Dear Alumni & Friends of JYM,

We hope you’ll enjoy this issue of JYM Alumni News. Inside you’ll find:

> JYM News
> JYM Chronicles
> Class Notes
> A JYM Tradition

Please email us news or reminiscences you’d like included in the next issue: JYM@wayne.edu.

mit freundlichen Grüßen,

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www.jym.wayne.edu

Friendships and the ties that bind

Very often in life, success relies greatly on mutual friendship and support. We befriend one another because we identify, have similar values, appreciate differences, hold the same things dear and have that feeling of belonging – believing in one another. Even when we move on to new successes, we aim to keep sight of our personal histories, the friends we have made along the way and the stations in life which brought us together. The success of the JYM program, as one of those stations, naturally depends on the support and loyalty of both old and new friends, an invaluable pillar. Showing respect and gratitude towards our friends is an inherent way of giving back. It is for these reasons that JYM decided to recognize and honor Prof. Karl Fischer this year for his longstanding friendship to the program – as professor, mountain guide and mentor, and for his unwavering support to decades of JYM students!

For years now JYM has welcomed Professor Karl Fischer during graduation to give a speech on his good friend and idol, the late Ernst Langendorf (well-known radio journalist), and award one of the students the Ernst-Langendorf prize for their contribution to German-American relations. The winner receives a monetary award, a certificate and their name engraved on the trophy which is kept in JYM. JYM also awards the Karl-Fischer prize each year to a student who best combined intercultural competence and exploration with academic achievement. This year Professor Fischer was quite surprised to find himself the recipient of a prize! During graduation of the class of 2012, JYM dedicated a classroom to Professor Fischer: the Karl Fischer Seminarraum. He was presented with a letter of thanks from director Mark Ferguson and assistant Louise Speed at the program office in Detroit, as well as a few gifts and the plaque which now adorns the door to “his” classroom.

Editor’s note: As this Newsletter goes to press, the Junior Year in Munich is profoundly saddened to report that Professor Fischer passed away on October 3, 2012, following a stroke. We will most sincerely miss our longtime friend.
JYM News

JYM Student creates Munich-Inspired Art

Darya Tsymbalyuk, JYM class of 2012, was the recipient of the „Enrst-Langendorf-Preis für die Förderung der deutsch-amerikanischen Beziehungen“. This came as a surprise to this Ukranian who is studying Literature and Languages as well as Studio Art at Kenyon College. During her summer semester she was able to use a room in the basement at JYM as an atelier where she put paint and brush to canvas as part of her independent study. At the end of the semester she held an exhibition called GRENZENSPIE[ge]L in an art gallery in Neuhausen, one of Munich’s ‘happening’ neighborhoods. It was clear from the crowd that gathered at her opening that this artist is not just inspired in creating art, but also has a talent for bringing together people of many nationalities and ages, proving that art indeed unites! The excerpt below describes her art and how it was inspired by her Munich surroundings.

Darya in her atelier at JYM coined “the bunker”. Here she sits with her completed paintings amidst DDR memorabilia.

GRENZENSPIE[ge]L


- Darya Tsymbalyuk, München 2012

To see the full text or for an English translation, or to see more of Darya’s art visit her website http://daryatsymbalyuk.weebly.com

Darya’s art opening at Christian Dürr Gallery in July 2012
MY INTERNSHIP AT ThyssenKrupp was easily one of the most influential and beneficial experiences in my year abroad. In the two-month break during the winter and summer semesters, I had the opportunity to work for six weeks with the engineers in the Applications part of the Research and Development department in Duisburg, Germany.

This experience was unlike anything I had ever done before in Munich. For one, Duisburg and Munich cannot be more different. For another, it was the first time I was really on my own in Germany. Finally, the interactions and work with the engineers at ThyssenKrupp gave me a different perspective, one that I would have come across nowhere else.

Munich has its own personality, to which I’m sure all of my fellow JYM students can attest. The people, the architecture, the geography and the history all contribute to the modern characteristics of any city. Duisburg, located in North Rhine-Westphalia, is no exception. Wikipedia explains that it is the 15th largest city in Germany, that it is famous for its steel industry and was the most bombed German city by the Allies in World War II. It is home to the largest inland harbor in the world and only two years ago, 21 people died in the Love Parade. There is more to the city than these facts. Wikipedia doesn’t tell about the old steel factories, about how the steel industry brought in many immigrants from Turkey and all over, creating a diverse population. It doesn’t describe the sheer size of the steel plants, practically a city of their own.

