

A SUMMER IN GERMANY WITH GOETHE — WUNDERBAR!

Foundation gives Study Abroad Scholarships for UNC Charlotte German Majors

Charlotte, N.C., April 01 2011—The German Language and Culture Foundation – www.germanfoundation.com - supports twelve German majors from UNC Charlotte to study abroad in Germany in the summer of 2011. The students will each receive a scholarship in the amount of \$2000 which will help cover the cost of tuition for a one-month intensive language and culture course at the prestigious Goethe Institute in Germany.

Kurt Waldthausen, founder and chairman of the non-profit German Language and Culture Foundation (GLCF), and the board of directors and sponsors wholeheartedly support the cooperation with UNC Charlotte. They believe that the scholarships and the proposed study abroad are in line with the mission of the German Language and Culture Foundation to “support projects that will help create long-term friendships and promote a better understanding between the people of German speaking countries and the Charlotte Region.”

Waldthausen started the German Language and Culture Foundation in 2005 as South End Jazz, combining a love of American Jazz music with the love of many things German. As Honorary Consul for Germany - in co-ordination with the Honorary Consuls from Austria and Switzerland - it also met with his vision to keep the German language alive in a region where German speaking countries (Austria/Germany/Switzerland) represent over 20 percent of all foreign firms and employ several ten thousand people. These companies have a great need for a qualified staff with German speaking skills, so Waldthausen, with a group of forward thinking business men and women from Austrian/German/Swiss countries, raised funds at a (now) annual Jazz Festival to support Austrian/German/Swiss–American educational exchanges.

In the past, the German Language and Culture Foundation has supported Rotary International Student Exchanges, CPPC, Pfeiffer University, the German (Saturday) School of Charlotte, CMS/Smith Academy of International Languages, as well as high school students in Charlotte-Mecklenburg County and Gastonia. In addition, the foundation has provided eight summer scholarships in 2010, as well as semester and year-long partial scholarships for UNC Charlotte students for study abroad in Germany in the amount of \$23,500. Total scholarships provided by the GLCF in the last 4 years exceed \$100,000 and have benefitted over 50 students in the region.

In consultation with the German faculty in the Department of Languages and Culture Studies at UNC Charlotte, the GLCF sponsors agreed that a one-month study abroad experience would allow students earlier in their language learning career to have a language and cultural immersion opportunity. The Foundation decided to award \$2000 to each student participating in the “Ein Sommer in Deutschland mit Goethe” program. In addition, Lufthansa German Airlines, the official carrier of the GLCF and major donor, works with participating students to provide preferred tickets. The scholarship will allow twelve UNC Charlotte German majors to study in Germany in the summer of 2011 “We want to make sure students have the opportunity to learn the German language and to learn about our cultures so they can excel in their future careers,” Waldthausen said.

The program sends students for one month to a Goethe Institute of their choice. They receive five hours of classroom instruction daily, as well as innumerable cultural opportunities such as visits to museums, businesses, day trips to other parts of Germany and much more. The GLCF Board and Sponsors emphasize the importance of host families for the participating students. Each student will live in a German speaking host family. Dr. Aliaga-Buchenau, coordinator of the German language at UNC Charlotte says: “We are very excited about this wonderful opportunity. The financial support of the German Language and Culture Foundation makes it possible for our UNC Charlotte students to study abroad and for us to expand the German program. The kind of immersion experience coupled with the intensive language courses offered by the “Ein Sommer in Deutschland” program will provide a life changing experience for them.” Dr. Paul Youngman, adds, “We are trying to prepare our students to be culturally literate and to be proficient in the German language. There are more than 230 companies from German speaking countries (Austria/Germany/Switzerland) in the Charlotte region and many of our students will seek employment with them. There is nothing more valuable we can give them than a study abroad experience.”

The German staff at UNC Charlotte is excited about a second year of cooperation with the GLCF and the twelve outstanding students who will participate in the program this summer supported by the Foundation.

Meet the twelve students who will travel to Germany to study at a Goethe Institute this summer:



Adam Cloer is a double major in German History and German with training in business. He has received straight As in his History and German major and currently holds a 3.7 GPA. Adam's language ability is outstanding: at this point, he is at the C1 level. An intensive course in the summer will solidify his status and will push him into the C2 level, which is near-native fluency. Adam has experience adapting to other cultures as he has studied abroad in the past. In addition to his history interest, Adam's strengths lie in the area of translation. He has a particularly fine understanding of the nuances of language and has excelled in all translation classes. He will hold a Certificate of Translation German-English at the end of this semester. I foresee that intensive language training at the Goethe Institute will also enable him to do the translation work from English into German, which is much harder and a highly sought skill in the many translation businesses in the Charlotte area. Adam will live with a host family and attend the Goethe Institut in Freiburg.

