

# *AYA Austria Alumni Newsletter*

## *Summer 2011*

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### **From 2010–2011 Director Kristie A. Foell**

Spring is here, and what a spring it has been here in Salzburg! March was unusually warm, and April has seen several days in the 70s (25 Celsius, if you remember). The city is in full bloom, from the formal Mirabell gardens to the tulips by the sidewalks. It's hard to believe that the students went on their annual snowshoe expedition just over two months ago!

For the AYA program, too, it is a time of new beginnings. Construction is nearly complete on the new Humanities building at the University of Salzburg, and we will once again be housed with the Anglistik department. The building is controversial, with glass all around, and we will certainly not have as large a space; nonetheless, we're excited to see what it will be like, with a new configuration and new furnishings. The move is scheduled for July, and I have been busy packing up the office. If there is anything you fondly remember from your days in Salzburg and would like to have, just ask (foell@bgsu.edu); many of the older books and other items will not be moving with us.

I've been enjoying the new apartment in Nonntal, just a stone's throw from the current office, and two bus stops away from the future office. The apartment is conducive to small gatherings, like the "Kaffee und Kuchen," pictured with BGSU students Megan Mulhall, Brigitte Reinke, and Melanie Soneson.



### **Return to Salzburg, June 2012**

Attention, all Salzburg alumni! Do you want an opportunity to return to Salzburg and relive some of the

magic of your student days abroad? Would you like to see your old haunts again, to reminisce about shared life-changing events with old and new friends? To feast in the evenings at legendary Lokale, to stroll by the Salzach and hike on the Kapuzinerberg and the Mönchsberg? To simply luxuriate in the romantic atmosphere of old Salzburg?

Then plan to join our Return to Salzburg Alumni Tour in June 2012 (dates forthcoming). Relax for a week in Salzburg, with opportunities for side trips to the Salzkammergut and the wine country on the Donau.

Bill Weiss  
member of die Gruppe

**If interested in joining the Return to Salzburg, send a message to [austria@bgsu.edu](mailto:austria@bgsu.edu)**

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### **Visit to the Austrian Embassy**

Representatives of Bowling Green State University and the Austria Alumni Board visited the embassy in Washington, D.C. on 31 January. Geoffrey Howes (German program), Jeff Grilliot (Development), Steve Harris (senior partner at KPMG LLC, AYA Austria alumnus, and co-chair of the Austria Alumni Advisory Board), and Timothy Pogacar (chair, GREAL) visited with Ambassador Christian Prosl. The meeting was about possible cooperation of benefit to BGSU's programs in Austria and on the main campus.

The one hour and fifteen minute meeting was very productive. Also present were Counselor for Cultural Affairs Andrea Schrammel and Deputy Director of the Office of Science and Technology Caroline Adenberger. Dr. Prosl, Ms. Schrammel, and Ms. Adenberger presented a number of ideas for collaboration.

Steve Harris reported on the meeting at the Austria Alumni Board's 11 March meeting.



T. Pogacar, G. Howes, Ambassador Prosl,  
S. Harris, and J. Grilliot

For information on cultural events at the embassy and to subscribe to e-mail notices, visit [www.austria.org](http://www.austria.org).

### **Austria Alumni Board meeting**

The Austria Alumni Board, a representative group of alumni members that consults on improving study abroad experiences of students on BGSU programs in Austria, met for a second time on 11 March. Eugene Aufderhaar (Salzburg 1981–82 and 1984–85), Anna (Wein) Bradley (Salzburg 1998–99 and 2001–02), Steve Harris (Salzburg 1970), Galen Koepke (Salzburg 1971–72), Vickie Teats Sherwood (Salzburg 1974), and Larry Snavley (Salzburg 1967) were joined by Geoffrey Howes, Jeff Grilliot, and Timothy Pogacar. A summary of the meeting is found on p. 4.

### **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 \$85,000; the "spendable," non-endowed balance is about \$9,000 before scholarship awards for 2011–12. 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.