Duisburg is a modern city. It was not preserved the way Munich was and I don’t think there was a lot left after World War II. It was extremely important to industry then and now. However this means that tourism is not what I would call a huge business. This alone differentiates it from Munich. What would Munich be without the ever-changing international tourist population?

While Duisburg does have tourists, it is not dependent on the trade. Indeed, with the competition from other cities in the area (Düsseldorf, Cologne, etc.) it would be hard to sustain such a trade. That is not to say that there is nothing to do or see in Duisburg. It’s just that the focus there is on steel. This legacy in steel brought about the bombings during World War II. Wikipedia also does not mention the bombs they still find all the time. Munich was also bombed during World War II. However, in the 10 months I lived here, I have never had to avoid an area in the city because of an old bomb. In the six short weeks I was in Duisburg, they found two bombs, at least, two that interfered with my life, one of them next to the central train station, the other three tram stations from my work. That’s not something that happens every day. At least, not anywhere I’ve lived. I was nervous and uneasy about it. My coworkers were not.

I don’t know, I mean, Munich has so much history. But those bombs in Duisburg really were what brought it home for me. I mean, that’s history - the kind of history that can’t be avoided, the kind that will go on affecting people’s lives for generations. Somehow, that had more impact on me than any memorial, museum or tour possibly could have. Duisburg’s inland harbor is amazing. It has two rivers, the Ruhr and the Rhine. I rode over the Ruhr every day on the way to work. I would run to the Rhine when I got back from work. There was this bridge, the bridge of Solidarity. I don’t know the history, but it was the closest place to the Rhine from where I lived in Duisburg. I ran there as often as I could. How many chances does one get to run across the Rhine? It was definitely one of my favorite experiences in Duisburg.

So when I look at that Wikipedia article, I see the facts just the same as anyone. But I also see the abandoned steel mills, that bridge over the Rhine and the emails and instructions for the bomb removal. I see the narrow, dirty tram and the parks. I see the people, so different from those in Munich.

This experience was also the first time I was truly alone in Germany. I mean, there was no one there with me, no program, and no other Americans. It was pretty liberating. Add to that the fact that I spoke German full time at work and had no Internet at home, it was also pretty isolating. However, my German improved very quickly. To sum it all up, I had a great work experience, in a place that was very unlike Munich. I may not have spent the two month break traveling Europe, but I feel that what I got out of my internship was just as valuable.
American Politics Abroad

Kathleen Burnett (JYM 2004-05) has been active in the American political scene in Munich since her JYM days. Election years are always interesting years for JYM students while abroad, especially because it is the first time most are able to vote for president. Nowadays with high-speed internet and the volunteer work of such non-partisan organizations as Vote from Abroad it is easier than ever for Americans to get registered to vote or get their absentee ballots as well as to keep up with the political race and election news while abroad. Here Kathleen tells of her joy and success working for Democrats Abroad. She is currently chair of the Munich chapter, the youngest chair to date.

I remember November 3, 2004 being a rather somber day in the JYM office. Most of us had just voted in our first presidential election, and for many the result was a bit hard to take. After Christmas break I put a bumper sticker on my door in StuSta reading, "Don't blame me, I voted for Kerry". What I didn't know at the time was that there was a community of like-minded individuals in Germany.

When I returned to Munich in 2007 I became involved in Democrats Abroad. The organization is an official part of the Democratic party and functions on the same level as a state party. We work to promote the interests of Americans living abroad to the Democratic party back in the U.S. During election years our main focus is on getting Americans registered to vote and helping them with all of the problems that can arise when trying to vote absentee from abroad.

In 2011 I was elected chair of the Munich chapter of Democrats Abroad. It's been great getting to know so many Americans in town and working to keep everyone informed of what's going on. This year I traveled to Charlotte to represent Democrats Abroad as one of 24 global delegates to the Democratic National Convention. I'll also be representing the Democrats in this year's debate at the Amerika Haus in Munich. Previously I had been studying art history and political science here in Munich, but I'm taking a break from that to focus on Democrats Abroad and do the odd bit of writing. Mostly I'll be spending the year working to get Americans living in Munich registered to vote. If you happen to be in town feel free to come by one of our events and say hi!

