



## Resident Director Biographies

### **Dr. Ian Fairnie**

Ian Fairnie recently retired from Curtin University in Western Australia, where he was Dean of Campus Community Life and Director of Curtin's Service Abroad Program. In this latter role he forged many successful Service Learning linkages with Curtin's many neighbors involving Kalamazoo and other US students as well as local students. He also nurtured the creation of Curtin Volunteers! In 1993, Australia's largest student-led community service organization, CV! Has gone on to establish the award-winning Laverton project in a remote desert Aboriginal community, and John Curtin Weekend, involving more than 600 volunteers working in over 250 rural communities, during October each year. In 1997 he became Curtin's first resident director for Kalamazoo and he still oversees some of the students' individual cultural projects. He is especially proud of what 'his' Kalamazoo students have achieved since graduating, even attending a number of their weddings.

### **Maurice Faure**

Maurice Faure was born in 1939 in Clermont-Ferrand where he specialized in German, General Linguistics and the Teaching of French as a foreign language at the university. He began his career as Professor of German at the secondary high school level (Lycée) while also serving as a Visiting Instructor at the University of Clermont. In 1983 he was appointed Professor at the University of Clermont I. In collaboration with CAVILAM, a French government-sponsored institution for the teaching and propagation of French language and culture in Vichy, he authored various articles and played a major role in the development of the DELF, a test resulting in a certificate of competence in French. In 1986 he was appointed Chair of the commission charged with the worldwide implementation of the DELF. Other professional activities include the development of materials for teaching German for the publisher Didier, the organization of numerous French courses at the university for foreign teachers of French as a Second Language at the high school and university level and the establishment of academic exchange programs in Germany. He has also been responsible for French language and culture classes for German exchange students at the University of Clermont as well as for various student exchange groups from Eastern Europe. In 1968 he became Resident Director of the Kalamazoo Foreign Study Program in Clermont, which gives him the distinction of being the longest serving and most senior resident director of any Kalamazoo program worldwide. In recognition of his many achievements in the furtherance of French language and culture and his contributions to international understanding he was awarded the title Chevalier dans l'ordre des Palmes Académiques by the French Republic in 1992.

## **Dr. Joe K. Fugate**

Joe Fugate was born and raised in East St. Louis, IL. His A.B degree was obtained from Southern Illinois University/Caebondale (1954) where he also was an assistant in Greek, Latin and German. After service as a translator/interpreter with the US Army in Germany he did graduate work as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at Princeton University from which he received his MA (1959) and PhD (1962) in German Language and Literature. Before coming to Kalamazoo College in 1961 he taught at Ohio University for two years. In addition to his teaching duties during his more than forty years of active service held a variety of administrative positions including Chair of the Department of German, Chair/Coordinator of the Foreign Language Division, Director of the Neglected Languages Program and Associate Director of the Center for Western European Studies. He officially joined the Foreign Study Program in 1964 and was its director from 1974 until 1992. The author of one book, he has also published numerous articles and reviews and given a number of papers in English and German on language learning and teaching, German literature and international education both at home and abroad. His professional activities include membership in a number of organizations and discipline related societies such as the Modern Language Association where he has served on a variety of committees and is a Senior Bibliography for the MLA International Bibliography, the Council for International Educational Exchange, and the National Association for Foreign Student Affairs. He is an honorary member of Phi Beta Kappa and the recipient of the Verdienstkreuz erster Klasse from the Federal Republic of German. The Republic of France appointed him Chevalier dans l'Ordre de Palmes Académique and the City of Caen awarded him its Grande Medaille de la Ville de Caen. He is also an Honorary Fellow of the Institute for American Universities in Aix-en-Provence, France. Married in 1953, he and his wife Louise have three children and six grandchildren.

