Dear Alumni & Friends of JYM,

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

> JYM Theme: A Tale of the Philosopher and his Pipe:
  Professor Söder’s 20th Anniversary at JYM!
> JYM Archives, Alumni Chronicles and News
> Alumni Updates

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

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THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF HANS-PETER SÖDER AS JYM’S RESIDENT DIRECTOR

- By Mark Ferguson

This newsletter celebrates the 20th anniversary of Hans-Peter Söder as JYM’s resident director. I became program director of JYM a year after Hans arrived in Munich, and I must admit, my first impression of Hans caught me a bit off guard. As I planned one of my first visits to JYM in Munich, I asked Hans if he could introduce me to my administrative counterparts at the LMU Munich. I figured we’d just take a cab so that we’d make sure we arrived on time. But obviously that idea never even occurred to Hans. Instead, he made me ride one of his 1930s bicycles all around the city—in the rain no less! So there I was, trying to recall how to ride a 2-speed bike (which I hadn’t done in decades), stay within those feverishly policed bike paths while playing Zoro with other bicyclists and jousting with pedestrians, equally fully-armed like medieval knights with their pointy-spoked umbrellas. I think I might have begged afterwards: please don’t do this to me again! But that would be just the first of many surprises that would continue for twenty years. How on earth he would be able come up with new ideas and projects at JYM, develop and teach exciting new courses and care for 70+ students, and beyond that still present papers at conferences, publish scholarly articles, write a book and even have a volume of his own poetry appear in print (and featured on Bavarian television!), has continued to amaze me year after year. JYM is in good hands with Hans-Peter Söder, and I can’t imagine a better, more qualified, more imaginative and inspiring resident director for our students than HP. So, congratulations Hans! Enjoy the moment—and in the meantime I’ll check my email to what see what fresh surprise awaits me from Munich.
THE HIRING OF HANS-PETER SÖDER

-By Louise Speed

Toronto, December 1993. Professor Donald Haase, former Chair of German and Slavic Studies at Wayne State, and I attended the annual conference of the Modern Language Association to interview candidates for the position of Resident Director of the JYM. The MLA is the usual venue for colleges to interview candidates for academic positions. Every aspect of the process is grueling: thousands of freshly minted Ph.D.s scurry about the conference in a state of nervous anxiety as they wait to have their fate sealed at the dreaded interviews. For interviewers, the process is just as exhausting and arduous. In the morning each candidate seems interesting, qualified, engaging and a possible hire. By the late afternoon not a single candidate stands out, each one seems to morph into the one before and even the most detailed notes can’t conjure up the corresponding face.

More than 200 candidates applied for the JYM Resident Director position. Of those, the top 15 – 20 were interviewed at the MLA. About two thirds of the way through the list, Professor Haase and I were beginning to flag to the point where we would groan and roll our eyes with every knock on the door. Some candidates were easy to cross off the list, clearly unsuited for the job, but most had some pros and some cons, but no-one really stood out as they droned on about their research interests and teaching portfolios. Just as we were coming to the end of the list for the day, in strode a tall, lanky individual wearing not a jacket and tie, but an embroidered Bavarian Lodenjanker. Hmm, we thought, here we go, either a nut job or a real comedian. On the contrary: the smirks on our faces quickly dissipated as it became clear this guy was energetic, enthusiastic, completely grasped the nature of the job, and there was no way we were going to forget his face with that jacket on. When the words “I consider myself more of an academic entrepreneur” came out of his mouth, he went straight to the top of the short list.

Four candidates made the short list for Resident Director, but only one was invited for interview at Wayne State. Campus interviews are also grueling since the candidate has to meet with the Department Chair, the Dean of the College, the Provost of the University, and in this case the staff of the JYM. It was a frigid icy January in Detroit, Hans-Peter arrived from an even more frigid Nebraska with no coat, no gloves, no hat. It was clear that H-P was always going to do things The H-P Way, and he was enthusiastically hired in spite of our suspicions that his common sense might be compromised.

On May 11, 1994, Hans-Peter boarded a plane to Munich without a place to live and without ever having set foot in the JYM institute. In the Description of Activity section of the travel expense report it reads: “One way ticket to assume position of Resident Director of Junior Year in Munich program, Munich, Germany. Departure Date: May 11, 1994 Return Date: None.”

