as we celebrated an Austrian-American Thanksgiving. Members of this year's group delighted everyone with a very elegant musical program during the celebration. We even played a little football after the dinner and entertainment.

Now we are all waiting for snow to cover the mountains. After all, we want to take advantage of the fact that this winter we can go skiing in the Alps! But first things first. There are a few more exams to take care of as well as papers to complete before everyone can indulge in exploring the Salzburger Christkindlmarkt. Of course, the city is decked out in its Advent best again; there is even an ice rink at the Mozart Platz! As I write this, the Krampusse are chasing down the streets trying to terrorize the young Salzburgers. Tomorrow is St. Nikolaus-Tag and the Krampusse will be replaced by friendly fellows bearing gifts. These Advent customs are exciting and even exotic for American students.

The participants of the Salzburg Program 2000-2001 wish everyone a restful holiday und einen guten Rutsch!

Liebe Gruesse aus Salzburg!

-Dr. Christina Guenther, 12/00

2000-2001 Shllaku Scholarship Recipients

Three students received the Dr. Dzidra Shllaku Scholarship for the AYA in Salzburg 2000-2001. All three students are Ohio natives and juniors at Bowling Green State University. All three are studying toward a dual major as well. I am happy to report that they have adjusted wonderfully to Austrian student life.

Erik Marshall is a German and Communications major who plans to go into the ministry after completing his B.A. He has studied German since high school but never had the opportunity to study abroad prior to this year. At the moment he is particularly engaged in investigating the role of Catholicism in Austrian life. He is also enjoying the rich cultural life in Salzburg and eagerly attends the plays and concerts which our program organizes.

Irene Scott is a journalism/German major who began German only two years ago at Bowling Green State University. She is a determined, hard-working individual and already has made tremendous strides in German in these first two months in Salzburg. During this first semester, she has taken a hiatus from her job as chief editor and diversity reporter for the *BG News* in order to focus on studying German and adjusting to Austrian life. She is now eager to write a number of articles on student life, customs, and cultural events in Austria during the next semester.

The third scholarship recipient is Lisa Heinrich, a German and music major who looks forward to teaching both subjects at the high school level in the near future. Besides carrying a full course load, Lisa is taking full advantage of our connections with the Mozarteum and is taking both cello and flute lessons every week. She regaled us with beautiful baroque flute and cello music during our Thanksgiving dinner in November. I'm not sure how she manages to juggle all the lessons, but she is doing well in all areas. I am pleased that all three of these qualified recipients are profiting so well from this opportunity to study abroad.

-Dr. Christina Guenther

Thanks to Professor Margy Gerber

In May 2000 Margy Gerber completed her third and final semester of teaching as a faculty member emerita. In June she returned to BGSU to take part in the summer workshop for teachers of German. These were Professor Gerber's final formal contributions to the German program in the Department of German, Russian and East Asian Languages, in which she served outstandingly for three decades. Professor Gerber is an internationally respected expert on German culture and literature, in particular of the former German Democratic Republic. She continued refining her courses, for example, on contemporary German society, through the spring 2000 semester, incorporating many WWW materials. Professor Gerber left a library of materials on contemporary Germany for department members' use. Many alumni will remember Professor Gerber as AYA Austria director in 1976-77, 1980-81, 1985-86, 1991-92, 1994-95, and 1995-96. Only Professor Klaus Schmidt directed the program as many years as Margy Gerber.

The department is pleased to acknowledge, with deep gratitude, Professor Gerber's recent donation of \$2,000 to the Shllaku Scholarship Fund. She simultaneously donated \$1,000 to the department for equipment purchases to benefit foremost graduate studies in German. Professor Gerber now resides in Berlin. Alumni may contact her through the AYA Austria office.

Dzidra Shllaku Fund

Three BGSU students received awards from the Dzidra Shllaku Scholarship Fund to support study abroad in Austria this academic year. With the continued support of our alumni and friends, this fund will provide awards for many future students. You may make a gift by:

- (1) Sending a check to BGSU Foundation, Inc., Miletz Alumni Center, Bowling Green, OH 43403.
- (2) Calling 1-800-236-3112 to make a gift using MasterCard or VISA.
- (3) Going online to foundation.bgsu.edu to make a gift using MasterCard or VISA.

Thank you to the many who have already contributed to this important fund! Our special thanks to "die Gruppe" (Steven Harris, Timothy Rericha, R. Eric Moore, Lana (Smucker) Chadwick, Larry Snavley, Sue Mendizza, D. J. (Hartzog) Hamidinia, Dallas Hull, and William Weis, founders of the Dzidra Shllaku Fund. Their ongoing support is truly appreciated by the department and the university.

Salzburg Video

During the 1999-2000 year in Salzburg, students and faculty participated in filming for a new promotional video. Filming was coordinated by Dr. Kristie Foell, the 1999-2000 director, and carried out by Margot Zappe of Mofzop Filmproduktion in Vienna (mofzop@utanet.at). Margot's concept was to follow the students throughout the year, conducting interviews with them and asking them to reflect on their study abroad experience as the year progressed. In addition, she sent a camera team on several field trips (Freilichtmuseum, Melk and Vienna) and accompanied the group to Berlin herself.

The most surprising thing I learned in the course of planning, filming, and editing was just how many hours and how many people go into every minute of finished video, even for a relatively modest production like ours. The program students had access to a video camera to record their experiences; the students' own video of Kendra Thompson's departure from Salzburg (filmed by Michelle Bracken) was used as the closing scene of the video, but there were many other creative and humorous student video "moments" that couldn't be included. Several days spent interviewing our Salzburg faculty, who generously volunteered their time (and even let us powder their faces), yielded about 4 minutes of finished video. The same can be said of the hours of student interview footage; Jennifer Maas, Mathew Lake, Kendra Thompson, Bruce Paulin, and Michelle Bracken were especially generous with their time, but almost every student was filmed at some time either in class, in the dorms, on trips, or at an internship. Despite my own best efforts at filming the ski slopes around Innsbruck, we opted to use professional skiing footage generously provided by the Salzburg ORF, courtesy of Dr. Gerhard Rettenegger. I am very grateful to each and every person who participated in the video project, even if they cannot all be named here.

Editing was done in Ohio this fall by Tony Jessberger of Aardvark Media (www.aardvarkmedia.com), with Margot Zappe overseeing the process. As you might imagine, with all of this material, we ended up making two videos: a 10-minute promotional video that covers the highlights of the program, and a 37-minute informational video that includes longer interviews with students and faculty. Bruce Paulin and Michelle Bracken took time out of their academic schedules to record the voice-overs in the Aardvark sound studio.

Sue Sidor will be happy to send you a copy of either video free of charge upon request. Please note that two students featured in the videos, Jennifer Maas and Kendra Thompson, were beneficiaries of the Shllaku fund last year.

-Dr. Kristie Foell