### **Dzidra Shllaku Fund contributors:**

Eugene Aufderhaar  
Galen Koepke  
Vickie L. Sherwood

You may contribute to the fund [on the BGSU website](#).

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### **Thanks to Friends**

...who have generously supported the Foell International Travel Award (for the AYA Austria program) Fund in Memory of Margaret Kaesmann Foell. The balance is approximately \$37,000. The travel award is for students from any university and is based on academic merit.

### **Foell International Travel Award Fund Contributors:**

Darrell W. Foell  
Sally A. Foell

*Editor's note: The Foells' \$10,000 gift is among the largest ever received for Austria scholarships.*

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### **2011–12 Scholarship Awards**

#### **Foell International Travel Award (\$850):**

Lisa Bergman, BGSU  
Alexandra McCollum, BGSU  
Matthew Snyder, BGSU

#### **Dzidra Shllaku Scholarship (fall or spring semester, \$700):**

Nagy McLane, BGSU  
Megan Major, BGSU

#### **Dzidra Shllaku Scholarship (\$1000):**

Lisa Bergman, BGSU  
Christine Frederick, BGSU  
Alexandra McCollum, BGSU  
Benjamin Scherer, BGSU  
Matthew Snyder, BGSU

### **A Note from Darrell and Sally Foell**

Sally and I had rather insular Ohio lives when we were young. I was fortunate to have a roommate from Palestine early in my college life and was able to get a feel for the Middle East love of the strong man in his adoration of Gamal Nasser. The University of Cincinnati had a substantial number of Palestinians studying engineering at the time, so wanderlust was not too far out of the picture. Neither of us had ever been outside of the US and Canada but we made certain that our children were not excluded from Europe, each of them had an experience of German ways as teenagers. Our middle daughter was actually a Congress-Bundestag scholar for her senior year of high school. Sally and I had a delightful experience in our first year of marriage when I had an appointment as a teaching fellow at Northwestern University School of Law. During that time we became close friends of Peter and Stephanie North who were also on a teaching fellowship at Northwestern. Peter determined that academia was his forte and we met them again some thirty years later when we took our first trip across the ocean. Our son was in his junior year at the University of Nottingham and took us around all of Scotland and England. We finished our trip by meeting Peter and Stephanie, now Lord and Lady North, in the lodgings at Jesus College where Peter was headmaster. The following year he became the vice-chancellor of Oxford University. We determined to honor our mothers with the Foell and McCampbell scholarships as they had done so much to set us on the path of learning as fun. We trust that in some way we will be able to encourage the love of learning in future generations through these scholarships. Salzburg is delightful!

Darrell and Sally Foell

### **Scholarship Opportunity for Alumni**

The Fulbright-Schuman Program, financed by the U.S. Department of State and the Directorate-General for Education and Culture of the European Commission, awards grants to citizens of the U.S. and EU Member States to further understanding of the EU and to promote U.S.-EU relations. The Fulbright-Schuman Program is administered by the Commission for Educational Exchange between the U.S., Belgium and Luxembourg.

Information is at:

<http://www.fulbrightschuman.eu>. The deadline for professional or doctoral degree holders is 1 August; for those without an advanced degree but with professional experience, late October.

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### **11 March 2011 Austria Alumni Advisory Board Meeting**

The board met 5–6:30 P.M. on 11 March to discuss the meeting with Austrian Ambassador Prosl and progress on program promotion and recruiting. Austrian Embassy representatives suggested ways to cooperate on enhancing the visibility of BGSU programs. The board recommended Dzidra Shllaku scholarship awards in the amount of \$1,000 for the academic year based on fund levels and return on investment. The board returned to the question of best practices in the field so as to gauge the AYA Austria program's appeal to students. Board members are **Eugene Aufderhaar** (Salzburg 1981–82 and 1984–85), **Anna (Wein) Bradley** (Salzburg 1998–99 and 2001–02), Professor Emerita **Margy Gerber**, **Steve Harris** (Salzburg 1970), **Galen Koepke** (Salzburg 1971–72), **Judi Lindsley Nath** (Salzburg 1987–88), **Brian Pavlac** (Salzburg 1976–77 and 1978–79), **Vickie Teats Sherwood** (Salzburg 1974), and **Larry Snavley** (Salzburg 1967). The next meeting will be this summer.