And that’s how it all began and how it continues today.
When Wayne State’s President Visited JYM

-By Irvin D. Reid

After taking office as Wayne State University’s president, I learned that there was only one WSU employee who worked outside the United States. As a matter of fact, we had only one full-time employee who even worked outside the state of Michigan. I had to meet him.......  

In 1998, I traveled to Munich to visit WSU’s only operation outside the United States, the Junior Year in Munich (JYM) program. Mark Ferguson, JYM’s program director who was based in Detroit, was already in Munich waiting for my arrival. I already knew Mark having met him at various events and meetings on campus, and I was reasonably familiar with the JYM program and its national reputation. The man I was eager to meet was this foreign-based employee, Hans-Peter Söder, who was a German citizen working exclusively for WSU in Germany. I understood that he had attended college as an undergraduate somewhere in the U.S., ultimately receiving his Ph.D. from Cornell University, but other than that, he was all German.  

It was a taxing trip for me, for I had gone to London on business first before arriving in Munich. Mark had given Hans-Peter a bit of advanced surveillance on me. He told him I was a new president who was very keen on developing Wayne State’s international education component and enhancing WSU’s profile abroad. That was basically it. Oh, and he told him that I had a great appreciation of classical opera, all of which was true.  

Wanting to impress me with some of the highlights that Munich has to offer, Hans-Peter took the opera thing very seriously and by combing through his extensive list of contacts and calling in several favors, managed to secure some very expensive box seat tickets to one of my favorite Wagnerian operas. And I do really love German opera, particularly Wagner. There was just one problem that evening. I did not come to Munich to go to the opera on my very first night. I was ready to relax a bit and wanted to go to a German Bierstube. I wanted to do a first-night-in-Germany pub crawl!  

Nothing could have delighted Hans, Mark or me more! I was really ready for some real German beer. Apparently so was Hans, and so was Mark, and we promptly abandoned the opera plan. In spite of my fatigue from the trip from London, Hans, Mark and I (and an occasional JYM student who joined us briefly and then departed) closed several bars that first night in Munich.  

That was really my first introduction to JYM and Hans-Peter Söder. It was a wonderful start to a subsequently most productive visit. "Grüss Gott! I think Wagner and Gott (which in Wagner’s mind was one and the same) would really understand..."

Dr. Irvin D. Reid is President Emeritus of Wayne State University (1997-2009)
JYM 1994-95 – The NEXT Generation

by Hans-Peter Söder, Resident Director

With the retirement of Frau Dr. Riegler, who led the Munich program for over thirty years, JYM embarked on a voyage into uncharted territory. Its structure intact, JYM set out this year to rethink its mission. A number of aspects of Frau Dr. Riegler’s (aka “FDR”) time-tested program have been “re-engineered” this year. The seven-week orientation period, for instance, is now driven by a thematic emphasis. This year’s theme was “50 years of the German Resistance to Hitler.” During orientation, students had the opportunity to follow a guide along the escape routes of the German resistance movement “The White Rose.” In addition, the Kick Film studio provided JYM with a copy of the documentary detailing the heroic effort of the American Variant Poy, who saved the lives of thousands of refugees. Among the films and events that underscored the orientation theme, the most memorable was the presentation by Dr. Ruprecht Gerngross. Dr. Gerngross, who was the leader of an armed uprising against Hitler, talked about the events leading up to Hitler’s march on Munich. The orientation theme was brought to a close with the Berlin seminar. In Berlin, students visited the famous resistance museum, a number of resistance sites, and climbed to the top of Hitler’s bunker where it all ended, and where the resistance movement triumphed over Hitler. The Berlin seminar, one of the most important features of Frau Dr. Riegler’s program, continues to be an important element of the “new program.” It is still held at the prestigious Humboldt University and it still tries to present as many facets of Berlin as possible. What has changed is the new “hands-on” character of the seminar. Now, only the mornings are devoted to lectures. Going under the assumption that this fast-changing city can only be comprehended through the active participation of its visitors, this year’s JYM seminar spent afternoons on the streets and back alleys of the city. We did so much walking and exploring, that some students had labeled the seminar “JYM Outward Bound.” Most memorable, perhaps, was a tour of the center of Berlin led by an architect who showed us the building plans of Europe’s newest capital. Plopping into the mud of countless construction sites and seeing the over 500 cranes on the horizon gave the group a feeling for the immensity of the construction activity at “Europe’s largest urban construction site.” Evenings at the theater, a visit to the Staats headquarters, and the tour of Potsdam were further highlights of the seminar. If all else is forgotten, none of us will forget being bombarded with tomatoes during the staging of the avant-garde version of the play “A Clockwork Orange.”

