Dear Alumni & Friends of JYM,

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

Inside you’ll find:

> JYM News
> JYM Alumni Chronicles
> Alumni Updates
> 2012-2013 Gift-Giving

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

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Mark Ferguson
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Privileged Guests! JYMers Get a Special Invitation for Thanksgiving 2013

Junior Year students have always enjoyed a special status while studying abroad. As foreign guests of the university and of the country they come to the attention of various high-ranking members of the community and are privileged to be welcomed by statesmen, stateswomen and other VIPs at some point during the year.

The US Consulate in Munich, directly involved with the German-American community, naturally extends invitations to the JYM students to various events. Generally, the Consulate in Munich likes to stress the special role JYM students have while abroad, that by virtue of being in Germany they are self-appointed ambassadors for German-American relations. Over the years a number of JYM students have even done internships at the US Consulate and some have become interested in the foreign service (if it weren’t for that daunting exam!).

Students of the last couple of years have been involved in the newer MeetUS program by the Consulate, where they travel to local grade schools and Gymnasien, to do presentations for English classes on various aspects of life in the US.

Despite the JYM staff being used to special invitations and visits from diplomats, we were quite surprised this year when Munich’s current US Consul General, William E. Moeller, extended an unprecedented invitation to this year’s group of students. We have been greeted by Consul Generals past who have had groups come to the Consulate for a talk or who have come to the JYM to meet the students for a few hours. This year, however, the Consul General decided to invite the entire group as exclusive guests for a Thanksgiving dinner with him and his wife - and not at the consulate but rather at his private address in Bogenhausen, Munich. Although he and his wife were slightly daunted by the size of the group, 30, they invited everyone including the resident director and staff.

On Tuesday, November 26th, 2013 Consul General Moeller opened his home to the JYM students who enjoyed conversation, a chance to talk with the Consul General and a wonderful meal of traditional Thanksgiving foods prepared by his personal chef under the supervision of his wife Mrs. Moeller. After dinner CG Moeller gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining the role of the foreign service and an historical account of German-Bavarian relations. There were a couple of other staff members at the meal, including the CG’s daughter. For the first thirty minutes, a television team from Bayerischer Rundfunk filmed the event for a special report to be aired that Thursday (on Thanksgiving) where CG Moeller was also a studio guest. Thanks once again to Consul General and Mrs. Moeller for being such gracious hosts to JYM! - By Sommer Forschner (Photo by Suri Xia, JYM 2013-14)
**GENERATION GAP - JYM 30 YEARS LATER**

**AN INTERVIEW WITH JYM ALUMNUS ERIK SEYRING (JYM 1983-84) AND HIS DAUGHTER JACKIE SEYRING, A CURRENT JYM STUDENT, 2013-14 (U OF IOWA)**

**JYM: How did you come to study German and how did you find out about the Junior Year in Munich Program?**

**Erik Seyring** I took German in high school, because both of my parents were born in Germany and we still have close relatives in Germany. Jackie has a cousin living and studying in Munich, just like I did when I was there. I took the year abroad simply to use my German to do something adventurous before getting out of school. I never expected that German would become such a large part of my adult life.

It's funny how I found JYM. When I decided to study abroad, I asked the head of the German dept. at Univ. of Iowa, who gave me only one recommendation, which was JYM. It turns out he had studied with JYM as an undergrad. I only found out later that Iowa had its own programs, but by then it was too late, I had already committed to JYM and I've never regretted it.

**JYM: What kind of classes did you take while on the JYM program?**

**ES:** I was a business major at Iowa and took German because I liked the classes. I found out while studying in Germany that I really enjoyed history. I found my classes at JYM to be more beneficial to me than the classes I took at LMU. I'll admit the lecture format and level of the courses at LMU were over my head. I took a philosophy class at the LMU (Von Hegel bis Marx). I think that class would have been a challenge in English, let alone Deutsch! Anyway, we had a great tutor at JYM who dragged us through it. At that time FDR would arrange for a tutor twice a week at JYM for every class JYMers took at the LMU. She had to sort of marshal us into a smallish set of options so she could have 8-12 students taking the same thing, but we had some options. I took an interesting economic history course at the LMU, which covered the “Wirtschaftswunder” of German economic rebuilding after WWII.