During election years the Amerika Haus in Munich (aka Bayerns-Amerikanisches Zentrum) traditionally hosts a bipartisan debate between the Munich chapters of Republicans Abroad and Democrats Abroad. There is also an election night party in November, with live music and news tickers. The thousands of guests – with a six to nine hour time difference from the USA – watch election results come in state by state through the night. This election season at the Amerika Haus, Kathleen Burnett of Democrats Abroad together with Philip Zeni of Republicans Abroad are debating the political platforms of Barack Obama and Mitt Romney on September 20th.
A “Spot on” career for nearly a decade after JYM

Among JYM alumni, I'd guess that it's not at all uncommon to think of life in terms of before and after. I'm not any different, but I consider myself pretty lucky. For me, “after” has meant nine years living and working in Munich – the city I never really wanted to leave in the first place.

When I moved back, I didn't know what I wanted to do. My goals were to come back and see if I could make it work. I'm still somewhat amazed not only that it did work out, but how! A month or two after settling in here, I was walking through Schelling 3 (remember it? it's still there, as 1960s German institutional as ever!) when I saw a flier hanging on a wall. An English-language magazine for German teens was looking for a native English-speaking intern. I thought, why not?

That was my introduction to the world of publishing, at a magazine called Spot on. Before that my publishing experience was limited to working on the JY yearbook, when we copied and pasted things together with a photocopier and actual scissors and glue. (How were we still so analog in 2001?) I started at Spot on as an intern, and as I write this now, I am deputy editor, experiencing the bittersweet emotions of producing our last issue ever.

It's sad to see things ending, but like I said, I've been pretty lucky – and perhaps spoiled here. Yes, it's an office job, but getting to produce something new every month means life is never boring. And certainly working here has had its advantages. It took me a few years before it sunk in that getting 6 weeks of paid holiday meant that I was actually supposed to take it.

I suppose in many ways I take living here for granted now. That year as a JYMer seemed so surreal, and my impressions of this city reflected in that glow. Now life is just very real, with all the same joys and problems that real life presents anywhere else. But every now and then – as I'm riding my bike or enjoying a long evening in a Biergarten or spending a day in the mountains – that glow comes back and I know Munich is still the city I never really wanted to leave.

Carrie Andrews (JYM 2000-01) returned to Munich after graduation from The College of William and Mary. She landed a job at Spot on, an English-learning magazine for German teens, the younger version of Spotlight Magazine for adults. Meanwhile she is deputy editor – however, the Spot on era is now coming to an end.
1954-55

In a letter to JYM Mary Grace Heller Cope writes: “I admit that I haven’t paid much attention to my JYM mailings over the years; however, I was intrigued by your piece in yesterday’s mail (Spring Newsletter 2009). It included input from even those as old as I. I had been a very early American Field Service exchange student, placed in a wonderful Duesseldorf home the summer of 1952. I couldn’t wait to return to Germany.

After two years at Oberlin College, I decided to major in German Literature to assist my coming year in Munich. I spent the JYM Christmas vacation at my Duesseldorf home. During Pfingsten, i.e. our Whitsun weeks off from the Uni, I traveled around Germany, even flying to the home of friends in West Berlin. I was able to take the subway into East Berlin (before the wall!!) where I found only rubble and emptiness. I still communicate with that West Berlin friend. She even visited us once in our former home in Pennsylvania. The West Berlin experience included a visit with an East Berliner who had sneaked over for a week to get decent clothing after which he would wear several layers of clothing home to hide his purchases. He told me he could not stay in West Berlin because the lives of his East Berlin family would be in danger.

Of course I remember many occasions in Munich including our lunch every day at the local pub, trying to concentrate during a course lecture in the museum while suffering from too much Oktoberfest, learning the Munich dialect, and walking endlessly around the city to become familiar with the old streets, the theater, and the art.

After graduating from Oberlin, I got my graduate certificate at Harvard-Radcliffe Program in Business Administration. Either as volunteer or on salary, the rest of my life I worked as a nonprofits administrator in either education or the arts.

Partly due to my experiences abroad, I met my Paris-born husband. During our 52 years of marriage, we have been blessed with five children, ten grandchildren, and a life full of unusual experiences and exotic trips. I returned to Munich when my husband had business there. I walked those streets for hours looking up familiar places and visiting the new Olympic Stadium.

I had used that year at University of Munich to make new German friends and to travel as much as possible, often with the Austauschstudenten bus trips to special places. The last of these was to the old Yugoslavia. Two of my Oberlin classmates were also on the JYM program. I have lost contact with Barbara Gingrich, but I have kept in touch with Andreas Goldner and even had dinner with him recently when he was at a conference here in Bend, Oregon.