New at JYM is also an increased focus on language proficiency. Beginning with the JYM group 1995-96, all students will have the opportunity to acquire a certificate of proficiency, be it the “Zertifikat Deutsch” or the PNDs. New is also the emphasis on interdisciplinary course work. Using the excellent facilities for Film studies in Munich, JYM is planning a film and film theory course. The other advanced courses, such as the new Art History course and German Intellectual history, will place increased emphasis on cooperative and interdisciplinary learning and teaching. This year’s students were also able to profit from JYM’s new emphasis on communication with the city and university of Munich. A good example of this improved cooperation is a major book donation and funding for three academic prizes. All in all, the transition from FDR to the NEXT generation was successful. The students this year did their best to do their part to give JYM a new base. Rachel Clapp, for instance, volunteered to reorganize the library and Matthew Pearce set up our new e-mail system. With one fell swoop, Matthew Pearce and Matthew Bailes’ computing initiative has made JYM one of the most modern institutes at the university of Munich. Rachel Flint’s culinary skills saved our Seasons Party and laid to rest any German suspicions of American cooking. Stefan Haney was our willing guinea pig this year to see if an American business major could make it in the German business and economic departments. This linking up with various student initiatives laid the foundation for future JYMers in these departments. This is not the place to detail the many contributions of this year’s JYMers to the spirit of 1994-95, but I do want to take this opportunity to thank the students for making JYM the number-one study-abroad program in Germany.
HPS STORIES

HP ON ACADEMICS
I'll never forget him giving one of his classic motivational speeches at the very beginning of the year (fall 2000). As he finished describing some of the aspects of the program, he turned on the CD player and started singing the Stones "You can't always get what you want"...hilarious! – Katie Allard McGrath (2000-01)

I remember that too! If I recall, he was talking to us about selecting classes at JYM and LMU. A good memory! – Lauren Dunnington (2000-01)

I have to quote him from the Hitler in Munich class. In his introduction, he stated (in perfect Denglish) "80% of what you learn in college, vergiss man in zwei Jahren. I'll teach you the other 20%." And he lived up to the statement, both in and out of the classroom. The Hitler in Munich course is still my favorite course of my entire college experience. – Brandy Wilcox (2008-09)

HP IN ITALY
I have plenty of HP memories, mainly because they're still so fresh in my mind, but if I had to pick ONE memory...it would have to be in Naples. It was right after I was pickpocketed on the train and he told me:. "Ah, Jakob! Du hast dein Lehrgeld bezahlt!" It was good to hear this because I was a frantic mess because I lost my wallet and all of its belongings. He made me laugh when I needed it and I really appreciate that in a person. – Jacob Thornton (2013-14)

My definite favorite HP moment was in Naples, where the few of us JYMers were tired getting off the train and arrived in Naples just to find that HP had absolutely no idea where we were going (of course a real "Weltwanderer" has no maps or directions) or what we were really going to do on our first day there. We stumbled along some streets and finally in (broken) Italian, we were able to find our lovely apartments in Naples. Somehow, without much clue as to what we were doing, we had the best time in Naples and Sicily. – Morgan A. Sell (2012-13)

One of my favorite memories is when we were in Sicily, and we were all so tired of walking, so Professor Söder arranged for two horse carriages to take us all around the city. We had a great time! – Maureen Livernois (2012-13)

HP IN THE ALPS
In the Fall of 2003, our group went hiking in the Alps. There were a few articles of clothing that we stumbled upon in a rocky area, and HP says "another one bites the dust". – Luba Nevill Gertsberg (2003-04)

I recall his quiet delight as he watched us get our first taste of a hike through the Alps. Let's just say that we weren't ready and he knew we wouldn't be. – Cori Peet (2003-2004)

I remember hiking in Mittenwald during the first week of JYM. I was horribly out of shape at the time and struggling the whole way up and thinking, "Why are we doing this?" Somewhere along the line Hans-Peter just says "Respekt für die Natur" and it all made sense.— Krsna Santos (2008-09)

