

Getting to Know Your Faculty in Residence

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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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 :).



THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA
GREENSBORO

Getting to Know Your Faculty in Residence

What do you teach at UNCG?

I teach (my native language) German: a beginner's and a conversation class. I also work with the UNCG Global Village.

What is your research interest or professional background?

I studied English, Psychology and Philosophy for a teacher's degree at the University of Vienna, as well as one semester at the University of Maryland. My research interests mostly lie in cultural studies and linguistics and I, therefore, wrote my diploma thesis about recent conversions in English.

Why did you choose to become a Faculty in Residence?

Having lived on campus when studying abroad in Maryland, I experienced the great sense of community this creates. Being a FIR allows me to learn about your cultural background while at the same time sharing my own. I think living on campus will thus make for a wonderful mutual learning experience outside of the classroom.

Tell us about your home in Austria?

I grew up in a tiny village called Koblach in Vorarlberg, the westernmost federal state of Austria (only a five-minute walk from Switzerland). Koblach has 4000 inhabitants and is one of the places where everybody knows everybody, thus offering the charms of a small town. Vorarlberg in general is known for its beautiful nature, including alpine mountains and crystal-clear lakes.

For the last few years, I have mostly lived in Vienna, Austria's capital. While quite different from Koblach, living in Vienna definitely has its advantages, as it is a place where you will never get bored. I consider myself lucky to be able to call both of these very different places my homes.

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

Living abroad is always an adventure and I am very fortunate to be given the opportunity to participate in the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant program and to be a Spartan for a year. I am looking forward to experiencing living, learning and teaching on this beautiful campus and forming new friendships.

Name 3 things every student should know about you:

- 1. I am one of the few Austrians who have seen and actually like The Sound of Music. So if you happen to like the movie, I'd be happy to watch it (and sing along) with you.*
- 2. Family is the most important thing in my life. I am the proud aunty of three wonderful nephews and a beautiful niece. If you can't find me one day, I am probably skyping with them (and explaining to them how I ended up in their computer).*
- 3. I am a creative person. I like to do arts and crafts, sing and decorate scrapbooks or cupcakes. My upcoming events will probably involve at least some of these activities.*



The Quad Faculty in Residence

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Words of Wisdom to Students:

*Take one step at a time!
While some challenges at the University (or in life in general) might seem quite scary and overwhelming at first, it usually helps to break them up into smaller units and work at one thing at a time. To me, at least, things get less scary this way. Plus, it allows you to cross out more things on your to-do list - and who doesn't like doing that?! :).*



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