



A one-year study abroad program in beautiful Freiburg, Germany, at the foot of the Black Forest.
Program sponsored by the University of Wisconsin, University of Iowa, University of Michigan, and Michigan State University.

Academic Year in Freiburg

2014-2015

Fall/Winter

Willkommen in Freiburg! Welcome to our Newsletter!

As Thanksgiving went by, the 2014-15 AYFers have been in Freiburg for almost three months now.

This year we have 30 brave young men and women who decided to immerse themselves in German culture and language. Our AYFers have smoothly settled into their lives in Freiburg. The 2014-15 group includes students from China and the US, who are all pursuing BA degrees at Michigan State University (4), University of Iowa (4), University of Michigan (7), and the University of Wisconsin-Madison (15). These students

study a variety of subjects within the Humanities, the Social and Behavioral Sciences, and the Natural Sciences. AYF offers four classes this winter semester, one of them focusing on the history of Freiburg through the ages.



We are pleased to send you this AYF Newsletter. Two to three times a year, we would like to reach out to all our friends and our alumni who studied at the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität under the auspices of the Junior Year in Freiburg or the Academic Year in Freiburg. You can help us by spreading the word and liberally forwarding this newsletter to other JYF and AYF Alumni. We'd love to hear from you!

With cordial best wishes,

Helmut Puff, Resident Director 2014-15
Ulrich (Ulli) Struve, Associate Director



A Thanksgiving Abroad

By Wenxin Hu, AYF 14-15, UW-Madison Class of 2016



Most 2014-15 AYFers celebrated their first Thanksgiving abroad this year.

Homesickness can be a challenge when you are far from family. But we had a veritable feast with our AYF family and new-found German friends at the Studentensiedlung.

Everyone shared home-made food, and Ulli carved the turkey. "It was really nice that we got to have a Thanksgiving evening together," says Ryan Blake.

For Amanda Victory it has been a particularly meaningful Thanksgiving. "Having never left the States and always celebrating Thanksgiving with my entire family, grandparents, cousins etc., I'm learning to appreciate the idea of being thankful for what I have since I don't have my family around this year."

Some AYFers even shared Thanksgiving with their German friends. "My favorite thing about Thanksgiving is to cook with my family," says Corinna Applegate. "And this year I got to do it with my flatmates. It was fun!"



Scholarships

Once again AYF participants are fortunate to have received a variety of scholarships.

Four students received a Baden-Württemberg stipend, three students garnered a prestigious German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) scholarship, and a large number of students were awarded funds from the Max Kade Foundation.

As recipients of the Freiburg-Madison-Scholarship 2014-15, Sofia Linsenmeyer and Kate Schwen (UW-Madison) were welcomed on behalf of the City of Freiburg by Herr Günter Burger, Director of the Office of International Contacts, and Frau Ariane Hötzer, university relations and Freiburg-Madison coordinator.



Freiburg-Madison-Society

Since its inauguration 25 years ago, the Freiburg-Madison-Society has been the home away from home for us.

This year AYF students were first greeted with a welcome reception at the Greiffenegg Schlössle hosted by FMG Vice-President Frauke Feix. The *Tag der deutschen Einheit* was celebrated together with a hike around Staufen, a tour of a winery, and a hearty Vesper. Thank you for the warm welcome!

Kirschbaum (82-83) Speaks on Springsteen

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the fall of the wall, Erik Kirschbaum (UW-Madison, class of 84) spoke to a rapt Freiburg audience about Bruce Springsteen's historic 1988 concert in East Berlin.



Eine Bratwurst muss es sein! ... Genau wie 1982/83!

Erik first came to Freiburg in 1982-83 as an exchange student on JYF. On November 12th, 2014, he visited us at the Academic Year in Freiburg, returned to favorite old haunts, and ate Bratwurst on the Münsterplatz.

In an informal meeting with current AYF students, Erik spoke about working as a journalist in Germany, sharing insights into reporting on the fall of the Berlin Wall and other historic events.



In his lecture, Erik made a strong case that Springsteen's concert contributed to the changes inside the GDR that led to the events of November 9, 1989. Erik called the concert "a glorious example of the influence that rock 'n' roll can have on people who are hungry and ready for change."



And he concluded: "Whether you believe that Springsteen's epic concert contributed to the movement that brought down the Berlin Wall depends to a certain degree on whether you believe in the power of rock 'n' roll."



NOTE: The AYF Alumni Newsletter is published two to three times a year for all Freiburg alumni who studied at the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität under the auspices of the Junior Year in Freiburg or the Academic Year in Freiburg.

Please forward the Newsletter to other JYF and AYF Alumni with whom you are in contact. Thank you!

To update your contact information, please go to <http://www.ayf.uni-freiburg.de/alumni.html>. For more information about the Academic Year in Freiburg, visit our web site at <http://www.ayf.uni-freiburg.de>