Dear Alumni & Friends of JYM,

It is our pleasure to send you another issue of the JYM Alumni News. Inside you will find the following:

◊ **Alumni Chronicles**
◊ **Alumni Updates**
  Theme: Special Projects
◊ **JYM News**
  Focus: Independent Studies
◊ **Donors Page**

We thank our Alumni for their continued support of the program in the interest of current and future students!

*Mit freundlichen Grüßen*

Mark Ferguson  
**JYM Program Director**

Sommer Forschner  
**Newsletter Editor**

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**JYM REMEMBERS GÜNTER GRASS**

The land of *Dichter und Denker* says goodbye to the great author, poet, artist and political critic, Günter Grass, who died on April 13, 2015 at the age of 87. He was best known for his great trilogy, *Die Blechtrommel*, which was made into a film, *Katz und Maus* and *Hundejahr*. Grass received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1999. There was much debate surrounding Grass, but the loss of him is felt by his biggest fans and his greatest critics alike. He regularly did readings at the LMU and in 1966 he did a reading at the JYM office on Leopoldstraße. Below is an article from the *Abendzeitung*, October 20, 1966, telling the story of how Grass ended up at JYM instead Huber due to the large crowd turnout.

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**GÜNTER GRASS BEI HUEBER**

*Das große Lyrik-Happening*


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When people ask me these days why I speak German so well, I joke about it saying I learned it all in the Biergärten of Munich. The truth is my Junior Year in Munich in 1998-99 was a pinnacle year for me. Of course, the sum of my language skills wasn’t learned only in the Biergärten, rather the catalysts to my fluency were my language courses at JYM and the complete immersion into student life at the LMU while living in the infamous StuSta student apartments. Without a doubt, it was one the best and most adventure-filled years of my life!

After my JYM, I returned home for my senior year at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia, however, I was determined to return to Munich upon graduation. In 2000, it was the peak of the dot.com era and Munich was emerging as the new technology hub of Germany. Many German start-ups were offering recent graduates great entry level job opportunities. So I packed my three suitcases and on good faith I moved across the ocean. I had ten interviews in two weeks, landed a job and signed a Mietvertrag for a studio apartment in the Glockenbachviertel.

A year later I advanced to Ernst & Young in Munich just as the Enron scandal emerged and evolved the auditing and accounting industry from the “Big Five” into the “Big Four”. The experience of being on the inside when the German Ernst & Young offices and the dissolute Arthur Anderson Germany practices „merged“ into one German entity was formative, and as a naive twenty-four year old quite thrilling as well.

In 2004, however, I was anxious for a change of scenery and job relocation to New York with Ernst & Young was the perfect solution. In swapping Marienplatz for Times Square, I naturally experienced reverse culture shock when returning to the US.

My intention was to stay and settle in the US, although life takes unusual turns sometimes – or in my personal case, a funny U-turn. I met my German husband while working in New York. A few years later in 2008 his job brought us back to Deutschland. We moved from Upper West Side of New York City to the baroque city of Ludwigsburg, just north of Stuttgart. Many new friends in Ludwigsburg thought we were crazy for making such a move, but we were both ready for a change. Big city life in New York had its advantages – but also its disadvantages. I still can’t pinpoint it, but returning to Germany just felt so comfortable. Of course, knowing the language, the cultural differences and having previous work experience abroad made it a much easier transition for me than for other expat couples I have met.

I worked at Porsche Consulting near Stuttgart until I became a mother in 2010, then my second child was born in 2013. Motherhood as an American in Germany has proven to be one of my most fascinating intercultural experiences yet. They sure do some things VERY differently in Germany! From midwives to
extended maternity leave and „free range parenting“, there are
certainly some major differences to birthing and parenting in
Germany. I could write a book (or maybe soon a blog?) about
my challenges as an international mom and I hear one of the
major differences to American culture and standards is yet
ahead of me...the German school system. My husband and I
are raising our children to be bilingual and we make an effort
to travel home to my family in northern Virginia once or
twice a year. I am blessed that my mother comes to visit us in
Germany even more frequently. I certainly hope my children
can also one day experience a year abroad as a student and be
submerged in a different language and culture, just as I did. It
truly was a life changing experience for me and led me to my
now bilingual, transatlantic life!

