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THE "PATH OF REMEMBRANCE" DEDICATED

AUSTRIAN CENTRE CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

ACC DISSERTATION PRIZE AWARDED TO MUSICOLOGIST

ALBERTA'S AUSTRIAN LIBRARY COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTED

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Austrian-Canadian Council: <http://www.austrian-canadian-council.ca/>

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Cultural events in the Austrian-Canadian community: <http://www.austro.org/>, then click on "Kulturforum Ottawa" and then "Veranstaltungen"

Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies: <http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/wi/>

Austrian Trade Commission, Toronto: <http://www.advantageaustria.org/ca>

Canadian Embassy, Vienna: <http://www.kanada.at/>

*What's on: Canadian events in Austria:* [http://geo.international.gc.ca/canada-Europa/austria/embassy/Canadian\\_Events-en.asp](http://geo.international.gc.ca/canada-Europa/austria/embassy/Canadian_Events-en.asp)

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## Austrian Centre celebrates 10th anniversary



Ambassador Ditz introduces Minister Hahn's video message

THE Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies at the University of Alberta – initially known as the Canadian Centre for Austrian and Central European Studies – celebrated its 10th anniversary on Friday, September 5, 2008. Opened on the first Friday of September in 1998 by the then Austrian Federal Minister of the Sciences, Dr. Caspar Einem, the Canadian Secretary of State for Science, Research and Development, the late Hon. Ronald Duhamel, the Alberta Minister of Advanced Education and Career Development, the Hon. Clint Dunford, the President of the University of Alberta, Dr. Roderick C. Fraser, and the Dean of Arts, Patricia Clements – it has since earned a national and international reputation as Canada's focal point of Austrian and Central European Studies and one of the leading centres of its kind in the world. This recognition was reflected in the broad range of dignitaries who attended the 10th anniversary celebration.

The Wirth Institute was originally established upon a joint initiative by

the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Sciences, the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Austrian Conference of University Presidents, who selected the University of Alberta as the university most able and prepared to establish Austrian and Central European Studies as a clear university priority. On October 29, 2003 the Centre was formally renamed "Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies" in recognition of Dr. Manfred and Dr. Alfred Wirth's generous donations, which have secured the future of the Institute with an endowment totaling nearly \$10 million. An appropriate Memorandum of Understanding was originally signed between the Government of Austria and the University of Alberta on March 3, 1998, and one of the highlights of the 10th anniversary celebration was the signing of a formal renewal of this Memorandum.

Subsequent to this agreement between the Government of Austria and the University of Alberta, negotiations were undertaken with the embassies of Austria's neighbouring countries

that shared her historical legacy with the aim of winning the support of these countries for a broader programme of Central European area studies. As a result the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia all joined Austria as additional sponsors of the Centre. In the course of the following three years the ambassadors of each of these countries visited the University of Alberta, and in formal flag-presentation ceremonies pledged the support of their respective countries for the Centre.

As a result, high-ranking representatives of all these governments attended the anniversary celebration. The current Austrian Minister of Science and Research, Dr. Johannes Hahn, had intended to attend, but the sudden collapse of the Austrian coalition government and the Austrian elections prevented him from doing so at the last minute. Dr. Hahn therefore sent a video message of ongoing support for the Institute, which was introduced by the Austrian Ambassador, Dr. Otto Ditz – one of his last official acts before his recall from Canada. Other representatives of the Austrian Ministry of Science and Research who traveled from Vienna for the occasion were Dr. Christoph Ramoser, Head of the Department for International University Relations, and his assistants, Ms. Ulrike Csura and Mr. Florian Gerhardus. In addition to Ambassador Ditz, the Director of the Austrian Cultural Forum at the Embassy in Ottawa, Dr. Peter Storer, and the Director, Office of Science and Technology of the Austrian Embassy in Washington, D.C., Dr. Philipp Marxgut, were also present. Austrian universities were represented by Dr. Hans Moser, former President of the University of Innsbruck, and his wife, Dr. Ursula Moser, Director of Center

for Canadian Studies there, as well as Dr. Arnold Suppan, Head of the Institute of East European History at the University of Vienna and Dr. Dieter Binder of the University of Graz.

1997-1998 in the original initiative to establish the Institute, and which continues to support its activities, was represented by its Honourary Chair, Dr. Alfred Wirth – who is also the prin-

mirrored by the participation at the anniversary ceremony of every level of the university administration, including Mr. Brian Heidecker, Chairman of the Board of Governors, Dr. Indira Samarasekera, President and Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Carl Amrhein, Provost and Vice-President Academic, and Dr. Daniel Woolf, Dean of Arts.

