

The Salzburg Seminar welcomes innovative ideas to global change

by Adam Beeson
Managing Editor

"The Salzburg Seminar" is the first of a four-part series on the themes and ideas presented at the Salzburg Seminar's International Study Program, held Jan. 1-8 at the Schloss Leopoldskron in Salzburg, Austria.

The Schloss Leopoldskron sits in a large snow-covered valley, surrounded by the towering Alps of western Austria. Once a summer home for the illustrious theatrical producer Max Reinhardt, the 18th century baroque palace is now owned by the Salzburg Seminar, a global institution dedicated to innovative thinking and the search for solutions to matters of global concern.

Established by three Harvard students in 1947, the "Salzburg Seminar in American Civilization," as it was then known, was described as an "intellectual Marshall Plan." Salzburg, the city best known for its scenic location in the film *The Sound of Music* and the birthplace of legendary musician Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, played host to 127 participants, or "fellows" as they are known at the Seminar, from 18 different European countries that first year. These fellows, whose education had been incredibly damaged by the second World War, were exposed to all components of American culture.

After its initial success, the Salzburg Seminar has grown tremendously. Nearly 60 years later, the Seminar is dedicated to not only American civilization, but ideas of globalization and glo-

bal change. Its mission, "to influence the next generation of leaders with programs that build bridges, foster understanding, and that demonstrate practical impact on institutions and communities," has proven success through its long list of alumni, including seven U.S. Supreme Court Justices, twelve university presidents, three Nobel laureates, and prime ministers of four different countries.

After moving away from student participants for some time and hosting programs primarily for professionals, the Salzburg Seminar initiated its International Study Program (ISP) in 2003, a

week-long session for students and faculty of exclusive United States college and universities. The purpose of ISP, according to the Salzburg Seminar staff, is to "provide an intensive seven-day international experience for participants to explore pressing issues of global concern and to view such issues from a perspective both literally and figuratively outside the borders of the United States."

On Jan. 1, ISP marked its third anniversary by hosting the tenth session in its short history, titled "Global Citizenship: America and the World." For the first time in the program's three-year history, Brevard College had the opportunity to send four student representatives and one faculty advisor to the Seminar. Brevard, joined by representatives from Davis & Elkins College, Iowa State University, Lindsey Wilson College, Mars Hill College, Pikeville College, San Diego Community College

District, and the University of San Francisco, contributed to the total of 49 students and nine faculty advisors present at the ISP seminar.

Blistering the cold winds and falling snow, I joined seniors Kody Kinsley, Danielle Raduly, and Rebekah Watts-Mandelli, as well as faculty advisor Dr. Laura McDowell, in embarking on this academic quest for global solutions. Upon introduction to the session director Jochen Fried, a German professor who received his doctorate in German literature from Düsseldorf University in 1984, and program associate David Goldman, we spent an enlightening week working with faculty scholars from all over Europe.

Among these faculty members were Dr. Bernd Baumgartl, the executive of Navreme Knowledge Development, a policy and strategic planning consultant group in Vienna, Austria; Dr. Michael Daxner, a professor of sociology and president of the University of Oldenburg, Germany; Tom Koenigs, the commissioner of human rights policy and humanitarian aid at the German Federal Government's Foreign Office; Dr. Reinhold Wagnleitner, associate

vice president and director of the Salzburg Seminar.

The program's format incorporated plenary lectures and discussions every morning on topics ranging from ethnocentrism, European history, and European views of the United States, to human rights and the meaning

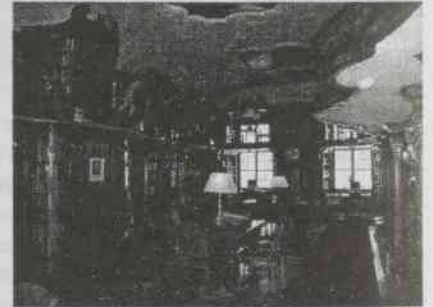


photo by Kody Kinsley

behind "global citizenship."

These lectures were strengthened with cultural experiences in Europe, including a concert series that put on pieces from Mozart, Grieg, and Albeniz, a walking tour of Salzburg, and a visit to the former concentration camp in Dachau, Germany.

Finally, fellows were separated into seven small groups where we partook in the ISP Kosovo Crisis Scenario, a dramatic exercise that, according to the Seminar's staff, is "designed to allow students to better understand the challenges that face groups and organizations as they engage in humanitarian interventions and nation-building."

From these structural exercises, it was quite evident that we had the ability to face other cultures and contribute to global change. But before this contribution could be made, we had to understand our own culture and, to the surprise of many, how it is viewed around the world.



photo by Adam Beeson

professor of modern history at the University of Salzburg and author of *Coca-Colonization and the Cold War: The Cultural Mission of the United States in Austria After the Second World War*; and Dr. Timothy Ryback, the



The Brevard College group in Austria