Christopher Kientz is a member of the ROTC at UNC Charlotte as well as a German major. In addition, he has taken many classes in business and accounting. Christopher is a student who is a pleasure to have in classes. He has a genuine enthusiasm for learning and will make great use of the four weeks at a Goethe Institut in Germany. He is a very hard worker as his participation in the ROTC program attests. It is very hard to be in the ROTC and successfully complete all other courses. In his own words, Christopher expects this experience to help him be a better person, and better his "overall standing as a cadet in the nation." As part of the ROTC training, Christopher, will work for the military for some time after graduation. He hopes "to be able to use [his] knowledge of the German language in [his] career as an Army officer." I am very happy about Christopher's application and his statement that he "would be able to encourage other students to strive to study abroad and take every advantage that school has to offer them." Chris plans to live with a host family and attend classes in



Leah Smith is a German Major with a minor in German History. Leah is one of the top few students to have come through our program. Leah holds a 3.833 GPA and has straight As in all her German classes. What is noteworthy about Leah, is her current level of German. She possesses almost near native fluency already. Leah is poised to become a teacher of German and she will be very successful. She has taken the education classes necessary, and after her Goethe Institut experience she will truly be near-native in her fluency. Leah's desire to be a German teacher in the Charlotte region and her drive to make it happen is admirable. Her skills and outstanding academic record have been recognized by the Sommerschule, Wust EV. in Wust, near Berlin, Germany, where she was hired to teach English for one month during the summer of 2011. Leah will make an excellent German teacher with a genuine passion for the German. Leah will live with a family and take the course in Berlin.

Margaret Sloop is a German and International Studies Major and a Minor in History. Margaret's studies all center around her love for the German language and Culture. She has a European Studies concentration and is focusing mainly on German history in her other major and the minor. She is an outstanding student with a 3.85 GPA and has only received As in her majors and her minor. Margaret is an incredibly hard worker and will benefit tremendously from studying for a month at a Goethe Institut. I am convinced that Margaret will go on to great success in German studies and will probably study abroad for a longer period of time after this first study abroad experience. Margaret is an active member of the German club and an enthusiastic supporter of all things German on campus. Her leadership is inspiring to others and the German club benefits from her boundless energy and initiative. Margaret will live in Goettingen with a host family and attend the Goethe courses there.



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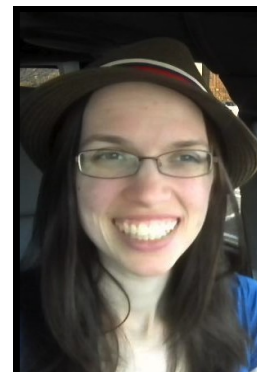
Christine Wilkie is a non-traditional student in that she has been a part of the work force for a few years after attending Sandhills Community College and receiving her Associate's Degree. In August, Christine began as a full-time student studying towards a double major in German and International Studies. As is so often the case with students who have experienced the "real world," Christine knows exactly how important an education is and how valuable every effort she makes is. Christine expects that going to Germany for the summer will enhance her language skills, as well as her cultural literacy. She hopes to "make a difference [...] in the lives of others." Christine participated in the Berlin-Auschwitz Study Abroad and proved her ability to adapt to another culture. Christine will live in a host family in Goettingen and attend the Goethe course there.

Christina Furr is a German major with a minor in business. Christina is an excellent worker and she has received straight As in her German classes. Christina stands out in my opinion due to her courage and determination. She knew even last year, when the GLCF scholarship program was first announced that it would be her chance to live in Germany and truly become immersed in the language and culture. However, her financial situation made such a study abroad experience seem out of reach. Last year, her own funds were too little to supply the necessary second half of the payment. However, she has worked the entire year, saving enough each month, to be able to afford the additional \$2000 to pay for tuition, lodging, food and the flight to Germany. I am very proud of her and admire her incredibly determination. Christina is planning to work in the business world making use of her German skills. Christina will live with a host family and attend classes in Freiburg.

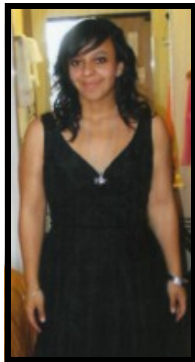


Hugh Goforth is an outstanding student and a remarkable person. Hugh is a graduate student in Religious Studies with a marked interest in Germany. He has been studying German for several years and hopes to combine his love for German culture and language with his master's degree in Religious Studies (concentration on German Mysticism) to teach at the community college level. His enthusiasm for German culture and language will therefore transfer to many students in the future. Hugh is an outstanding student. He maintains a 4.0 GPA, which is quite unusual for a graduate student. Hugh is a non-traditional student who came back to the university after many years in the workforce. He was employed for eight years in the Air Force and also served for many years as a minister in a United Methodist church. He works as a teaching assistant in the department of Religious Studies. In addition, he is the Founder and President of the Student Advisory Board for Disability Services on campus. Hugh will study in Freiburg and live with a host family there.

