

Getting to Know Your Faculty in Residence

What do you teach at UNCG?

I teach German. This semester it is a beginner and a conversation class. I will be working with the UNCG Global Village.

What is your research interest or professional background?

I'm studying English and German for a teacher's degree and I'm writing my master's thesis about multilingual language learning and language awareness.

Why did you choose to become a Faculty in Residence?

I am a Fulbright exchange teaching assistant and only here for ten months. It is a great opportunity for me to get to know and talk with a lot of people here on campus which will certainly enrich my experience here.

Tell us about your home in Austria?

I grew up in a small town in the westernmost part of Austria: Dornbirn. It is the largest town in my state but still has only 45000 inhabitants. In Dornbirn you get a good mixture of city life with concerts and good public transport, but it is still small enough to walk almost everywhere, even at night, without fear of danger. You are also able to enjoy the amazing natural environment Austria has to offer, as within less than half an hour (by car) you can explore alpine mountains, the beautiful Lake Constance, or the nature reserve surrounding river Rhine. Another bonus of living in Dornbirn is that within this half hour you can also visit Germany, Switzerland, or Liechtenstein as these countries are actually closer to my hometown than the nearest State of Austria, Tyrol.

What do you look most forward to for the new academic year?

I look forward to the chance to experience a different educational system, as well as to experience all the challenges and opportunities a year abroad offers. I would love to talk to you as students in the residence hall about your experiences and to learn about "the American Way."

Name 3 things every student should know about you:

- 1. English is not my first language, so bear with me if I express something a bit strangely or if I have to search for words.*
- 2. I love books, baking and cooking. So chances are at least some of my events in Cotten will involve food. And reading suggestions are always appreciated!*
- 3. I don't like coffee. I love to sit in cafés drinking tea, though.*

Words of Wisdom to Students:

If you want something, ask for it (not asking is an automatic "no") and if you don't know something, ask about it, too. Don't be afraid of trying something new! The experience you gain is worth a lot and looking stupid for asking is certainly not as annoying as the constant nagging of "what if."



The Quad Faculty in Residence

Carla Fitz

*Fulbright, German Studies
Languages, Literatures
& Cultures*

Hometown:

Dornbirn, Austria

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115 Cotten Hall*

Office Hours in

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*Monday
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2:00 pm - 3:00 pm*

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UNCG
Undergraduate Studies
Office of Learning Communities

What do you teach at UNCG?

I teach GER 102 and all courses in the beginning and intermediate courses in the basic language program. I also teach upper level courses in the advanced language program. This semester I teach GER 102 online, GER 204 Intermediate German, GER 306 Green Germany, and LLC 120 Global Production & Consumption.

What is your research interest or professional background?

I have a degree in Economic Sciences from Germany, a Master's in English and a PhD in Comparative Literature. My professional experience is broad. I have worked as a manager in an international language school in Berlin, as a software translator, and as a college educator at a large research university in the midwest, a community college and now at UNCG.

Why did you choose to become a Faculty in Residence?

I chose to become a FIR because I love to work closely with students. Having experienced first-hand how disheartening it can be when afraid or anxious to speak with a professor, it is my goal to bridge the gap between students and professors. Only when students trust their professors and truly believe in the working relationship between them and their instructors their academic career can become an excellent experience and they will be able to find their path in life.

What do you look most forward to for the new academic year?

I am so happy that I have three new colleagues. Last year I was the only FIR and now I am amidst a group of three other wonderful ladies who all bring their cultural background, their academic expertise, their enthusiasm and their personalities to the mix. I am also looking forward to establishing long-lasting relationships with the students I am working with. My academic goal is to promote the University's efforts to make "Sustainability" a campus wide mission. I am teaching a "Green Germany" course, I am part of the "Global Village Learning Community", and my own work in Hinshaw Hall is also geared towards gaining and promoting greater awareness in ecological matters amongst the students. Last but not least, I am extremely excited to be one so fortunate to teach in Shaw Hall. My "Green Germany" course will be a great success due to the wonderful teaching location. My students love it!

Name 3 things every student should know about you:

1. I speak five languages.
2. I was born and raised in Northern Germany. My siblings were born in East Germany and I was born in West Germany. Since the country was divided and my parents chose to flee to the West before the Wall was built, I was the lucky one who was born in West Germany.
3. I love living and working in the United States because of the opportunities the country has to offer. The fact that people of so many different backgrounds, ethnicities, cultures, and all sorts of personal orientations are able to live and work together is a worldwide unique situation and I am proud to live here.



The Quad Faculty in Residence

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Roommate(s):

Edward Dietkus, fiancé

Words of Wisdom to Students:

If you do your homework you won't have much trouble keeping up with the work and life will be less stressful. One day you will realize that your college degree was the essential stepping stone for moving forward in your life – on both levels personal and professional. The sky is the limit. Don't waste your precious class time with texting :).