**JYM: Where did you live while on the program?**

**ES:** I lived in the big high-rise at Studentenstadt, the same building that Jackie is in!

**JYM: What other activities did you engage in while in Munich?**

**ES:** I joined a tennis club at the Olympiapark. We played tennis on Friday mornings. I traveled and hung out with lots of different people I met (mainly at the Tribühne). Lots of these people were either students, living at Studenstadt or many UK citizens that were hanging out in Munich, basically playing music on the streets or working odd jobs to get by - lots of interesting (sometimes strange) characters.

**JYM: What are things you remember the most from your time on the program?**

**ES:** I loved meeting all the different people from all over the world that were studying in Munich at the time. At that time (early 80’s) there were lots of Iranians hiding out in Germany, trying to stay in school to avoid being drafted in the war with Iraq. I met some of the most brilliant and crazy people I’ve ever known, many of them Americans. We backpacked for two months (me and my two JYM friends, Alyson Shupe and Steve Hoffman). I’ll never forget the independence, adventure and personal growth that we experienced! Steve, Alyson and I took the first long weekend before classes started in October to travel down to northern Italy. We went to Verona and then on to Venice. On Saturday morning in Verona, before leaving for Venice we were visiting their Saturday morning market and saw these really cute kittens that we all fell in love with. Anyway, we went on to Venice and decided to grab lunch before trying to find a hotel and sightseeing. While at this pizzeria, Steve and Alyson went to the bathroom and were gone for quite awhile. When they came back they said there was a family of stray cats living at the pizzeria and the owner gave them each a kitten. They also said, “and we got one for you too.” So, we took off with our three kittens in a box, bought them milk in St. Mark’s square and tried to find a hotel that was cheap and would take all of us. We couldn’t and just headed back to Munich with our box of kittens. Those cats all grew up in the Stu-Stadt and came home with us. My cat, Frank, ended up taking two trips back overseas with the family to Germany, living finally outside Frankfurt with us.

**JYM: What did you do after your JYM year?**

**ES:** After graduating with a minor in German and a major in...
Finance, I became a commodities trader in Chicago. In 1989, when the East opened up, many firms wanted to open offices in Europe. Also, commodity trading started up in Europe, mainly with the Deutsche Termin Boerse in Frankfurt. I ended up being asked by two firms to move to Germany. We lived in Germany and Switzerland for the better part of 10 years, from 1992 to 2002. We could have become permanent residents in both Germany and Switzerland, but ended up both times returning to the States. I quit trading in 2004 and am now a high school Social Studies teacher. I ended up turning my hobby of history into a career. Now I teach Economics, history and culture classes. Last year I even taught Deutsch II, which was a trip!

**JYM: When was it clear that your daughter would also apply to the JYM program?**

ES: I told Jackie very specifically not to limit herself to just Iowa’s programs, because I knew from my experience that people don’t have to stick with their school’s programs. I admit, I pushed her hard to look at JYM. It was clear, very early that this was still the best program out there. Nobody can compete with the value and experience that this program has. She also wasn’t at all looking to study for the entire year. I tried not to push her, because the entire experience isn’t perfect for everyone, let alone biting off a full year’s worth. She came to that conclusion on her own, after doing a lot of reflection and yes, discussing it with me and her mom.

**JYM: How has it been for you having your daughter in the JYM program - are you re-living a lot of your own experience?**

ES: Sure, but her experience has been different and I’d say even better than mine. She’s doing an internship which I think is really cool. That is a great opportunity that wasn’t pushed during my time. It’s been one long trip down memory lane for me. I am looking forward to getting back to Munich this summer. I’ve been back many times, but this time I hope to relax longer there and relive some of that wonderful carefree lifestyle that I experienced before. All in all, I’m very proud of this program. Please pass along my congratulations to everyone at JYM. I hope to meet some of you this summer and thank you myself for continuing a great tradition of excellence!

![Jackie Seyring with her parents when departing for Munich in Sept. 2013](image)

**JYM: Have you been able to reconnect with your German relatives since being over here for your Junior Year?**

**Jackie Seyring:** I have spent a good amount of time with my German-side of the family since I have been here, which is nice. My Oma’s sister’s family lives in Lindenberg and Kempten. I spent Christmas in Lindenberg, and have been to Kempten for a couple visits. My Oma’s brother’s family lives in Weißenburg and Neustadt an der Waldnaab. I often meet up with my cousin from Kempten, also living in Munich and taking classes at LMU.