Emma Biggs is an outstanding student with a true talent for languages. She is a double major in German and French and her goal is to work as a translator and/or interpreter in both of these languages. She is currently working on her Certificates in Translation both in German and French. Emma's talent will lead to work in the field of translation. She understands the importance of a study abroad experience. She writes: "Since I have never been to Germany, the four weeks will allow me to experience German culture first hand and immerse myself in the culture and language. Although I would be nervous at first, staying with a host family would help me overcome being timid when speaking to native speakers." Emma will be living with a host family in Freiburg and take the Goethe course there.

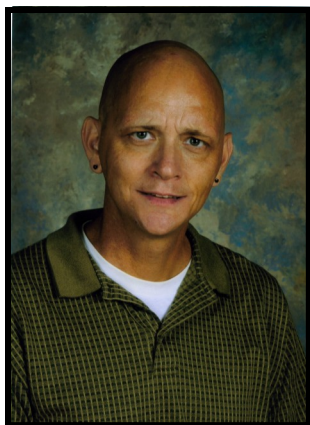
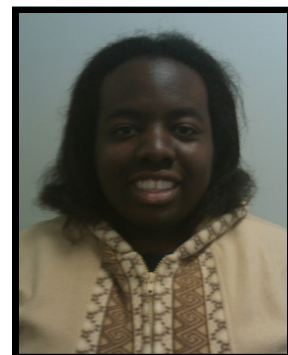


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Natasha Dixon is a double Major in German and Religious Studies with a minor in Art History. Natasha has very close ties to Germany as she says “My mother was born in Stuttgart, as was her mother and her mother’s mother.” In her studies, she has focused her interest on German culture, history and language in part to understand her heritage and more importantly her grandfather. She writes “I have made it one of my life’s goals to attempt to understand what my Oma and Opa had to go through as they were growing up.” Natasha’s interest and enthusiasm in for German culture goes beyond the time period of her grandparents however. During the 2010 academic year, she participated in the one-week program “Berlin in the Mirror of Time” as a UNC Charlotte study abroad student. She writes “Ever since my plane took off and left Berlin behind, I have been slowly waiting for the day it would be landing back there.” Natasha will be an incredibly motivated student and will work hard to make the most of her experience in Goettingen.

Teara Jennings is an admirable student whose path to German began with one single German class at UNC Charlotte. She says that “I never knew much about [Germany] but I wanted to know more and more each day I went to class.” Very soon Teara found herself taking the advanced German classes and she is currently working on her Certificate in Translation. Teara is quite a determined young lady. She knew from the start that it is not easy to find a financially feasible way to study in Germany. However, she knew that an immersion experience was essential in the learning of a language and culture. She considers the “Ein Sommer mit Goethe” program the “chance of a lifetime.” Teara plans to live with a host family and attend Goethe classes in Berlin.



Erik Griffen is a graduate student who is working towards his Master of Arts in Teaching-German. Erik received his undergraduate degree at UNC Charlotte in German in December 2008. He is an excellent student who works very hard. Erik has known all his life that German is his passion. He is a non-traditional student who worked for the postal service for many years before returning to UNC Charlotte to pursue his undergraduate degree in German. Upon completion of his German BA, Erik knew that he wanted to teach German at the High School level. Erik is poised to become an excellent teacher of German. A study abroad experience would solidify his German language skills and make his experiences with the German culture and language very immediate. I am excited to see Erik become a teacher who will impart his incredible passion for the German language and culture to his students. I am hoping that he will work at one of the local high schools or at Smith Academy of International Languages so that he can recruit students to come study German at UNC Charlotte. He will study in Berlin.

Richard Clark is an extraordinary student. He is a triple Major in German, History and International Studies. He added the third major of German to his double major of History and International Studies last Spring upon hearing of the GLCF scholarships and its conditions. He had been focusing on European Studies and within that on German history and had taken classes towards a German minor at that point. He has done excellent work academically in all three majors, maintaining a 3.86 GPA. He has received straight As in his three majors. What impresses me about Richard is not only his excellent academic record, which he maintains while working 40 hours a week. Richard plans to teach German history. He is well on the road to being accepted into a German History PhD program. The investment of the GLCF will bear fruits for many years, as Richard will share his enthusiasm for German with many of his own students in the future. He will live and study in Hamburg.

