



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

2015

Summer

1968-69 / 2014-15

Helmut Puff, Resident Director 2014-15

In 1968, most JYF (Junior Year in Freiburg) participants arrived in Europe by ship. The Germany these American college students experienced during a year of studying abroad was a different place from what it is now. At the time, there were not one but two Germanies. Apart from the occasional phone call, keeping in touch with family and friends meant writing postcards and letters. In fact, the year these students from Michigan State University, University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin, and Wayne State University spent in Europe is now considered a watershed moment in the continent's post-war history. In Paris, Frankfurt, and elsewhere, students rebelled against academic traditions of various kinds.



*Current AYFers and 68-69 JYF participants and partners
at Haus zur Lieben Hand*



*Rektor Prof. Dr. Schiewer
welcomes our alumni*

"All power to the imagination" was the motto student activists painted on the walls of their august institutions. Indeed, for many JYFers, the year was transformative in that it spurred their imaginations. Many discovered strengths of character they never knew they had. Some found their academic passion like James Knirk who has dedicated his life to studying runic inscriptions. Others came to think of themselves as "world citizens," as Michael Ehmann says proudly. Whatever their backgrounds, everyone soaked up the manifold cultural, linguistic, and traveling opportunities they encountered. Importantly, what sustained their post-1969 lives are the friendships they forged amongst themselves and with others.

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46 years later some of our 1968-69 alumni returned as a group for a weekend in June. They were greeted in Freiburg's alumni office by the university president, Prof. Dr. Schiewer, and the US Consul General, Kevin Milas – an event that allowed them to exchange views with their 2014-15 “descendants.” Once again, they had a meal in the university cafeteria (Mensa). Guided tours re-acquainted them with the city of Freiburg or introduced them to the fairly recent university museum. They reconnected with the beauties of the Black Forest and visited a farm museum. They went to a restaurant where they once had celebrated Thanksgiving. Above all, they basked in each other's company. Please, don't wait another 46 years to come back. It was a privilege to welcome you to Freiburg.



Remembering the Mensa of yore



Prof. Helmut Puff offers a tour on Freiburg history



Appreciating the Münster in a new way

Black Forest Badgers



Early in the year, an AYF band had formed under the guidance of Georg von Savigny, an accomplished guitar player and member of the Freiburg Madison Society. The Black Forest Badgers were a much acclaimed attraction on stage at the Freiburg Sister City fair in June, despite the fact that their band leader, Georg, could not make it due to a family emergency. Ulli Struve stepped in to lead the band to success, together with a former AYFer who had returned to Freiburg from Vienna for the event. In addition, the

Badgers also made Freiburgers aware of their sound at the American BBQ, organized by the International Club of the Studierendenwerk, at the Carl-Schurz-Haus Fourth-of-July Party, and the AYF farewell BBQ.

My Internship at Herder-Verlag

Amelie von Below, AYF 2014-15, University of Wisconsin-Madison

With the help of the AYF Internship Program, I received an online marketing internship at HerderVerlag, a well-known publishing company in Freiburg, for the spring semester. As a finance major who wants to work in Europe after graduation, I was keen on finding a business internship so that I would get a taste of the business culture here.

I worked in the education marketing department at Herder where I was introduced to the department's two Facebook pages.

Amelie (right) with her supervisor Johanna O'Byrne

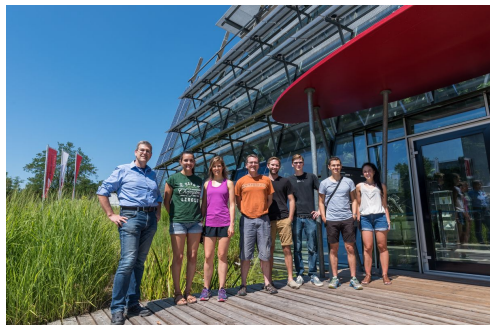


My main duties were writing daily Facebook posts, and analyzing the Facebook pages to boost success. I also collected data on competitors' Facebook pages (likes, shares and comments and the types of posts) and compared it to data on Herder's Facebook pages.

It is exciting to know that my analysis methods and research will continue to be used by the marketing department after my departure. I was able to make a real contribution, it seems, and I am glad to have had the chance to experience online marketing in Germany and to gain a broader perspective of the business world.

Energy Transition and Sustainability

Craig Morris, AYF Instructor



At Solar-Fabrik, a Freiburg photovoltaics pioneer

This year's *Introduction to the Energy Transition (Energiewende)* course, which I taught, marks a new beginning for AYF and for me. Although I have been writing about the *Energiewende* for more than a decade, this was the first time I have taught this difficult material in German to non-native speakers. I was pleased and impressed that students' proficiency levels turned out to be easily sufficient to cover the wide range of complex topics – from the large range of technologies to German and EU policy, social history, financing, and a look towards the future.



