



A one-year study abroad program in beautiful Freiburg, Germany, at the foot of the Black Forest.
Program sponsored by the University of Wisconsin, University of Iowa, University of Michigan, and Michigan State University.

Academic Year in Freiburg

2017

Fall-Winter

Dear AYF Community,

Four years ago as a first-time Resident Director, I rummaged through the desk drawers discovering traces of my predecessors including a picture of my beloved colleague, George F. Peters. It felt as if he was saying: "I am passing the torch to you." Unfortunately, he lost his battle with cancer that very night. In his memory, a scholarship fund has been established and this year the first recipients are participating in AYF.

Being allowed to play a small part in the enormous development of our students is a pleasure and a privilege. Tiann Nelson-Luck (2013-14) summarized her year as: "... a year of firsts: some I wish to repeat and others I don't." Even for second-time Resident Directors the year is filled with firsts as well as history.

It was especially meaningful this year to experience the tradition, longevity, and impact of our program as we simultaneously welcomed our 1966-67 alumni and our new students. Sitting in an old "Schloss" watching our students interact with those who came 50 years before them was an incredible sight: the students' admiration of the alumni achievements from seeds planted during their year in Freiburg; and the alumni's encouraging envy for the new students' upcoming adventures.

For 57 years, students and RDs have passed the torch: passing on their wisdom and handing over their keys. AYF is our shared history, our ever-growing community, and all the unique experiences of each member of our community. Thank you to our alumni, friends, students, partners, faculty, staff, and parents for carrying the torch on whatever pathways it might take us. Wishing us all a year of firsts and everlasting memories!



Sincerely,
Senta Görtler, RD 2017-18



AYF Alumni Club Membership Drive



Dear JYFers, dear AYFers! Dear All!

To those of you who already are members of the AYF Alumni Club, a heartfelt “Thank you!” You are an important partner, and your generosity means so much for the future of this program.

The Alumni Club is devoted to celebrating and supporting the year in Freiburg. (A note to JY participants: It's "AY" instead of "JY" because the program broadened the name to "Academic Year in Freiburg.")

For a while now, we have been thinking about a coordinated **Membership Drive** to generate more paying members for the US and German Chapters of the AYF Alumni Club. Both chapters currently have about 20 paying members each. That is a great start but not (yet!) the broad membership base we need to begin offering **travel grants and scholarships**, which is one of the goals both chapters of the Alumni Club have embraced wholeheartedly.

How you can help!

Join the Alumni Club!

Both Alumni Club Chapters are recognized non-profit organizations. The AYF Alumni Association, Inc. is incorporated in the U.S. and recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization in Wisconsin. The AYF Alumni & Friends e.V. has been recognized as a German non-profit civic organization. Membership contributions and donations are therefore tax deductible in the respective countries. Please consider a place for the AYF Alumni Club on your annual list of worthy causes: your cumulative giving will add up!

Both club chapters cooperate closely on how best to support alumni networking, current and future students, and the Academic Year in Freiburg program.

Membership information is available online at: <https://www.ayf-alumni.org/>

Talk to your JY and AYF peers!

Once you have decided to join and support the AYF Alumni Club, it would be wonderful if you could be multipliers among your JY and AYF peers. Talk to your friends and parents, share the campaign on Facebook or any other social media channels you use, and encourage others to join the AYF Alumni Club. All supporters of study abroad are welcome! Clearly, there is strength in numbers. Just imagine what we can achieve to support future program students if we band together!

Thank you for your support of our club activities and plans. Your time, commitment, and financial support are very much appreciated!

Alison Mahlau & Joel Stark, Co-Presidents (AYFAA, US Chapter)

Joey Marshment-Howell & Kim Mueller, President & Vice President (AAAF, German Chapter)

What are we hoping to do in the short term?

We are hoping to raise membership to generate regular income.

- Funding for one 500 \$/€ travel grant requires only 12.5 regular members.

What are we hoping to do in the intermediate term?