**JYM: Did you grow up bilingually, with German and English?**

JS: I lived in Frankfurt from age 2-6 and went to the public kindergarden there, where we spoke German. We then moved to Switzerland where I went to the international school, through third grade. We didn’t speak German at home, but I grew up around it while living in Europe. In Chicago I took Spanish in junior high and high school, and then picked up a German class as well in my junior year of high school and continued to take German in college. I decided I already had a pretty good foundation in German and thought it would be worth it to master the language in order to keep in touch with family, and have the option to study abroad, etc.

**JYM: When was it clear that you would also follow in your father’s footsteps and apply to the JYM program?**

JS: I actually didn’t make my final decision to study with JYM until spring of my sophomore year in college. My dad always spoke so fondly of his experience studying in Munich with JYM, but for a long time I didn’t know if studying abroad was the cards for me as well. Ever since we moved to Chicago when I was 9, I knew I wanted to come back to Europe but I didn’t know when and under what circumstances.

**JYM: How have your parents reacted to you being over here?**

JS: My parents love the idea of me studying in Munich. I think my dad definitely gets nostalgic and I think he is happy for me to be able to have similar experiences. He might have been even more excited than I was, before I left for Munich. He told me stories about trips he made around Europe on break, and he even showed me Studentenstadt on Google Earth. My family has plans to come visit in July, after we finish the second semester.

**JYM: What have been some of the memorable moments of your JYM experience so far?**

JS: I am majoring in journalism and have been interning at *Journal International* the entire first semester and will continue to work there second semester. This is good experience for my major field, I work there on English publications and their website. The internship position was offered by a former JYM student, Jill Ray (2007-2008) who works for the company. I am also part of the Honors Program with Herr Süder. We have gone to various plays, concerts and museums. I also went on the *Italienische Reise* class trip to Ravenna and Napoli, which was an amazing experience and one of my most memorable moments so far. We had an incredible time exploring Italy, and also got to know each other better. Leipzig was another fun trip where we got to see another side of Germany. I also really enjoyed Thanksgiving here. Nearly every one of us JYMers got together and made a potluck dinner in StuSta.

**JYM: Has it been easy to make German friends and other connections?**

JS: It’s pretty easy to meet people and make friends, being surrounded by students in StuSta. I also found a Sprachpartner on Sprachduo, who I meet with regularly. I am always hanging out with JYMers, making various other German friends just by meeting people out in town and traveling whenever I can. I feel really comfortable around all of the JYMers and feel like I have gotten to know a lot of them really well. Most of us hang out together in big groups quite often. I feel like we are all very different and come from a lot of different backgrounds, but still get along great. It is a wonderful mix of people.

**JYM: Do you have any general comments about the program?**

JS: JYM has offered a lot of support and made me feel very comfortable ever since I arrived in Munich. I anticipated a lot of homesickness and initial discomfort before coming overseas, that I never actually experienced. I am so glad that my dad encouraged me to study abroad and to apply to JYM. It has been the most amazing experience so far. People always say “studying abroad was the best experience of my life” and it sounds so cliche, but there really is no other way to describe it.
While a student at Southern Methodist University I had met a couple of German exchange students at SMU and we had become friends. Halfway through my sophomore year the German Department at SMU announced an interesting opportunity: Wayne State University intended to reopen their “Junior Year in Munich” program, shut down in the 1930’s, for the 1953-54 academic year.

I was accepted by JYM and one of my German friends, Heinz, had managed to get me into the first student dormitory built for the University of Munich, the Studentenhein am Biederstein. It had all the comforts of a dormitory in the US. Well, almost. We had warm water once a week.

I sailed from New York in June, 1953, one of six passengers on a freighter which took almost two weeks to reach Hamburg. It was while I was at sea and ‘out of touch’ that the June 17th workers uprising in East Germany occurred. Fifty years later I learned that our JYM was almost cancelled because half of the students had withdrawn for fear they would get caught in a crisis.

The JYM started the semester in September, with special courses in German Language and European History. John and Marianne Ebelke had done a great job of getting everything organized for us. For the Ludwig-Maximilian Universität, the semester began in October. We were able to attend University lectures and get JYM credit for a course, with JYM providing tutors and special exams for us. I took my beginning Geology courses at the LMU.