HP QUIPS
This always comes to mind when I think of Herr Söder! This happened during a walking tour that was part of 2004 Fall orientation. Upon reaching a point of interest, HP stopped, and while waiting for everyone to catch up and gather around, he took a tin of Altoids from his pocket. He put one in his mouth, then snapped the case shut, looked at the tin for a moment, and said "Hm. Curiously strong!" We all had a good chuckle. Classic HP. – Anna (Giessen) Hutton (2004-05)

I was sitting in the main room at JYM reading while some students nearby were putting together one of the jigsaw puzzles that are always lying around. At some point HP walked up to them, said, "Barrel of fun, oder?" and then just walked away. That barely counts as an anecdote, but it definitely made me laugh. – Dan Playstead (2007-08)

I have worked for HP a number of years now along with the rest of this "small family" that is the JYM Staff. HP has a way of remaining calm and reflective even in the thick of things. During one particular troubleshooting session, I brought up one potential problem and he said to me: "Ah, don't worry, we will burn that bridge when we get to it!" HP is the master at evoking irony, from puns to profundities. He always makes me laugh! What's more, HP is a man who wears many hats (literally and metaphorically). This director, professor, philosopher, and poet has a wonderfully unorthodox view of the world and education. He stays young and refreshed by listening to his students and is sincerely interested in keeping that ability alive. Happy 20th anniversary at JYM, Hans! – Sommer (Sherrit) Forschner (Academic Coordinator since 2005)

HP, THE PHILOSOPHER
One of my favorite HP memories is when I was visiting him during his office hours once and he got a call from a Norwegian friend of his and started speaking to him in Norwegian in this amazing lilting voice. I about died, it was so adorable. I was so happy I was there to hear that! Also, I really enjoyed introducing him to my dad, who also likes to wax poetic on various subjects and just generally has a similar philosophical outlook on life like HP. – Lenore (Cebulski) Bartko (2006-07)
HP, the Philosopher (Cont.)
HP hosted/led a wine tasting for us JYMers one evening. Many of us (20 year olds) attended, thinking: "Free wine?! I'm there!" As is typical for HP, he waxed poetic not only about the German wine, but also the issues affecting wine production in Germany. One issue he got REALLY amped up about was a shortage of cork material: How would the vintners cork their wine bottles if there were no corks?! Would they use glass stoppers? Screw-top metal caps? A travesty!! The point of this story is that no matter what he was teaching us, HP had a unique talent of making his subject matter seem so important and VITAL! This is a very special gift for a teacher and leader to possess. I remember taking the U-Bahn back to StuSta that night, still inwardly fretting about the cork shortages. HP, I think of you and my JYM year with such fondness! Here's to you - Congratulations on 20 years!! – Megan (Walker) Karklins (2004-2005)

HP being HP
One sunny afternoon, Professor Söder took me out for coffee and told me that he didn’t think I was achieving my full potential. Na ja, I was 21! Yet the memory of this conversation is a helpful kick in the pants whenever I’m feeling stalled in life, to stop wallowing and try harder. At 26 I’m still not there, as far as potential goes, but I’ll be sure to drop HP a postcard and let him know when I arrive. – Julie Constantine (2008-09)

Prof. Söder helped guide me through several years of deciding where I fit into German society and was instrumental in helping me get into graduate school. I recently had a breakthrough in my career as a park ranger, and on my first day I was amazed to have my boss tell me the reason I got the job was because of my fluency in German. I’m the chief interpreter at an historic ranch state park just outside of Las Vegas: Spring Mountain Ranch State Park. It was owned by a German actress (Vera Krupp) who married into the Krupp steel dynasty. We get a shocking number of German visitors on account of this, and I use my German several times a week with them. Professor Söder illuminated the fun and fascinating sides German culture and language and I owe a lot of my abilities to his inspiration. – David Low (2000-01)

I remember the time when we stayed at a hostel in Weissenfels (I think) with a big play room and everyone, including HP, played on/with all the old-fashioned wooden toys. He always fit in so well with the JYMers and knew when to be silly and when to be serious. – Renee Remy (2005-06)

OK, I've been thinking for days now, and unfortunately I can't come up with one specific memory of HP. But I will say this: he could ALWAYS make me smile or laugh. He was always in a good mood with a smile on his face, and as others have said, was always ready with a quick, witty comment that would crack me up. He is such an interesting person with fascinating stories of his past, and he’s equally interested in his students. – Shelley (Begue) Carroll (2006-07)