Now we are retired and enjoying paradise here in Central Oregon . . .

Kenneth Wiggins was a senior at Wayne State University when he became a JYMer during the 1956-57 academic year. In Munich he lived in the Studentenhein at 58 Türkenstrasse, where he had the opportunity to mingle with a large number of German and foreign students. His classmate Fred Kauffman lived in the same dorm. One of the most riveting events during his stay was the uprising in Hungary in the autumn of 1956 and the use of Soviet troops to put it down. He and his classmates listened with excitement to a lot of the real-time reports over shortwave radios.

During lengthy school breaks, he had the opportunity to visit several countries, including Spain, where he enrolled at the University of Madrid to take a short course in Spanish conversation. These travels provided a significant background for his future career with the USG.

When he returned home, the German Department at WSU offered him a graduate fellowship to teach German. At the end of the school year, he married the woman who had patiently waited a year for him to return from Munich and then transferred to the University of Illinois, where he worked and studied as a teaching fellow for two more years. Then with his graduate work behind him, he went on to teach German language and literature at St. Thomas Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

In 1966 he was recruited by the CIA as a language specialist. He and his wife and their three daughters moved to Virginia, where they have resided ever since. His career with the Agency spanned 22 years and took him to many foreign countries, in some of which he was able to continue his German studies.

Since retiring in 1988, he has worked a variety of language-related assignments, at home and abroad, as an independent contractor. Last year he started volunteering at the local hospital in Warrenton, Virginia. He is also pursuing some long-neglected hobbies, one of which is contributing to a popular on-line German dictionary, www.dict.cc. He writes, "Looking back, I have to say that the JYM Program changed my life significantly. I’m sure that many of the thousands of participants over the years could say the same."
1957-58

Harry Seelig writes: "Many thanks for that wonderful Spring 2012 edition of the JYM Alumni News! Not only did I find the reprint of Frank Lyman's amazingly mature and objective article in GRUESS GOTT 1957-58, but the "Permanent Souvenir!" photo of Melissa Masino's tattoo featuring Goethe's 'Die beste Bildung findet ein gescheiter Mensch auf Reisen' reminded me of a German student I encountered at UMass/Amherst just before I retired in 2007 (after 40 years of teaching German Language and Literature there): she had had Goethe's entire poem Gefunden tattooed on her back as a means of honoring her beloved high school German teacher in eastern Massachusetts! Congratulations on that great issue! I'm also cheered to read in the JYM Class Notes that Frank Lyman is still in touch with Ken Hanf and others from that era!"

1959-60

JYM is sad to report that Anita White passed away on June 6, 2010. JYM sends condolences to her family and friends.

1964-65

Robert Dussault lives in Washington State. He says JYM holds great memories and life experience for him.

1965-66

Cort M. Johns graduated from Monteith College in 1967 and from the Wayne State University Business School in 1972. His father, Dr. Malcolm MacLean Johns was a professor with the WSU Music Faculty for decades and he believes there is a room in Old Main dedicated to his memory. (Editor's Note: Yes, indeed, this is so!) Cort then got a Doctor of Economics at the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland in 1992. He has had quite a career in International Finance and Business, including auditor and management positions at such companies as General Energy of America, Corsair Flight Academy and Chrysler Corporation. Presently, Cort lives in the Netherlands and works at Maastricht School of Management as professor of MBA thesis research supervision, external thesis evaluator, and lecturer for financial management He says it would certainly be nice to know how some of his old JYM classmates are doing. He is still in touch with long-time friend and fellow JYM classmate Neal Palmer.

1966-67

JYM congratulates Susan Sterling, whose first novel, Dancing in the Kitchen, received advance praise from novelist Richard Russo and was recently published by Publerati (publerati.com), a literary agency/e-publisher specializing in fiction. The novel, which concerns the revelation of secrets in a New England family after the unexpected death of the father, is set in Maine, New Hampshire, and England. Sue currently lives in Maine with her husband, Paul MacKin, who also studied in Munich for a year on a DAAD scholarship.