## **Wenda Focke**

Wenda Focke was born in 1938 in Berlin-Tempelhof. Her mother was German-Bohemian and her father Polish. In Hamburg, Amsterdam and Leiden she studied music, philosophy, German language and literature, psychology and graphic design. She was married with the Dutch composer and pianist Fré Focke from 1963 till 1989. Wenda gave concerts with him, especially of French music. For several years the artists lived in the South of Europe, where she mostly painted and designed. From 1965 until 1990 she lived in the Netherlands as teacher of German language and literature at a School-Community. From 1990 until 1993 she studied psycho-gerontology at the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg and worked for a while in New York. She taught at the University of Erlangen and at the Adult Education School (VHS) from 1993-2003. She also was Resident Director for Kalamazoo College at the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg from 1996/97 till 2008. Today she is living as a freelanced writer, translator and psycho-gerontologist.

## **André Heintz**

André Heintz was born in Caen in 1920 where he completed his secondary education at the Lycée Malherbe with the exception of the year 1935, which he spent at the Bristol Grammar School in Great Britain. His university education was done at the Sorbonne in Paris and the University of Caen, from which he received his "Diplôme" in 1942. Between 1940-1944 he was a member of the French Resistance. After the invasion of Normandy he was attached to the British Liberation Army as an interpreter from July to November 1944. His long and distinguished teaching career in France, the United Kingdom and the United States, during which he presented and interpreted the language and culture of the English-speaking world in France, while simultaneously performing the same function for his own language and culture at home and abroad, began in 1945 as an Assistant Lecturer at the University of Edinburgh, during which time he also broadcasted for B.B.C. and served as a Lecturer for the Ministry of Information in Great Britain. From 1946-1965 he taught at his alma mater in Caen and in Deauville, interrupted only by three stints aboard: 1950-51 as Fulbright Exchange Teacher at the Boston Technical High School; 1956 back to Bristol as Exchange Teacher; and 1962-63 as Visiting Professor at

Kalamazoo College. He also participated in two Summer Institutes in the USA at Western Reserve University in Cleveland in 1951 and at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1963. From 1965-1982 André Heintz was Professor at the University of Caen in The Institute of Technology and the French as a Second Language Course. André Heintz has the unique distinction of being associated with Kalamazoo College since the inaugural 1958 summer program in Caen, As Resident Director he taught and was responsible for the welfare of generations of students who studied there until the discontinuance of the program. The second major activity which has shaped his life and interests was his role in the French resistance and the events following the invasion of Normandy, in both of which he is a recognized expert. He is the author or co-author of numerous books and publications about these events, has lectured widely about them, and continues to serve as advisor and guide to visiting delegations, researchers and student and tour groups including the Elderhostel and Experiment in International Living. He is also associated with the splendid Memorial Museum in Caen in the establishment of which he also played an important role. His honors and recognitions include the rank of Commandeur des Palmes Académiques and Chevalier dans l'Ordre du Mérite, as well as the Médaille du Combattant Volontaire de la Résistance. In honor of his many achievements and long association with Kalamazoo, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by Kalamazoo College in 1990.

### **Sheila Klaiber García-Mendoza**

Sheila Klaiber Garcia-Mendoza was born and brought up in Westfield, New Jersey. She had her first experience in a foreign country when she was selected to go to Córdoba, Argentina, with the American Field Service (AFS). Her next foreign experience was with the Smith College Junior Year Abroad Program in Madrid, Spain. After graduating from Smith, she got a Master's degree from Yale University, was married, and went to live in Madrid, where she has lived ever since except for a brief period in St. Paul, Minnesota, during which her husband traveled extensively in South America and she got another Master's degree. She also took advantage of the opportunities they had to participate in typical American activities with her two sons, Carlos and Javier. They are now married, and Juan and she have a grandson, Diego. She began her association with Kalamazoo College in September, 1970. José Vidal had recently been named the Resident Director of the K program in Madrid, Spain, and he asked her to be his assistant. Thus began a professional and personal relationship which lasted until his death in October 2006.

She moved up through the ranks to become a professor and then, in 1988, the Resident Director of Kalamazoo College in Spain. She left the program in 1996, when it was moved from the Instituto Internacional. Since then, she has been the director of two other programs in Madrid, and has taught for several others. Presently, she is a professor of Hamilton College Academic Year in Spain, and also teaches a course for the Stanford University in Madrid Bing Overseas Study Program.