HP made an impression on me by always being generous with his knowledge and his time. Every time I talked with him I learned something new, and it always seemed like his top priority was the conversation he was having at the time. I remember when my mom visited me and I couldn't get out of class for a day, I asked HP to show her around a bit. He took her on a walking tour from Königsplatz to Marienplatz, and then to the Weinstube, talking about history, architecture, and education. That's just the person HP is. He'll go the extra mile (on foot!) for someone who wants to learn. – Brianne (Rhoades) Wilson (2007-08)

He is like a character out of a story or history book. Every time he spoke or even stood still smoking his pipe he looked lost in thought contemplating the next great adventure or answer. I could remember thinking how composed and intelligent he was and that that was the demeanor greats like Ben Franklin or Einstein must have had. It sounds funny, but he seems to be just 'that' cool. – Amellia Peart (2006-07)

I’ll always remember the time he let us all smoke cigars in his room and called it the Cuban-American Friendship Committee. – Elsa Ericson (2013-14)

Summing up HP
While his Lichtenstein Tintin inspired office murals, the smell of rich pipe tabak, and Kniebundhosen will always come to mind when I think of HP, it was (and is) his enthusiasm for learning with JYMers that I will always cherish most. As a guide in Berlin he joyfully shared the exuberance and confusion of that city’s history and culture, in the Alps he kept us always in high spirits (sometimes with spirits!) and in the classroom his eyes never ceased to twinkle. My own personal encounter with his contagious curiosity was when he led an informal seminar he titled "Frühstück und Kommunismus". Five JYMers who were as eager to get in over their heads as I signed up. We met HP once a week at the Schelling-Salon, a historic café once frequented by famous Munichers such as Brecht, Rilke, and of course, Lenin. HP had a reader printed, bound in red, and we would gather to discuss Max Weber, Karl Marx, or Walter Benjamin...auf Deutsch, natürlich. While these thinkers were intimidating, HP inspired us to think alongside them, reminding us that they too were once young students in libraries (and cafes). To this day, HP stands in my mind as the embodiment an enduring possibility to be a "man of letters"; his broad learning, deep thinking, and that special Bavarian knack for the joyful art of living are traits I hope to emulate. Ein wahrer Lebenskünstler! – Daniel Clausen (2006-07)

-Jonathon Bobak (2005-06)
CIRCLES OF DIALOGUE
By Hadas Margulies (2010-2011)

JYM alumna Hadas Margulies (2010-2011) returned to Munich this summer 2014 with her father Dr. Hune Margulies, a philosopher, to do a project called “Circles of Dialogue: The Encounters.” They were shooting a documentary based on a series of personal dialogues (as defined by Martin Buber in “I and Thou”) with poets, philosophers and religious teachers in Germany and Jerusalem. The following is what she wrote in her blog regarding their dialogue with Professor Söder.

THE POET

Energized with the success of the first dialogue and the possibility of meeting with the reverend’s close friend, Richard Rohr, later in the summer, we head straight to our second dialogue with a man near and dear to me, a former professor of mine from my semester abroad with Junior Year in Munich. Hans-Peter Soeder, or HP, as his students endearingly call him. He is a poet and scholar, extremely humble, intelligent, creative, and Bavarian. He greets us with his usual pipe in hand.

HP and Dr. Margulies cover topics ranging from Heidegger to poetry to icons. “Today,” HP says, “icons and images are replacing language. Emoticons are one example. The image is displacing 2,000 years of culture based on language and literature.”

“But,” begins Margulies, “Have so many years of words done very much for us? Maybe language and labels are what has separated us.”

“It is true,” he concedes. “I am interested in the entirely new way the younger generation engages. It is more tolerant, open, less invested in labels and proud of it.”

HP admits that he is generally a quiet person, yet he sees language as a means of building existence. He is drawn to poetry because of the silence between the words. The word that is missing. That you must supply.

“It is dialogical,” Margulies suggests. “You and I create the meaning together.”

“Students are scared of poetry. There are too few words. I try to confront them with poems. Poems are a way to find ourselves. Writing poetry is still always scary for me.”

The film crew, Margot, the project manager, and I cannot help delighting in the connection between the day’s two dialogues. These great, extremely different minds are both searching for where they are. They do not want to hide. HP continues to blow our minds.

“The most important things in life we can’t talk about. Like time, for example, we know what it is but we cannot say. We’re afraid to find out so we divert ourselves.”