### **Alumni News**

**Bobby Blankenship** (2003–2004; MA 2005) has submitted his dissertation and won a DAAD research grant for summer 2011.

**Jason Doerre** (2005–2006; dual MA with History, 2008), a Ph.D. student at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, will spend the next year in



Germany doing dissertation research. In June of 2011 he will participate in the German Historical Institute's Archival Summer Seminar, which is a two-week training in Archivkunde, including a week-long course on paleography. In September he will begin a Fulbright Doctoral Candidate Fellowship for the academic year 2011–12 at the Deutsches Literaturarchiv in Marbach am Neckar, supported through the Universitaet Stuttgart.

**Pete Doerschler** (1995–96; dual MA with Political Science 1998) is currently teaching Political Science at Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania. He routinely teach classes on European Politics and is working on a book about the well-being of Muslims living in the UK, France, Netherlands and, of course, Germany.

**Peter Fedynsky** (1970–71) recently e-mailed: “I write to you with information of considerable urgency for many Salzburg alums... ‘Salzburg alumnus Peter Fedynsky has found a place in the United States that serves Stiegl beer. It’s the GMT Tavern at 142 Bleeker Street in New York City. If anybody knows of other locations, please share them. An image of a Stiegl’s coaster is attached to illustrate this important announcement. I have a lot of memories associated with Stiegl and I’m sure others do as well. We used to have a Halbe or two with Speckbrot in the Billrothheim’s snack bar and in restaurants all over town. It was a great year. Other than that, life continues apace. My VOA assignment in New York is interesting and gets me into the city’s nook and crannies. I’m learning a lot and enjoying it.”



**Jennifer Hesse** (2005–2006; MA 2007) teaches German and reading in Richland Washington. She was selected to be part of a presentation about pop music in the German classroom at the ACTFL convention in Denver in November of this year, focusing on two pieces and their grammar lessons as

well as fluency benefits. She may also present a longer version of the presentation in October at the Washington Association for Language Teaching meeting.

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### 2003–2004 Group Reunion

In late 2010, Natalie Hawes initiated the idea of a seven-year reunion of the 2003–2004 Salzburg alumni. She formed a facebook group for the purpose, and we quickly had several people on board for 18 June 2011.

June came quickly. The day started with several of us, including Mike and Claudia Lawson, Joshua Arnold, and Natalie Hawes, meeting at Campus Polleyeyes for a lunch of their wonderful stuffed breadsticks and a beer or two.

We then adjourned to Shatzel Hall for a few hours of socializing and a photo show. Program participants were asked to bring photos from their time in Austria. We relived cherished memories, re-discovered some we had forgotten, and even saw a few mildly embarrassing photos, to which Dr. Landgraf commented, “So THIS is what went on when I wasn’t around.” We also got to meet the spouses of several program participants and catch up on what others are doing these days.



*Pictured from left to right are Mike Lawson, Dean and Jessie Macleod (nee Adams), and Claudia Alkin Lawson. Photo courtesy of Jonathan Klein.*

For many, the end of the day came with dinner at Sam B’s, to which BGSU Alumni Affairs contact Jeff Grilliot graciously donated \$200. After a nice

dinner, several of the group had to head out; some of the rest went for a few drinks, and two or three of us relived our college days by staying out late.

All in all, it was a wonderful get together. About a third of the group was able to attend. By the end of the day we were already discussing the possibility of

doing this again for the ten-or fifteen-year mark. Perhaps next time we'll have the reunion in Salzburg!

Jonathan Klein

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*Send us your updates! E-mail: [Austria@bgsu.edu](mailto:Austria@bgsu.edu)*