I have meanwhile settled down in a beautiful suburban town
outside of Stuttgart in the Bottwartal region, where we are
surrounded by vineyards and apple orchards. We bought a house that all my German friends say looks „so American“ and I
am slowly embracing the Schwäbische subculture here. All of us JYMers got a taste of the Bavarian subculture while living in
Munich, but these „Schwabs“ here are a whole different ball game! The dialect, the food, the mentality,... just as any German
subculture, they have their own quirks. I do enjoy the lifestyle here and the nature in all four seasons. My husband and I
enjoy traveling throughout Europe with the children and especially skiing in the Alps in the winter and going to local lakes
and pools in the summer. I also appreciate the socialized medical care here, state-supported early childhood care
(Kindergarten and Kindertagesstätten) and the abundance of local, organic food available in our area.

In an effort to better balance work with being a mother to two small children, I have recently launched my own small
business as a “mompreneurship” called „English Time!“ where I teach Kinderenglisch and hold conversational classes for
adults.

I am grateful for the experience and support JYM provided
me during my year abroad. I am still in close contact with
Sommer Forschner and Lena Bittl who helped manage the
program under Professor Hans-Peter Söder while I was there. I
would love to hear from other JYMers that have settled here
in Germany or any of my fellow classmates from 1998-99!
Drop me an email at: info@english-time.de

**EDITOR’S NOTES:**

For a fun read, Michelle recommends the book “Wie man Deutscher wird in 50
einfachen Schritten/ How to be German in 50 easy steps” by Adam Fletcher (a
Spiegel bestseller!). She finds that it captures perfectly what it is like to live as an
expat in Germany. She says that the content is 100% spot on - even all her
German friends agree and can laugh about it.

There is now a Facebook for other Alumni Expats in Germany
„Junior Year in Munich Alumni living in Germany“

Please visit Michelle’s new website for English Time! [www.english-time.de](http://www.english-time.de).
With the growing need for students to carry out independent study or research projects during their undergraduate studies, JYM provides the perfect opportunity to do special research monitored and guided by Professor Hans-Professor Söder in connection with ready leaders in their fields to act as mentor to the students.

The primary purpose of Independent Study at the Junior Year in Munich is to support students who are interested in returning to Germany on a Fulbright Scholarship or similar stipend. The program may also be helpful to those students who need to formulate a viable thesis for a senior research paper at their home institution. The intention of this program is to help where it is needed the most, namely at the beginning of such a daunting project as conducting one's own research. How does one get started and how does one formulate a “Forschungsfrage”? What kind of data need to be gathered and how does one interpret data?

Students may either submit their own research proposal/abstract or they may approach one of the program’s mentors. Currently the program has 3 concentrations:

- Ecology and Ecological Politics in Germany under politician Hermann Brem of the Green Party
- Contemporary German Art and Studio Arts with Artist Ugo Dossi
- Modern German Literature under author, Gerhard Falkner

After students have submitted an abstract at the beginning of the semester, they present their project to their peers at the JYM Independent Study Colloquium. Regardless of their own particular fields of interest, researchers are also asked to actively participate in a student conference (in cooperation with fellow students from the University of Munich). In planning a conference, students not only learn academic procedures but they also have the opportunity to experience scholars and their scholarship first hand. Here is a roster of some of the research projects concluded in the previous two academic years.