HP is working on a new philosophical dictionary that is reduced to the few words that actually matter — words like love, God, spirit, relationship. Like our vocabularies, maybe we know 20,000 words but we only use 1,000 of them. HP is redefining the real, basic, important words. The words that are the most difficult to explain.

On the subject of silence, he is sure to mention that we also need to embrace others. Silence blocks out all the destructive noise around us, but we should not remain stuck in any one system of belief. We need to look to other traditions. I am glad I am working with young people who show me what is happening in the world.” And the million-dollar question: What can young people do to make a difference?

“A start would be to realize that we don’t know the answers. We know facts and have accumulated knowledge, but until we talk to people, we don’t know. I am reserved myself but I make it my mission to talk to one new person every day. Put yourself in others’ shoes. And then ask yourself, ‘What do I want? Why? Do I want to help others for myself, them, an idea?’ This begins the process.”

An hour later, our crew, the reverend, and HP sit together at a traditional Bavarian beer hall to drink liters and eat five different kinds of cabbage, four kinds of meat, and three kinds of potato that somehow fit onto one alpine plate. It’s funny — if you asked me to guess which of our new friends was the professor and which was the reverend, I would have guessed the opposite.
Beschreiben Sie einen typischen Tag hier im JYM. Man muss zuerst sagen, das Tolle an JYM ist, gibt keinen typischen Tag. Jeder Tag ist ein neues Abenteuer, ein neues Anliegen, es gibt neue Herausforderungen, Studenten haben Ideen, bringen Leben herein, man lernt eben andere Dinge. Das Typische gibt’s eigentlich nicht.


Was machen Sie gar nicht so gern als Direktor? Um ehrlich zu sein, die Sache war die: ich habe Philosophie studiert. Und der Grund dafür, war, weil ich nicht so gut im Umgang mit Menschen bin. Ich bin nicht extrovertiert, also habe ich gedacht, ich sollte Akademiker werden, dann brauche ich nur in Archiven zu sitzen und mich mit Büchern zu beschäftigen, den Staub von Büchern zu blasen, zu recherchieren und dann bräuchte ich Kontakt zu nur ganz wenig Menschen zu haben und alles wäre gut!

Was motiviert Sie?

Was haben Sie gelernt?
Ich glaube das wichtigste war, dass ich gelernt habe, interdisziplinär zu denken. D.h. nicht nur Geschichte zu unterrichten, sondern das auch interkulturell zu machen. Nur mit Vergleich kann man lernen, alle reden von „interdisciplinary studies“. In der Hinsicht und für JYM weiß ich die viele Angebote in München zu schätzen, wie z.B. die Pinakotheken, viele Denkmäler, tolle Architektur, Theater, usw... und ich überlege, wie das alles einzubringen wäre.

Was bedeutet Ihnen JYM als Direktor persönlich?
JYM in der Zukunft.

Was wollten Sie als Kind werden?

Was war der beste Ratschlag, den Sie je bekommen haben?
Ich hatte damals das Problem, dass ich mich an St. Johns College in den USA von Deutschland aus bewerben wollte. Alle waren dagegen, weil es sehr viel Geld gekostet hat. Alle wollten verstehen: warum studiert man in Amerika, wenn’s in Deutschland umsonst ist? Und dann hat mir mal jemand gesagt: „Don’t worry about the money“. Und das Geld kam dann auch irgendwoher. Dadurch habe ich gelernt: Don’t worry about the money!

Was finden Sie schön im Leben?

Dein Lieblingsbier?
Augustiner.
Die besten 5 Wanderwege?
Die Rotwand, die Schachen-Tour, die Ammergauer Berge, der Watzmann und die letzten: die Dolomiten.

Wie viele Sprachen sprechen Sie?

Wenn Sie eine Superpower haben könnten?
Kochen!

Lieblingsrestaurant in München?
Fasanerie-Biergarten.

Dein Lieblings-Nietzsche-Zitat, seine Bedeutung für heute und junge Leute?

Ihr Lieblingswort?
Zeit.

What is your least favorite word?
Schedule.

What turns you on?
Abtauchen, und Bergsteigen.

What turns you off?
Dogmatismus.

What sound or noise do you love?
Das Geräusch eines Champagnerkorkens.

What sound or noise do you hate?
Telefonklingeln

What is your favorite curse word?
Pappnase!