1969-1970

Craig Pearson considers JYM year as one of the greatest in his life. During that year, a small group of students became close to Tim Kunisch and had some wonderful experiences at his home. He was amazed to discover that, after all these years, Tim Kunisch was until recently still a JYM teacher. Craig writes, “It looks like the JYM program has become quite a bit more sophisticated than when I was a student there, but I am sure the central experience remains the same. Thank you for giving this amazing experience to so many students for so many years now.”

1975-76

Ronald Lourie posted on Facebook that he just published his first e-book. It is a work of fiction entitled “See Spot Run Book 1” and is available in a Kindle-Edition at Amazon.

1979-80

Robert Schuette and Sheila (Agnello) Schuette. Sheila wrote in to say that she and Robert enjoyed reading the last newsletter, but that we could save money by sending only one copy since they are married. It's always great to hear from the many JYMers who met their life-partners when they were in Munich with the program!

1980-1981

Gail Gottlieb is the democratic candidate for Florida State House District 59. You may visit her website to sign up to volunteer or to make a secure contribution www.GailGottlieb.com. She writes, “If you haven't yet, please ‘like’ my candidate page in Facebook: Gail Gottlieb for FL State Representative District 59.”
1981-82

Katherine Baer currently works for the US Treasury. When she wrote she was on a temporary leave-of-absence from the International Monetary Fund, where she works on providing technical assistance to the IMF member countries in taxation and customs administration. She is looking in to possibly working in one of the divisions at the IMF that provides assistance to the European countries.

1983-84

John Feeney has been living and practicing law in Wellesley, MA. He enjoys weekends and vacations in Maine (near his home town of Bethel). He goes skiing as much as possible at Sunday River. His oldest daughter is off to Conn. College this fall. His middle daughter did a one month trip to Deutschland with her high school group last winter. He just camped for a week with his son and his scout troop on Nantucket. John would love to hear from his JYM friends.

1986-87

After JYM Connie Kolb graduated from Marquette University and then went on to New York University School of Law (graduating in 1992). She practiced as a lawyer in Boston for 9 years where she didn’t have much chance to use her German, but then moved to London and worked there for 10 years and was particularly pleased when she found herself working on corporate transactions involving Germany. She was lucky enough to have quite a few business trips to various parts of Germany and really enjoyed exercising her German skills with German colleagues, business people and lawyers. She says if she had not had her JYM experience, she is not sure she would have developed her love for foreign travel which has brought her so many wonderful experiences and so much happiness. She is also not sure if she would have had the adventurous spirit to move to London and then stay there to work for such a long time. “JYM really opened me up to the rest of the world and created in me a love of experiencing new cultures that has continued to enrich my life.” Connie is now residing in New Jersey but was recently back in London for the Olympic games.

1987-88

George O'Neill now lives in Chicago. He was in touch with us because he’s looking for his JYM friends, Brian Lutz and Andy Newhall. We hope they were able to connect with each other.

Susanne Ollmann has degrees in Graphic Design, English/German, and International Business Diplomacy from Georgetown. She is the founder of a creative services firm that specializes in photography, graphic design, web design, and PR. Please visit her website at SKOphotodesign.com. She contacted us because she’s looking for friends from her JYM year.

1999-2000

Erin (Krumrei) Metzner has been living in Munich since she graduated from the University of Michigan in 2002. She met her husband during JYM in the Agnes-Adelheid dorm and they just had a daughter in January 2012. Congratulations!

2000-01

After JYM, Mike Bobick continued his travels eastward to Moldova. He first went to graduate school for Anthropology at Cornell, where he focused on the former Soviet Union and, after learning Russian, he ended up writing a dissertation on Transnistria, an unrecognized separatist state in eastern Moldova. During 2008-09 he was on a Fulbright to Moldova, and regularly returns to the region. He received his Ph.D. in May 2012, and will begin a postdoctoral fellowship at the American University in Central Asia in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (the AUCA is the only liberal arts college in Central Asia, and is affiliated with Bard College). He will be teaching in the Department of Anthropology for two years and beginning a new research project in Kyrgyzstan, and after two years in Bishkek he will be at Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, NY. He traces much of his intellectual interests to his year in Munich.

2007-08

Janai Gilmore, is now working full-time as an Education and Outreach Associate for Michigan Community Resources, www.mi-community.org. She writes “I’m getting paid to do work that’s meaningful to me!” As part of her job she conducted a meeting for the Vacant Property Coalition in May 2012 in Detroit. She also boasts five minutes of fame in a YouTube video called: “BLAC Detroit | Talk to the Cam: Crime”

2009-10

Shannyn Kitchen returned from Munich and she tutored a gifted child who wanted to learn German, and met with a theology professor for weekly German discussions about Jewish women in fin de siècle Vienna in preparation for a presentation she would have later that year. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa with magna cum laude and her degrees were in Sociology, Anthropology and German. Last fall (2011) she moved to rural Japan where she teaches English at a preschool and the local Rotary Club.