### **Alison Kreuzer**

Alison Kreuzer was born in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada. Her family moved to Rochester (New York), where she attended grade and high school. She was an exchange student in Germany (YFU) and chose Kalamazoo College in order to go on Foreign Study to Germany. Alison was in Münster (Germany), where she met her husband. He then came to Kalamazoo College in her senior year as an exchange student from Münster. She got her B.A. in History in 1971 and then got married in Stetson Chapel two days before graduation. The couple settled in Münster where they both got their M.A. degrees. Alison's husband is a teacher and they both teach and help out with American exchange student groups (Formerly Kalamazoo College and now solely Lother College/Iowa). They have two sons - Leonard and Frederick (28+26). Both Alison and her husband come regularly to the U.S. to see family and friends. They love to travel on holidays to France and Italy. Her father-in-law (89) lives with them and she is his main care-taker. Alison does volunteer work helping refugees and has learned a lot about different cultures through these contacts.

## **Dr. Ursula Leonhardt-Barchewitz**

Ursula Leonhardt was born in 1919 in Silesia, now a part of Poland, in the eastern part of Germany where her ancestors had been living for six hundred years. In 1938 she passed the “Abitur” in her home town of Habelschwerdt and thereafter did her compulsory civilian service for six months on a farm near Fulda. Wishing to prepare herself to become a teacher for German, history, and sport/PE in the Gymnasium, she spent her first year of study in Elbing near Danzig, which was followed by further study, interrupted by periods of civilian service due to the war, in Vienna, Tübingen and Freiburg. In July 1944 she married Dr. Helmut Leonhardt, MD, now deceased; who became a prominent Professor of Medicine and who shortly after the wedding had to leave for Russia and was not to return until three and a half years later in November 1947 from Russian captivity. After the destruction of Freiburg in a bombing raid she returned to Silesia. Though the Russian front came closer and closer, her mother did not want to abandon the family possessions, agreed however that she and her younger sister should get out, which they did in March 1945 on the last train of refugees from Breslau via Prague to Nürnberg, where they found shelter in the house of her husband’s best friend. For the second time however she narrowly escaped death when this house was struck by American shells on 28 April and went up in flames shortly before the end of the war. After the University of Erlangen reopened in the fall of 1945 she passed her first exams and in 1947 was assigned to teach in a Gymnasium in Erlangen. The return of her husband from captivity and the birth of their son Matthias in 1948, who holds a professorship in Frankfurt, led to a three year pause in her teaching. In 1955 Helmut received a guest professorship at the University of Michigan, the first direct contact the family had with the USA. From 1957-1960 she taught at the German school in Milan, Italy, and upon returning to Erlangen received an appointment at the university to teach German as a foreign language. In 1962 when Kalamazoo College decided to add another program in Germany, Dr. Stavig, then director of the program, visited Erlangen to make appropriate arrangements and secure the support of the university, he chose Frau Leonhardt as our first director in Erlangen. For thirty years, to the delight of countless students and the confident satisfaction of the program administrators, she continued in this position. In 1965 she was appointed Director of the Office of International Education (Akademisches Auslandsamt) of the University of Erlangen, a post which she held until her retirement in 1994. In 1980 she was awarded the Bundesverdienstkreuz by the Federal Republic of Germany and in 1982 Kalamazoo College honored her with an honorary doctorate.

## **Franz J. Rexhausen**

Franz Rexhausen was born in 1937 in Obernfeld, attended elementary school there and the Gymnasium in Duderstadt. He also did an apprenticeship in mechanical engineering. Beginning in 1957 he lived in California where he worked as a technician for Aero Jet on the construction of Minuteman rockets. In 1964 he began studying Engineering at Sacramento State College and continued his studies at the University of Cologne from which he obtained his degree in Process Technology in 1971. While a student he worked in the office of the Lord Mayor of Cologne as a host for visiting guests and as the mayor’s personal interpreter and translator for English. In 1973 he became Deputy Director of the Office of International Education (Akademisches Auslandsamt) of the University of Bonn, a position which he held for twenty-nine years until his retirement in 2002. Among his many duties in this office was to development and implementation of Junior Year and other exchange programs, specific responsibility for the Kalamazoo program in Bonn, development and implementation “Germany Today – Politics-Economics-Culture,” an informational program for high ranking participants, including politicians and government official, from the USA and the Erasmus Program, the inter-European program for the exchange of students on the university level. He was also appointed by the EU to a special commission charged with working out a system of credit transfer for Erasmus participants. Married in 1977 to the former Sylvie Lecocq, an exchange student from Paris at the University of Bonn, he and his wife have one son, Sebastien, who spent a year at Hackett High School in Kalamazoo, graduated from the University of Wisconsin/Madison with an MBA, received his degree in Economics from the University of Bonn and is currently a project manager for the Boston Consulting group in London.