The JYM office was in the Amalienstrasse next to the University’s ‘back entrance.’ The main building of the University on the Ludwigstrasse had opened, but some of the roof was missing, and parts of the building were still ruins. When winter came it was cold, and most of the classrooms were not heated. I wore a heavy winter coat and gloves - not the easiest gear for taking notes.

Nevertheless, that year in Munich was the highlight of my life. I went to many concerts, opera and plays. Tickets for students always seemed to be available and were incredibly cheap.

Our JYM program gave us the regular German University vacation periods off, three weeks over Christmas/New Year and two months between the winter and summer semesters. So I was able to spend several weeks in Vienna, Rome, and Paris.

Fasching lasted two months, until the beginning of Lent. Tickets were cheap and there might be as many as 30 costume balls on weekend nights. For me the most memorable parties were in the labyrinthe underground air-raid bunkers of the Regina Hotel underneath Lenbach Platz and the surrounding area.

Although that year in Munich was the most exciting time of my life, I am amazed when I look back at the pictures I took and realize that it was still a city largely in ruins.

After that year one thing led to another, opportunities opened up and I was able to do graduate study in Switzerland and pursued a career in academia at the Universities of Illinois, Miami, and Colorado. From the 1990’s I wound up living in Europe for 15 years, as Professor or Visiting Professor in Munich, Kiel, Utrecht, Greifswald, and Vienna.
JYM REMEMBERS singer-songwriter Jesse Winchester (JYM 1964-1965) who died at the age of 69 on April 11, 2014. Jesse, born James Ridout Winchester, was a German major at Williams College when he came on the JYM program. While on the program he spent much of his free time playing and touring with a German rock band. When he returned he finished his degree and moved to Canada to evade the draft during the Vietnam war. There his song-writing career took off but success was limited to Canada for many years with major hits from his first album released in 1970 including the hits “Biloxi”, “The Brand New Tennessee Waltz” and “Yankee Lady”. His music was rooted in country, gospel and soul. Once amnesty was granted during the Carter administration he began touring and recording in the US but continued to live in Quebec for many years. He worked in Nashville and his songs appeared in the repertoire of stars such as Joan Baez, Emmylou Harris and Jimmy Buffet. After a successful fight with esophageal cancer in 2011, his cancer returned in the form of bladder cancer which unfortunately proved fatal.

Bill Treut (JYM 1967-68) wrote in December 2013: “JYM was the highlight and the most formative experience of my young life, with many memories that I continue to cherish.”

Trish Bissell (JYM 1971-1972) remains in contact with 2 classmates from JYM who all went to Florida last June for a mini-reunion. They are Janet Paddock Hartmann and Nicole Steiner Chaskel. She also tries to keep up with Cathleen Muehleek from the JYM class of 1969-1970.

Bill English (JYM 1974-75) met his wife Dorothy Ford who was on the program and from Beverly, MA. They have been married 36 years, and have a son 32 and daughter 31 and grand-daughter 15 months old. He also got his MBA in Accounting from Wayne State University and was able to use his German degree along with his accounting to work for multinational companies who operated in Germany. He worked for UTA in Dearborn, MI and had an assignment to Cologne, Germany as Finance Controller for four months in 1990. His wife and children came over to visit him and they went to the East German border not realizing that two months later the wall would come down in Berlin. The following year on a business trip back to Germany he drove straight into East Germany. He writes: “I am grateful for the excellent German program to study aboard. I still have great German friends from when I studied in 1974 and from working over there too.” He hopes to find some of his fellow students from that year again.

Jean-Marie (Regan) Minton (JYM 1976-77) is a realtor in Chicago. When she wrote in mid December 2013 she was heading to Costa Rica where she would be seeing Christiana Figueres, a JYM classmate, currently living in Bonn, Germany. They hadn’t seen each other since 1984!

Sherry (Shepherd) Günther (JYM 1983-1984) is currently the Government Affairs Coordinator at the Munich International School e.v. in Schloss Buchhof in Starnberg and resides in Neuried near Munich.

George O’Neill (JYM 1987-1988) graduated with a Master of Science in Nonprofit Management from the Sprott Institute of Jewish Learning and Leadership in Chicago, IL. He was also in Munich this past autumn and attended Oktoberfest for the first time since his days at JYM!