Re-Connect to JYM Classmates on Facebook & at LinkedIn.com

The “Junior Year in Munich (JYM) Alumni Group” on Facebook has grown to 626 members, and the “Junior Year in Munich Alumni and Community Group” at LinkedIn now has 186 members.

Visit the Alumni section of the JYM website for direct links to join. www.jym.wayne.edu
Anna Giesen (2004-05)
Anna took German all four years of high school and did an exchange before her senior year to southern Germany, Austria and Switzerland – her favorite stop was Munich! Anna comes from a long line of German speakers. Her father grew up in the small town of Union Hill, Minnesota, where the majority of settlers were of German descent and actively kept German alive. Even her father, already third generation, was raised speaking German. It hardly came as a surprise when Anna majored in German at St. Cloud State University. Her advisor there suggested JYM because of a former St. Cloud student who had done the program. One of Anna’s best JYM memories was meeting her best friend Rebecca Waggener during orientation at Löwenbräu. They shared a cab to move their boxes to Studentenstätt and were inseparable the rest of the year. At the end of the year they both took the DSH language test and made plans to return to Munich to room together after graduation. And they did just that! Anna then got a job at a coffee shop called Deli Star near the LMU in the Fall of 2006. Just six months later she and Rebecca were hanging out in StuStadt when she met her spouse-to-be Erin Hutton during his JYM. After doing the long-distance thing back in the States, Anna moved to Colorado to be with Erin and liked it there right away. While working in a local coffee shop, she was hired by a customer, the owner of a defense contractor which makes military training simulators for helicopter gunners, to do writing for them. It was her international experience and bi-lingual skills that impressed him. (Her time in Germany paid off!). This well-paying job moved to Detroit with Erin– she gave notice, but was kept on the payroll to work remotely and with a pay raise to boot! Anna returned to Munich once again last fall, this time with Erin. Her first week back she went to visit her former colleagues at Deli Star and was re-hired on the spot. On April 29th, Erin proposed to her on the steps of the Feldherrnhalle at Odeonsplatz on their fourth anniversary. They were both in Tracht, he got down on one knee holding a gold ring with a pearl – how could she refuse? The couple first returns to Detroit before moving back to Colorado where they will have their wedding next year.

Erin Hutton (2007-08)
He did an exchange to Deggendorf every summer during high school and stayed to do a course at the Goethe Institut after graduating. As a non-traditional student he then worked full-time while first pursuing an associate’s degree at Metro State College of Denver. Always having kept up his German and ties to Germany, he finally decided to major in German and pursue his BA also from Metro. When he talked to his advisor about doing a study abroad Prof. Lawrence Glatz, JYM alumnus 1982-83, naturally steered him toward JYM.

He arrived for his JYM already understanding Bavarian and owning a pair of authentic Lederhosen handmade in the Bayerischer Wald. One of his JYM highlights was the Berlin Seminar, a rather hard-core city seminar during the semester break. He says “That trip with Professor Söder was huge for me! I learned so much and it had a huge impact on me and where my life went after that.” The other highlight was the Art in Munich course with Dr. Wipfler which led him to minor in Art History and start producing his own art. His paintings have since been in a few shows. One memory he has, that surely most of his class shares, was the Fasching party on Marienplatz. Erin and his classmate Peter Ochs showed up on a very cold Faschingsdienstag sporting nothing other than tight speedos, shoes, gloves and superhero capes. They were stopped and interviewed by nearly every camera team present, ending up on the evening news for their “manliness” and even in a spot on Stefan Raab’s TV Total. At the end of the semester break Erin was returning from a trip to Paris when he met former JYM student Anna Giesen who was hanging out with friends in the Blue House of StuStadt, in the room of another JYMer near his. They hit it off immediately and (after something involving Burt’s Bees Chap Stick and Wisconsin Lunch Boxes) a Munich summer romance ensued.

