November 30, 2006

Dear Alumni and Friends of JYM,

This is the time of the year when we hope you will look back upon your JYM experience – the friends you made, the memories you share. As you consider how JYM has impacted your lives, and possibly even your career paths, we hope you’ll also consider giving back to JYM so that we can assist the students who are following in your footsteps through scholarships and expanded program opportunities.

As JYM director, I have three goals for the coming year: to ensure the affordability of JYM for all students, to develop new and innovative program features that keep JYM competitive, and to improve alumni relations. I’m pleased to say that JYM still costs thousands of dollars less than comparable study abroad programs, and our efforts to strengthen our ability to offer scholarship assistance has improved. Last year the Class of 1968-69 embarked on a campaign to create an endowed scholarship fund in honor of Dr. Marianne Riegler, resident director of JYM from 1960-94. Thanks to the generosity of former students and friends of the program, including Dr. Riegler herself, this summer we were able to establish JYM’s very first endowed scholarship fund: the Dr. Marianne Riegler Endowed Scholarship. The “FDR Fund” now stands at more than $56,000.

I am also pleased to announce that JYM students will soon benefit from our second endowed scholarship fund: the Professor Marvin S. Schindler Endowed Junior Year in Munich Scholarship Fund. Marvin Schindler (1932-2003) served as director of Wayne State’s Junior Year in Germany (Freiburg and Munich) programs from 1975 to 1993. The programs were the joy and passion of his professional career, and we are honored that future generations of JYM students will continue the legacy of his passion for study abroad.

But there is still more work to do. The more we can add to our scholarship funds, the more we can do each year to make the JYM experience a reality for worthy students. Developing new program features and improving our ability to stay connected to JYM alumni, will remain a challenge for the immediate future, but we hope to move forward in this direction.

Without the continued generosity of alumni and friends of JYM, many of our students would not be able to participate in JYM. It is therefore on their behalf that I invite you to consider a tax-deductible donation to any of our scholarship funds or to our program development fund this year. Gifts large and small are critically important and all are greatly appreciated; additional gift-giving opportunities can be found on our website:

www.jym.wayne.edu

mit freundlichen Grüssen,

Mark Ferguson, Ph.D.
Director, Junior Year in Munich

 Gifts to Wayne State University's Junior Year in Munich program are tax-deductible as allowable by law. WSU is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, classified as a publicly supported educational organization and listed annually in Publication 78 of the Cumulative List of Organizations described in Section 170(c) of the Code. Wayne State University's Federal tax-free number is 38-78-0203K.

“…When I first heard about JYM, I thought, 'great!' – I've found a quality year-long study abroad program in Germany. However, after being here for almost a year, I see it’s more than just a program you’re signing up for – it’s unbelievable life changes that you just can’t get from studying a foreign language at home. When I think what I have gained from this program, words can not say how amazing it is – not only have I learned the language, but I have totally immersed myself in a different culture, and gained perspectives and experiences that will stay with me the rest of my life."

Greta Sandnas
College of St. Benedict and St. John's University
JYM 2005-06

“I just wanted to share my good news with JYM. I have accepted a job with BSH Home Appliances (Bosch-Siemens Haushaltgeräte) as a part of their International Management Trainee program. I will be one of three trainees from the U.S. and will begin work at BSH’s world headquarters in Munich ... They are paying the rent! During my interview it was clear that management looked positively upon my time in Munich. When good things happen to you, a little gratitude towards those who helped is called for. Enclosed is my check for ...”

Adam Green
Eastern Michigan University
JYM 2000-01