**Sommersemester 2013**

Christine Allen: Hundetrainingstheorien und Hundekultur zwischen Deutschland und den USA im Vergleich
Michael Berman: Fleisch in Deutschland: Ist Bio wirklich besser?
Thomas Bixler: Racial and Religious Relations in Munich
Florent Blanc: The Euro: A Cinderella Story Gone Wrong?
Carolyn Campbell: Wo die wilden Kinder wachsen: Der deutsche Waldkindergarten als eine alternative Kleinkinderpädagogik in den USA
Brenna Corrigan: Autos and Alternatives in Deutschland mit einem Fokus auf BMW
Ian Edwards: Wirtschaftswunder and Refugee Memory in Bavaria
Austin Eighn: Deutschlands "National Endowment": Außenwirtschaftliche Faktoren für wirtschaftlichen Erfolg Deutschlands
Darko Giglorovski: Die Republik Mazedonien und die europäische Union
Joseph Lacey: Das Edelweiß im Wandel der Zeit
Shaunna Lucas: Laughing Ourselves to Pieces?: East German Humor, Identities and the Mauer in den Köpfen
Aima Mori: Immigrant Integration: A German Approach
Dominique Osterman: Prinzipien des Sprachwandels der deutschen Sprache
Alexandria Rhodes: Die verborgene Dimension: Gute Ausländer, schlechte Ausländer und das Deutsche
Yifan Xu: Made in Tetua: Ein untypischer städtebaulicher Entwurf

**Sommersemester 2014**

Alex Balber: Propädeutikum: Fundamentum Latinum
Abigail Bongaarts: Umweltbewusstsein im Nationalsozialismus
Devin Cleary: Probleme der literarischen Übersetzung: Theorie und Praxis
Colleen Compliment: "Moderne" Kunst im 2. Weltkrieg: Deutsche Künstler zwischen Entartung und Auftragstakt
Elsa Ericson: Gender Equality in Hungary today
Rosalie Esquivel: U-Bahn Perspektiven: München und Berlin
Mattias Galliano: Wird Deutschland seine Ziele erreichen? Einige Anmerkungen zur Energiewende
Dana Grandstaff: Ein Amerikaner in Berlin: Die Filmkunst von Reynolds
Stephen Henderson: Das musikantische Unbewusste bei Frank Zappa and Theodor Adorno
Rachel Hostetler: Die Geschichte der Neuwissenschaften in Deutschland: Damals und heute
Chengu Li: Das Gesicht und die Farbe: von der Abstraktion zur Emotion
Connor Lock: Spielen kulturelle Werte ein Rolle für den anhaltenden Erfolg der deutschen Wirtschaft?
Elizabeth Matteri: Zerstört der Drang für erneuerbare Energien in Deutschland die Umwelt?
Shelby McGuire: Universale Gerichtsbarkeit und Menschenrechte in Deutschland
Prettany Overman: Comparison of Bavarian Dialects and High German
Julia Prout, Going Grün: Ökotourismus im Alpenraum
Honoré Stainken: Arbeitskultur und die Leute, die sie schaffen
Taylor Sweeney: Das Unbewusste als Prozess: Wege zur Kreativität
Jacob Thortion: Globalization and Workers: What does it mean for them?
Emily Wilkerson: Gerhard Falkners "Bruno" - a Translation
Paul Westin: Zwischen Entarteter Kunst und Volksaufklärung: Musik im 3. Reich
The following JYM Alumni have written about special projects and activities they had during their time on the program and the opportunities that ensued. Perhaps some of these can spark some ideas for current and future students.

Hugh Evans (1956-57) joined St Mark’s Lutheran Studenten-Gemeinde and was invited to serve on the Kleinkreis which really helped his German. Later he became an interpreter in the US Army, and as a minister took a church where many of the people spoke German.

Crystal Ockenfuss (1987-88) already spoke fluent German when she came to JYM, thanks to her mother, and because of that she was excused from the advanced grammar class taught by a young doctoral student in DaF named Roland Meinert. To her surprise, many years later, she moved to San Francisco and approached the SF branch of the Goethe Institute, only to find that Herr Meinert was heading it up! Roland is now the director of language studies for all of the Goethe Institutes and is back at the Goethe mother ship in Munich. She found it great that she could get a leg up in the German community in the Bay area through a JYM contact!

Mary Soule (1990-91) took advanced Jazz dance at the Olympiazentrum and also worked at the Studentenschnellzusen during the semester break to boost funds.