## **Richard Stavig**

Richard Stavig's life journey has taken him from the West, born in 1927 in Tacoma, Washington, to the East pursuing his MA and PhD. Degrees at Princeton University. His intervening years were spent in the heartland of Minnesota and South Dakota, earning his B.A degree in 1950 from Augustana College where he and his wife, LaVonne met. They were married before leaving for their first home in New Jersey. Upon completion of his degree from Princeton, Dr. Stavig's professional teaching career began at Washington and Jefferson College in Washington Pennsylvania in 1953. The spring of 1955 Kalamazoo College had a position open in their English department, and Dr. Laurence Barrett invited Dr. Stavig to come for an interview. Without any second thoughts, Dr. Stavig, LaVonne and baby daughter Jofrid happily moved to Kalamazoo July 1955. Dr. Stavig was granted a Fulbright Lectureship at Heidelberg University in Germany for the academic year 1958-59. Since he had been involved in the selection of the first group of 25 students for a summer study-abroad program envisioned by Dr. Richard Upjohn Light, Dr. Stavig was the obvious choice to take the students June 17, 1958 on the S.S. Arosa Star. He traveled with them to their designated universities in Germany, France, and Spain. That was the beginning of his role with the Kalamazoo College Foreign Study program. The summer program continued for five years and Dr. Stavig accompanied each of the student groups. He was named Foreign Study Director in 1959. With the implementation of the K Plan in 1962, the junior class had options for study in Germany, France, Spain and Africa - for two quarters of the college academic year. They sailed from New York to Rotterdam for ten days on the Groote Beer. The decision was made by the College that Dr. Stavig would remain in Europe to oversee the progress of the new programs. Dr. Stavig's family, LaVonne and daughters Jofrid and Kaia, got to join him and the students on this crossing of the Atlantic and have always felt they, too, had a role in the early days of the program. Dr. Stavig continued traveling to and from Europe as the foreign study programs expanded. After eighty-six ocean crossings and occasional pain from "suitcase elbow", he crossed Academy Street to Humphrey House and returned to full-time teaching in the department of English until his retirement in 1991.

## **Anne von Thadden-Schmidt**

Anne von Thadden-Schmidt was born in 1934 in Berlin and went to school there and later in Danzig (now Poland) and in Nordhausen (GDR). In 1951 she passed her Abitur in Ellingen near Karlsruhe. The next years were spent in Great Britain where she lived with her English husband and gave birth to two children. In 1956 she was back in Germany, where she studied Economics at Bonn University. After some years of traveling around the world she found herself back in Hannover where she studied English, Physics and Education. After her exams in 1967 she became a teacher at a "Realschule" in Hannover. Two years later in 1969 she returned to Hannover University where she worked in the English Department as an Assistant to Professor Dr. Karin Freund-Heitmüller. Her special field of teaching included Didactics of Media, Teaching Slow Learners, Language Testing, Teaching German as a Foreign Language and Cultural Studies. During that period she extended her studies of Social Sciences and Education and obtained the academic title of "Diplompädagogin" in 1975. From 1971 to 1992 she was Director of the Kalamazoo College Foreign Study Center in Hannover. In past years she has been tutoring the former Lord Mayor of Hannover, the present one and other politicians in English. At present she is helping nuclear scientists with their lectures in English at E-ON, the most important German energy supplier, at its headquarters in Hannover.