What other profession would you like to attempt?
Ja, ich wäre gern Gärtner in einem Alpingarten.

What profession would you not like to do?
Finanz-Buchhalter

If Heaven exists, what would you like to hear God say when you arrive at the Pearly Gates?
Das Buch war gut.
This year’s graduation ceremony for the class of 2013-14 held in July was also a celebration of two special guests who attended. Both Professor Alfred Cobbs of Wayne State University and Frau Herta Wolf of the LMU went into retirement this last year, 2014. Professor Cobbs was advisor to WSU students who have come on the JYM program, alongside his various other functions. He is famous for having kept close tabs on all his students in frequent email contact throughout their year abroad, offering personalized support to each of them. He delivered a commencement speech at the graduation ceremony talking about how deeply he has enjoyed teaching his students over the years, but he stressed how much more he has actually learned from them in the process – and he couldn’t help getting sentimental about it. It was wonderful that Professor Cobbs was able to personally say goodbye to his last class of „Wayne State JYMers“. He had a chance to reconnect with each of them during the celebration dinner at the Hirschgarten concluding their JYM. Professor Cobbs plans to remain in touch with colleagues and JYM students alike (he already has contact with several former JYM students now living in Germany who have him over to dinner or to stay the night in their homes). He has promised his continued friendship and support to JYM and will drop by to say hello whenever he is in Munich - which should be more often now that he has retired.

Frau Wolf also held a speech emphasizing her respect for the JYM program. She has been working in university admissions for foreign students to the LMU and registering the JYM students for the last 45 years. JYM will surely miss her as a reliable and helpful point of contact at the LMU International Office. Lucky for us she has already continued her loyal friendship to JYM by volunteering to give tours of the LMU to our students focusing on the architecture, art and history. Not missing a beat she gave her first tour during orientation for the current JYM class of 2014-15. She imparted her years of accumulated insider knowledge to this new group, which the students found both enjoyable and enlightening.

Professor Cobbs and Frau Wolf were presented with personalized gifts at the celebration in recognition of and thanks for their years of support and service to the JYM program.

JYM congratulates Professor Cobbs and Frau Wolf on the successful careers they have carried out and sincerely wishes them all the best for many years to come!
John Chivers (1954-55) sent us this photo of himself and three friends on an Alpine summit in Austria during his JYM. John taught German literature and language for 40 years at Phillip's Academy, in Andover, Mass.

Fred Stahl (1958-59) writes: "I was the first American to be inducted into any student dueling fraternity in Munich after the Second World War. Membership is lifelong, so I am still a member of Corps Germania as an alter Herr. Normally, a student is a Fuchs (pledge) for a year, after which he becomes a full member. Because I was in Munich for only a year, I was a Fuchs for only 6 months, after which I became a full member for my remaining time. Also, I fought two duels rather than the usual four required to qualify as an alter Herr.

As a side note, in the 1930s the National Socialist regime abolished the dueling fraternities and seized their assets. They saw the aristocratic membership of the fraternities as a political threat. After 1945, the pre-war members reestablished the dueling fraternities on a democratic basis. All students were welcome no matter what their class. The fraternity house is in the inner city but nevertheless survived the bombings intact. To oust the government-run Bavarian Broadcasting and recover the house, we had to sue the State of Bavaria, its postwar owner."

Cathleen Muehleck (1969-70), after many successful years at the LMU Prüfungsamt, has announced that she has gone into retirement as of April 30th, 2014. She continues to reside in Munich. JYM wishes Cathleen all the best!

William O’Brien (1977-78) is pleased to announce that last spring he became a member of the Rechtsanwaltskammer München and opened an office on Prinzregentenstraße in Munich. He sends his greetings "Mit freundlichen Grüßen" - William E. O’Brien, L.L.M. / Attorney at Law/ Mitglied der Rechtsanwaltskammer München

Tilde Mariani Giacchè (1977-1978) wrote to say she had one of the very best years of her life without a doubt. Her group absolutely adored director FDR (Frau Doktor Riegler) and all of their teachers. “What a wonderful year it was for us all! Here are some pictures with fellow students Dean Davis, Bobby Clarke, Marj Rauen, Dodie Morris.”

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♦ New address?
♦ New life events?
♦ Old photos found?
♦ A cool story?

Email us your updates and news for an upcoming newsletter!