Jackie Jung (1991-92) gained fluency in German during her JYM and was introduced to medieval art through two classes at the LMU. Ironically, she had wanted to study modern art, but these were the only Vorlesungen available in art history that semester, so she took them against her will. One was taught by the foremost art historian in that field, another by a major person on the little-known (outside of Germany) field of German Gothic sculpture. She returned to the US to write a senior thesis on German Gothic sculpture, and then went to grad school to continue her studies in this area. Today she is a tenured professor of art history at Yale. It comes as no surprise that her specialty is German Gothic art. She has numerous students now doing research in Germany; one has just submitted a wonderful dissertation on a bunch of little-known monuments there. She writes: “I literally have no idea what my life now would be like if it hadn’t been for JYM (and FDR forcing me to take classes I thought I wouldn’t be interested in!).

Francine Spirit Klotz (1996-97) writes: “I worked on the JYM yearbook with Brooke Wess. Although I think she did most of the work, it was my first introduction to digital publishing and printing. Now I work for a children’s book publisher and manage the production of all our editions, obviously including German versions. My experience at JYM definitely influenced my career path! I also suckered David Klotz into running a 13K race, although neither of us had ever run that far before. And that led to friendship, marriage, and at least 1 marathon. Thanks, JYM!”

Paula Buerkle (1996-97) had an internship opportunity in Berlin 1997 where she gained European work experience. This helped her to secure her European liaison job at an IT company and launched her successful career.

Brooke Wess (1996-97) had an internship in Berlin with a small consulting company thanks to a JYM relationship with Mathias Winter. After her year in Germany, she hired in with a very large IT consulting company and was sent to Frankfurt for a year to work on an IT project at the Deutsche Börse. She has been working in Financial Services and IT since then.

Deborah Kellner (1997-98) got an internship in Chicago with a monthly International Research Letter for Global investments and insurance after her year abroad with JYM. It provided her with great insight on the US business world but also helped her attain a degree in Intl Business Relations. She then moved into an Intl Sales manager position for 9 years allowing her to travel back and forth frequently to Europe. Her German skills and experience with travel contributed largely to her success in the first 10 years of her career path.

Jeff Bastien (1998-99) got involved in the “International Songwriter’s Evening” and ended up meeting his future bandmates there. The JYM Program and the experiences he had during his year abroad also helped him get a Fulbright Scholarship (2000-2001 - Teaching Grantee). He is currently the Director of a private English language school in Munich, Germany. He writes, “Needless to say, the JYM Program kick started a lot of positive events in my life!”
Dana (Kirby) Ettmayer (2000-01) was very involved in "JYM catering" as it was called back then. She also babysat at a church. After she returned to the US and finished her degree, she got a job via JYM connections at Detroit Diesel. After finishing her masters she was offered a 6 month position at Daimler in Germany. The 6 months turned into a year and in 2008 she went back on a local (German) contract.

Renee Remy (2005-06) was involved with the German/American Junior Club where she met some Germans who she is still very good friends with. Her JYM experience helped her get into grad school and be successful at teaching the culture part of the German language classes when she was a Teaching Assistant. She got her current job teaching English in Munich because of a JYM connection. She has also gotten many freelance translation jobs due to her superior German skills acquired during JYM.

Emily Grosvenor Diesburg (1999-2000) got a Fulbright and was placed back in Munich for 2001-2003 (she extended 3/4 of a year). She was studying Buchwissenschaft at the LMU. Afterwards she worked at the German Embassy in D.C. as an editor for "The Week in Germany."

Mike Broadwell (2007-08) had an internship at EpCos during his JYM, and his boss required him to speak only German during work, knowing he was a student. He finds the experience invaluable. He came away with a major in engineering, a minor in German and a job in the auto industry. He thanks everyone at JYM!

Brandy Wilcox (2008-09) did an internship at LBT-Languages in the spring of her JYM, and that experience was one of the reasons she was hired to teach High School after graduating.