Other funding categories to keep in mind as we look toward the future:

- 1,500 would fund a plane ticket (often the key additional expense for a student in comparison to home university costs)
- 3,000 would fund a student's housing costs in Freiburg
- 6,000 would largely fund housing and living expenses

What are we hoping to do in the long term?

We would like to encourage alumni to consider funding endowments or segregated funds to enable the club to support the program and/or individual students in perpetuity. (Look forward to great news in this category from the class of 1984-85 in the near future!) Named opportunities are available.



“My time as an AYFer changed my life—I gained a language, friends, unforgettable experiences, and truly wonderful memories.

I am so proud to know that my support of the AYF Alumni Club might allow a hopeful student to also experience the life-changing magic of AYF.”

Kelly Baldwin Heid, 2005-2006

Membership Drive Matching Fund

Dear fellow Alumni and Friends of AYF,

The Freiburg program has truly been a life-changing experience for me – and probably for many of you as well.

Studying abroad expanded my horizons in countless ways that I still cherish and relish to this day. I was challenged and delighted by classes in German and extra-curricular experiences like a week behind the Iron Curtain in Communist East Germany. Being out of my comfort zone opened new ways of thinking and made me want to work abroad as a foreign correspondent.



Financially it was a real challenge for me as well and, running out of money, I ended up losing 25 pounds in the final semester while getting by with just one lunch meal a day for 1 Mark. In light of today's global challenges, I can't think of anything better than to help young people experience the power of going abroad, of being exposed to another culture in the city we have come to love: Freiburg!

The AYF program does an amazing job supporting students on their path of discovery and I want future students to have this opportunity as well — especially those who might not have a lot of resources. As a program alumnus I am proud to be actively involved in the AYF Alumni Club's mission of supporting students and strengthening the program.

That's why I am offering a Matching Fund of up to 1,000 Euros for the AYF Alumni Club Membership Drive. I would like to double the first year contributions for all new dues-paying members who join the US or German Chapter of the AYF Alumni Club by February 2018 up to the first 1,000 Euros. So please help the Alumni Club reach the target of 2,000 Euros to help young students have the same great opportunities to take a deep dive into Germany and the German language.

Please join me in supporting program students in Freiburg by becoming a member of the AYF Alumni Club!

Erik Kirschbaum, JYF 1982-83



“Without the support of the AYF Alumni Club I couldn't have gone on the Berlin field trip. Now I want to pay it forward by aiding other students. Please join me in supporting future students by also becoming a member of the AYF Alumni Club!”

Nathan Berger, 2016-17

Alumni Club invites AYF 2017-2018 to ice skate at the Emmendingen Christmas Market



Reunion 2017: Impressions of a Current Student

Kayla Draheim, AYF 2016-18

In September I had the privilege of meeting an extraordinary group of people. It was a truly unique experience to get to know this class of world travelers, returning to Freiburg after studying abroad 50 years ago. Each individual shared stories of their time spent here and travelling through Europe in 1966-67. As a current program student studying abroad in Freiburg myself, it was fascinating to learn each alum's story and how their time in Freiburg had influenced their careers and lives. Watching our alumni reconnect over dinner after so many years gave me a sense of how important experiences are, especially new ones, and how



some friendships formed in Freiburg do last a lifetime. I spent only two evenings with the Junior Year in Freiburg 1966-67 Alumni group but the people, the adventure stories they told and the advice they gave will stay with me. I can only hope that 50 years from now I will come back to Freiburg, just as they did, to remember the moments I am currently living.

Reunion Photo: JYF 1966-1967 and AYF 2017-2018



NOTE: The AYF Alumni Newsletter is published two to three times a year for all Freiburg alumni who studied at the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität under the auspices of the Junior Year in Freiburg or the Academic Year in Freiburg.

Please forward the Newsletter to other JYF and AYF Alumni with whom you are in contact. Thank you! To update your contact in-formation, please go to www.ayf.uni-freiburg.de/alumni/intouch

For more information about the Academic Year in Freiburg, visit our web site at www.ayf.uni-freiburg.de

For more information about our alumni club, visit their web site at www.ayf-alumni.org