JYM@wayne.edu
A RESPONSE TO THE BRIEF MEMOIR OF BILL HAY, JYM ’53
- By Eleanor Wahlbrinck Oliver, (JYM 1957-58)

I was fascinated to read Professor William Hay’s description of that first Junior Year and the City of Munich as it was when he arrived there. I could not believe the difference the four years between his tenure and ours would make. The JYM office in the Amalienstrasse probably had not changed. If anything it was a little grittier. Since I came from a factory town, I did not question it. Most surprising to me were Bill’s photographs of the ruins he encountered. In those brief four years they were all gone.

It was amazing how clean and well swept everything seemed. Smoothly paved streets and carefully laid cobbles were bisected by shining trolley tracks. The Linie Nr. Acht tore through town and took us wherever we needed to go. Did you know that there is no more Linie Nr. Acht? It must have been a sad day in heaven when they eliminated it. Weißfredl* must be spinning in his grave. Many of the streets were lined with one story shops that sold everything from Eis to Sudfrüchte to shoes and work clothes. It was evident that they were temporary structures and would make room for housing and offices when the need arose, but at that time Munich needed shopkeepers.

Not only was much of Munich swept clean and rebuilt, much was in the process of being restored. The piles of rubble that may have greeted the Class of ’53 had all been replaced by piles of building materials. One of our German tutors, Herr Dr. Reh jokingly referred to the building crane as the city’s official bird. When a person was assigned to living quarters by Herr Hildebrandt, the office manager, he would carefully point out that it was in Neubau. If it was an Altbau he would ask if that was acceptable. The Amalienstr. JYM offices were definitely Altbau. The Class of ’58 enjoyed brand new digs on Akademiestrasse, bright, sparkling Neubau with a lot of light woodwork.

I was happily quartered in the Marie Antonia Studentinnenheim on Kaibachstrasse, a women’s dorm that was part Altbau and part Neubau. I was assigned to a comfortable room that met all my needs. Most of the other residents were young German women who were reserved, polite, and full of information and stories. Many of them wanted to practice their English with us. I had to say, “Bitte sehr, I did not come all this way to speak English. Come to the U.S. if you want to practice your English.” I was able to keep track of several of them for many years but eventually the growing, thriving Germany scattered them all. I too had the fragmented life of a mom with young children and lost track of almost everyone. It would be nice if anyone from the Classes of ’57 and ’58 were to contact me. We are actively reorganizing with a weekly email.

I was fortunate to have a German pen-pal. When she heard that I would be at the LMU for two semesters she transferred there. We had been part of a high school English class contact and corresponded in English. The exchange would never have lasted to this day if we had to correspond at my level of German. We have met many times since.

I was a hometown girl, a “day-hopper”. I lived at home and attended Wayne State University. I had registered to take French as my foreign language when a professor from the German Department addressed our orientation group. Dr. John Ebelke explained the procedure whereby students could attend Wayne State but never set foot on the campus. They attended the University of Munich. The only requirement was 4 semesters of German. I sat straight up in my chair and paid very close attention. The next morning I went back to registration and changed my foreign language to German. At the time JYM was the only junior year program that had been re-established after the war.

The rest is history. I took a few graduate German classes at Wayne when I returned, one of them with Dr. Ebelke. Little did we know that would be the last class he would ever teach. He left a young family and classes full of students to mourn him. But the Junior Year in Munich is his thriving legacy. As a partial scholarship student I have tried, in some small way to give a little back so another kid from Detroit could have this life altering experience. Thanks, Bill Hay for reconnecting me with those early days in Munich!

* Weißfredl was a Bavarian humorist, Ferdinand Weissheitinger became Weiss Ferdl, born 1883 in Altoetting, died 1949 in Munich, buried in the forest cemetery in Solln. The folksinger is remembered since 1953 with a memorial fountain on Munich’s Viktualienmarkt. His most well known “Gstanzl” is: Ein Wagen von der Linie Nummer Acht, a satire about the Munich trolley line. In 1921 he became Director of the Place of Local Folk Entertainment. (Platz dem Szenelokal für volkstümliche Unterhaltung.) In 1940 he became a member of the NSDAP, but then distanced himself from the Nazis because of their organized mass disappearances. However, he also wrote antisemitic skits (Gstanzl). During denazification he was identified as a nominal member and was released after a fine. For more see wikipedia: http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weiß_Ferdl
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