Scott Vuchetich and Laura (Martin) Vuchetich (JYM1989-90) wrote that their paths first crossed at the Hypo Bank in Munich in 1989. Since then, they’ve been around the world and back again together, living in Chicago, Boston, Charleston (WV), Fort Collins (CO), London (England), and now Milwaukee, WI, where they plan on staying. They have 3 boys, all teenagers, with the eldest about to go off to college. He’s taking German, so who knows? JYM Class of 2016-17?

Joel Hartter (JYM 1996-1997) moved to Colorado where he took on a position at the University of Colorado in January. He is Associate Professor and Associate Director for Professional Education in the Environmental Studies Program at the Boulder campus. He is starting up an integrated professional master’s program in environmental sciences. He also wrote that he has 3 kids, 2-4-6 and that life is good! For more info and publications visit his website www.jhartter.weakly.com

Susan Snedigar Bertl (JYM 1998-1999) met her husband Uli (same floor at Agnes Adelheid) that year and moved back to Munich in 2000. They got married in 2003 and have two children Anna and Max. She writes: “My year in Munich certainly changed the course of my life!”

Marie Klopfenstein (JYM 1998-1999) received a Ph.D. in Applied Language and Speech Science from the University of Louisiana, is a mother to a 3 year old boy and currently Assistant Professor at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders.

Dana (Kirby) Ettmayer (JYM 2000-2001) gave birth to a baby boy on 22. November 2013 in Germany! She is really enjoying being a stay at home mom and already doesn’t want to go back to work in February, 2015.

Corine Haener and William Haggard (JYM 2004-2005) were excited to receive the 60th anniversary newsletter. They informed JYM that they will be getting married this April 2014! JYM congratulates this couple on their wedding!

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Alison (Bolla) Greenlee (JYM 2004-2005) wrote in December 2013: “My husband Michael and I recently moved back to Michigan after spending 3 years in Oklahoma, where I was working as the Special Collections Librarian at the University of Tulsa. I’m now enjoying my new position of Collections Specialist at The Henry Ford. It’s good to be home! We just bought our first house, moving in all the snow. We’re also expecting our first baby in June!” Congratulations from JYM!

Anna Giesen Hutton (JYM 2004-2005) and Erin Hutton (JYM 2007-2008) married in August 2013 in Colorado. They had a very Bavarian wedding in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. The couple was dressed in Dirndl and Lederhosen. Among the guests were JYM alumni from both classes (also in Tracht). The flower girl was Violet Palmer, daughter of John Borstad and Marissa Palmer, both JYM 2007-08. JYM congratulates the happy couple!

Justin P. Brooks (JYM 2008-09) wrote a while back in January 2013: “I am leaving for my first deployment to the Middle East in just a few short days and so therefore have done very little at work over the past few days”. Having some free time on his hands, he went to the JYM website and looked through some old Alumni Newsletters. He found them quite entertaining, but noticed no one from 2008-2009 had yet posted an update. He found it odd considering that his classmates are doing interesting things and wanted to give an update to at least represent the class. Since JYM he graduated with dual degrees in Modern Languages (German) and History from the Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina in 2011. He was commissioned into the United States Army and was serving at Fort Drum, NY in 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) when he wrote. He was to leave on the 22nd of January (2013) for his first tour in Afghanistan.

Dan Brickley (JYM 2008-2009) is working on his PhD at Michigan State in the Plant Biology and Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, and Behavior programs. He doesn’t get to use his “Deutsch” too often, but wants to practice by reconnecting with some JYM friends.

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**DONORS 2012 & 2013**

We would like to express our sincerest thanks to all who donated to our annual scholarship funds, endowed scholarship funds, and program advancement fund in 2012 and 2013. Because of your generosity we were able to award scholarships to 37 students from 22 colleges and universities.

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<td>Suzanne Petri</td>
<td>Lisa Slouffman</td>
<td></td>
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**MATCHING GIFTS 2012 & 2013**

American Express Charitable Fund
Deloitte Foundation
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Johnson & Johnson
Monsanto Fund
Renaissance Unemployment Insurance Consultants
Schwab Fund for Charitable Giving
Intuit Foundation

*JYM Class of 2013-14 with JYM Staff in Leipzig
- Photo by Prettany Overman*
JYM Alumni News

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

Email us your updates and news for an upcoming newsletter!

JYM@wayne.edu

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
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Read Donors Stories
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Link to the JYM YouTube Channel which has more than 18,800 views!

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