Heather Painter (2010-11) had an internship with LBT and was on the party planning group for the first semester. She also took courses with Dr. Spencer at LMU, and what she learned in his class "The Global Governance of Violent Conflict" helped prepare her for the defense of honors thesis in political science when she returned home to Washington & Jefferson College. Her internship helped her become a German tutor, which in turn helped her get selected by Teach For America. She has been working as a corps member teaching in an underserved community in rural Arkansas since. Next year she will be returning to Germany again! She was offered a fellowship with the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals Program and a Fulbright ETA in Germany. She attribute many of these opportunities to the skills and experiences provided to her through JYM.

Sabrina Sands (2010-2011) while participating in JYM she also interned for the IHK (German Chamber of Commerce) in the Foreign Trade & Duty Department. During her time in at the IHK she became acquainted with the President who had spent time in America and valued foreign exchange experiences. After her internship, she wrote her a stellar letter of recommendation which she then used to apply for an internship at Escada's headquarters, also in Munich, the following summer of 2012. Her then boss at ESCADA was impressed with her experience at the IHK and her being an American. Three years later she got a job working for Escada in Munich and will be celebrating her one year work anniversary this year! She writes, “I'm thankful for the language experience, connections, and on the job work experience in Germany that my original internship at the IHK gave me that in the end opened the door to my future career. Without it, who knows if Escada would have welcomed me as an intern.” (Btw, on the JYM YouTube channel you can see an interview with Sabrina about her internship and see her in action at the office)

Austin Eighan (2012-2013) just recently arrived in Berlin in to begin a fellowship with the Bundestag through the Internationales Parlaments-Stipendium (IPS). He is working for MdB Tobias Zech from Oberbayern and couldn’t be happier with the placement.

UPDATES

John “JC” Carlson (1966-67) married his classmate, Carleen (Cianchette) Carlson in 1967 after returning to the US. They had plans to return to Munich to live, but after 4 children & fun times with friends & family in Maine, they found that they were too happy to move. When they did return to Munich in 1992 for a vacation they had a wonderful visit with Frau Dr. Siegler. “We were happy to tell and hear stories, and were we especially happy to be able to recount to her the many ways that she made our year special. It was indeed our favorite year,” says JC. The Carlsons have kept in touch with a few of their classmates and loved seeing the pictures that Ed Spence posted on the JYM Alumni Facebook page. They plan to find some of our old pictures, scan them, & get them on the site.

Bob Vandenberg (1976-1977) has done a lot in the last 40 years since JYM. In brief, he completed his PhD (University of Georgia) in 1982. Personal reasons kept him anchored in Georgia. He started his academic career at Georgia Southern University (82-85), and went from there to Georgia State University (85-93). He is now ending my career in the next 5 years at UGA (started in 93) where he is a chaired professor. His career has offered him several opportunities to return to Germany, and other places as well. He has 3 grown children (Drew, Kait and Jackson). He and his wife, Carole, are very happy empty nesters, and spend most of their spare time spoiling their 3 dogs. She works for Digital Insight, An NCR Division as the manager over a group of systems architects designing software and on-line interfaces for banks. He hopes to hear from some of my classmates.

Cheryl (Rojek) Dapkus (2001-02 ) is married with 3 children (with a 4th on the way) and living in Orlando, Florida and has a job recruiting for clinical trials and research.

Nathan Kilduff (2012-13) is currently working at the local air force base in Pittsburgh. He is actively seeking international opportunities, preferably in Germany. He still keeps in contact with many of my German and international friends that he met in Munich and during my time traveling. Several of them have also turned into professional contacts.

Email us your updates and news for an upcoming newsletter! JYM@wayne.edu
DONORS 2014

We would like to express our sincerest thanks to all who donated to our annual scholarship funds, endowed scholarship funds, and program advancement fund! Because of your generosity we were able to award scholarships to 28 students from 13 colleges and universities for the academic year 2014-15.

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JYM Alumni News

Günter Grass Reading at JYM in 1966

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