60 Years of Memories

Stories and Photos
from MN-Germany Exchange Alumni
Last days in Berlin…

– Ruby Simmons, 2007-08
My year in Berlin changed my life…

I arrived in Berlin at the tender age of 19, thinking I was in college to get into medical school. The freedom this scholarship gave me, to explore the world, and to explore myself, resulted in a realization that I could make choices for myself that were very different from any I had ever dared to dream.

– Patrick Scully, 1973-74
Things were topsy turvy…

It was a heady time at the FU. Everyone was a Marxist…it was just a matter of what shade of red you were. Students used "du" with profs; profs used "Sie" with students.

– Patrick Scully, 1973-74
A lasting memory... – from Ingeborg Radel, who accompanied her late husband David to Berlin in 1963-64
Berlin and Germany are a part of who I am…

There is plenty of discussion about whether exchange programs change people's lives in a special way. …Working in international education for 40 years is probably a result…the depth and emotional attachment is undoubtedly to Germany in general, and Berlin in particular.

– Bob Stableski, 1969-70
The lasting friendships we made living in the Studentendorf Zehlendorf are the real treasure…  – Bob Stableski, 1969-70
Two years ago, my good friend Uli and I revisited the now renovated Studentendorf, and managed to get onto the same floor we inhabited forty years earlier. The Irani student who let us in couldn't believe we actually lived there as students, just as he does today…

– Bob Stableski, 1969-70
Guenther... ever-present!
A memorable, remarkable year…

I gained immeasurably from my year in Berlin. Indeed, my current job as a don at Oxford is probably an indirect result of my year in Berlin. I was delighted to learn that the program is still operating.

– Grant Blank, 1972-73
A memorable, remarkable year…

My time at the FU was a HUGE experience for me, catalyzing a major life shift in terms of my awareness of myself and the bigger world. I am happy the program is getting the attention you're giving it!

– Mike (James) Quinlan, 2003-04
The exchange was definitely life-altering...

On my very first day in Berlin, I met a German student, Elke, at the Studentendorf. We got married on June 27, 1974. Our two daughters, Effie and Julia, are fluent in German. Last summer Julia got married in Aachen. My Ph.D. work was on Frege and Kant. I have been teaching mathematics at Albuquerque Academy since 1986.

– Alan Vraspir, 1971-72