After the summer, they both returned to their respective “homes”. Not able to be apart Anna finally joined Erin in Colorado while he finished his degree and they both moved to Detroit where Erin enrolled at Wayne State University as a graduate student of German studies. He is a popular TA at WSU, dubbed by students “the coolest teacher, with the coolest beard”. Erin spent this last year at the LMU as a Munich Graduate Exchange Fellow focusing on coursework in his field of specialty: Linguistics and Bavarian Dialects. He returns with his (now) fiancée to Detroit this autumn to finish his degree.

Anna and Erin have many things in common!
- Both had four years of German in high school and spent time in Bavaria during their high school exchange(s)
- Both had their university advisors recommended JYM specifically
- Both were German majors and have become fluent: Her German “much” better than his, his Bavarian “way” better than hers.
- Both fell in love with Munich and were determined to return
- Both met their BFF’s during their first days of orientation and are still in close contact: Rebecca Waggener (2004-05) and Peter Ochs (2007-08)
- Both had FKK experiences in the English Garden during JYM – one involved a sunburn and the other an FKK sprint during StuStaCulum…
- Both are into art, fashion and veganism
- Both are Euchre freaks and passionate marathon runners
- Both love Bier – duh!
- Both love Biergärten and plan to open their own beer garden when they move back to Colorado – stay tuned for the location!

The date is set! Anna and Erin will marry August 31st, 2013!
A recent addition to the orientation program for the summer semester is the Bavarian Dance Workshop. This is the chance for the JYM students to learn traditional Bavarian folkdances. At end of the orientation period the summer semester students along with some of the full year students all get together and take a train with the Bayernticket down to Peißenberg located 50 minutes south of Munich. JYM instructor and academic coordinator Patricia Thill, lives in this small village in the Bayerischen Umland and arranged the first Bavarian dance lessons for JYMer students in April 2010. It was a hit and has been continued ever since.

Once students arrive in Peißenberg, they have a twenty minute walk through the village to get to Gasthof zur Post. Here they are met by Anton „Toni“ Berntaler – a technician by day and a hobby dancer and musician after hours. He specializes in traditional Bavarian partner dance and also plays folk music. One can tell he loves to teach Bavarian dance moves and he does it in a relaxed and humorous manner. The Bavarian Gemütlichkeit which he brings to his classes is quite contagious and soon he has even the most hesitant participant hopping around, laughing and dancing with style.
It has been a tradition at JYM to kick-off the summer semester with the Bayernparty. This is very fitting given that the summer semester falls around the same time as the Münchner Frühlingsfest (Little Octoberfest) on the Theresienwiese. It has been common practice among JYMers upon arriving to Munich – be it for full year during Oktoberfest or for the summer semester during Frühlingsfest – to go out and purchase Bavarian Tracht. The Bayernparty provides yet another the opportunity to show off those gorgeous Dirndl and Lederhosen. The Bayernparty usually opens with a performance of traditional Kammermusik performed by a family hailing from Böbing. Familie Bertl consists of a father and his two daughters (and occasionally his Schuhplattler dancing son). The daughters each sing, yodel and play various instruments including the accordion – the father mainly plays the Zither which provides the base melody for all the songs and he plays the tuba as well. They are semi-professional musicians who have had their music on the radio, but the father also has a day job as police officer. Their performance at JYM also includes a short “lesson” on yodeling where everyone can join in singing a couple of songs. Afterwards the sly-footed JYMers have a chance to show off their recently acquired dance skills to the live folk music. The music, singing and dancing are followed by the famous buffet of Bayersiche Schmankerl – including fresh-baked Brezen, Obazda, Radieschen, Kartoffelsalat, und Fleischpflanzerl. Is your mouth watering yet? Three words: ein Helles, bitte!

Recent alumni may remember learning this “Jodeler” called der Alpara (referring to the Alps). Search it on YouTube for help with harmonies and pronunciation!
**JYM Alumni News**

Another continued tradition: JYM students get together a couple times per semester for *Stammtisch*. Pictured right are JYM students at the Max Emanuel Brauerei in November 2011; below the group celebrates the end of the winter semester at the Unionsbräu in February 2012.

**Things to Do at the JYM Website**

- Update your Address
- Request a JYM Transcript
- View/Post Upcoming Events
- Read past Alumni Newsletters
- Find Fellowships & Internships
- Explore the JYM Job Board
- Make a Gift to JYM
- Read Donors Stories
- Read current JYM Student Blogs

Link to the JYM YouTube Channel which has more than 7,200 views!

Click on the ALUMNI tab at the JYM website

www.jym.wayne.edu