Looking at a solar cell production unit

For me, the highlights of the course were the hands-on excursions. Roughly half of the class hiked up *Rosskopf* with me to see and hear the four wind turbines erected within Freiburg city limits from up close. (It's a two-hour hike up!) The tour of Vauban we did at the end is one that I give regularly to various groups, but the visits to Freiburg's food waste recycling facility and to three small hydropower units in Emmendingen were special for me as well.



How to make energy from food waste

Overall, most participating students will probably take jobs outside the energy and environmental sectors. Looking back, some of my favorite courses from college were the ones outside of my field that broadened my horizons most, such as a geography course. Here's to hoping some of the students feel the same way about this class!

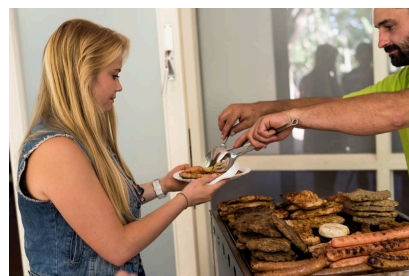
Morris is an internationally renowned expert and writer on renewable energy issues. Among others, he has authored the e-book on <http://energytransition.de>. For more, see <http://petiteplanete.org>

AYF: "A Year of Falling in Love"

Wenxin Hu, AYF 2014-15, University of Wisconsin-Madison

On 18th of July, AYFers and friends gathered for a Farewell BBQ. We started with lots of great food and desserts, but soon speeches, merry-making, and music took over.

Maddie Kaiser samples the goods from the grill!



AYF instructor Craig Morris and his talented son and daughter started us off with a lovely set of folk tunes (pictured here with Alex Ferron on bass). Of course, saying farewell is an emotional time and everyone is motivated to show his/her love once more. Mitchell Widmer offered a short German love song to us. It was beautifully sung and full of deep feeling.

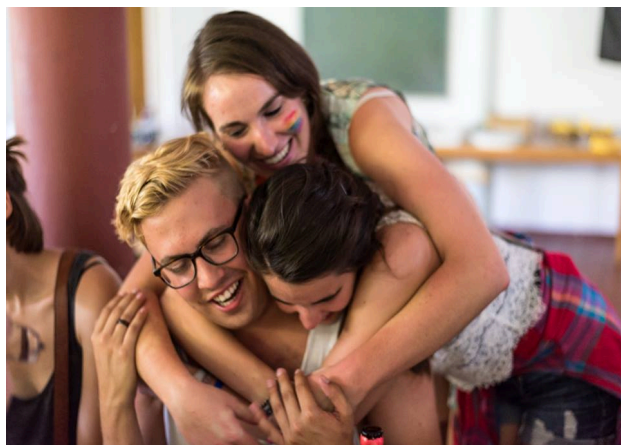


Erica and Molly had written a song for the occasion, with lyrics that were in turn funny and moving and totally on target. Their brilliant rendition celebrated our many lovely adventures during the year in Freiburg, concluding "We totally peaked this year... It's all downhill from here!"



Resident Director Helmut Puff called for a name change of the program. AYF, he proposed, should be called "A Year of Falling in Love". In his farewell speech, Helmut focused with gentle humor on key moments of our year in Freiburg: Andrew found his "inner Viking" by following his passion for Scandinavian and Icelandic studies; Emily and other AYFers found a love for mud by running in the Mudiator obstacle race; and Amanda has grown to love Freiburg so much that she is staying a second year.

AYF was not only an academic year in Freiburg. For us, it was a year of learning in and out of the classroom, but above all a year of fun, adventures, friendship, and self-development. Some of us have already said goodbye to each other and shed a few tears. As the Spanish saying goes: "Friends are like stars. You can't always see them, but they are always there." For us, the same is true of Freiburg. We know that this beautiful city will always be here, waiting for our next visit. Wherever life will take us, this unforgettable experience will stay with us forever. Bis bald Freiburg!



Lots of love to go around in these early farewell hugs!

As a true exchange program, AYF offers Freiburg students the opportunity to study at AYF partner schools in the Midwest. We were very pleased to welcome three Freiburg students at the BBQ who will be studying at MSU and University of Michigan during the academic year 2015-16. Mixing and mingling with current AYFers: Kamil Derezhinski, Mareike Makosch, and Theresa Witt.



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-form.html>.

For more information about the Academic Year in Freiburg, visit our web site at <http://www.ayf.uni-freiburg.de>