The Wirth Institute remains the only university institute in Canada that devotes itself exclusively to the interdisciplinary study and understanding of Austrian and Central European subjects. It coordinates interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary Austrian and Central European studies at the University of Alberta, and works with community groups in a broad range of outreach activities. Its mandate is to sponsor and encourage scholarship on Central European subjects across the broad range of disciplines within the university, to raise the profile of Central Europe and Central European Studies in Canada and to provide a



Dignitaries and guests from Europe and North America gather for the Institute's anniversary celebration in front of the University of Alberta's Arts Building

The other supporting countries were represented by equally high-ranking dignitaries. The Hungarian delegation was led by Dr. Katalin Bogyay, the Hungarian Secretary of State for Education, and by Dr. Pál Vastagh, Hungarian Ambassador to Canada. The Czech delegation was headed by Dr. Vlastimil Ružička, Czech Deputy Minister of Education, Youth and Sports; Slovenia was represented by Tomaž Kunstelj, Slovenian Ambassador to Canada; and Slovakia by Pavol Svetík, Minister Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Slovakia (Ambassador Opiela, who had fully intended to attend personally, was prevented from doing so by a medical emergency). Poland was represented by Mr. Artur Michalski, Chargé d'affaires of the Polish Embassy, and by Mr. Krzysztof Kasprzyk, Consul General at the Polish Consulate General in New York.

The Austrian-Canadian Council, which had been instrumental during

principal patron of the Institute – and by Mr. Hans Raschke, Vice-President of the ACC. In addition to a number of members of the Austrian community in Edmonton present at the event, Mrs. Christine Meyer, President of the Canadian Austrian Society of Toronto, and Mrs. Maria Strausz, President of The Friends of Austria in Winnipeg, also traveled to Edmonton for the occasion.

The recognition the Wirth Institute has earned locally was well reflected by the presence of the Alberta Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, the Hon. Doug Horner, MLA Thomas Lukaszuk, and Deputy Mayor of Edmonton, Don Iveson, who presented Institute Director Franz Szabo with the Mayor's Proclamation of "Austrian and Central European Cultural Week" in Edmonton. Within the university itself both the respect the Institute has obtained as well as the institution's commitment to Austrian and Central European Studies was



Left to right: Vice-President Amrhein, Ambassador Ditz and Dean Woolf sign the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding. Standing behind them, Dr. Christoph Ramoser and Dr. Franz Szabo.

leadership role in a network of cooperation in this field within the University of Alberta and with other Canadian universities.

In its ten-year existence, the Wirth Institute has launched a wide variety of activities to meet its objectives. Above all, it has made the University of Alberta a hub of international scholarship on Central European subjects

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## From Brazil to Canada: Welcome to the new Austrian Ambassador!

“IT is indeed a formidable task to promote Austrian interests in a country that is a hundred times bigger than Austria, but I very much look forward to this challenge,” says Werner Brandstetter, the new Austrian Ambassador in Canada.

Ambassador Brandstetter and his wife Leonie-Maria arrived in Ottawa on September 17, 2008 after having spent four exciting and intensive years in Brazil, another country of continental proportions. As political highlights of his term in Brasilia, Ambassador Brandstetter names the state visits of Austrian Federal President Heinz Fischer to Brazil and, during Austria's chairmanship in the EU, of Brazilian president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva to Austria as well as a marked increase in economic and cultural activities between the two countries.

On October 21, 2008 Ambassador Brandstetter presented his letter of credence to the Honourable Governor General Michaëlle Jean. He was very impressed by the warm welcome afforded to him and by the interest of the Governor General in Austria and Austrian culture.

Mr. Brandstetter grew up in Lower Austria and, following graduation from the University of Economics in Vienna and post-graduate study at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna, joined the Austrian Foreign Service in 1979.

A seasoned career diplomat, Mr. Brandstetter served at the Austrian Embassy in Moscow from 1981 to 1983 and was then posted to the Austrian Consulate General in New York. After three years at the headquarters in Vienna between 1987 and 1990, he went on to Berlin in 1990 and to Prague in 1991 and was appointed Austrian Consul General in Los Angel-

es in 1995. In 2000 he returned to the Foreign Ministry in Vienna and joined the cabinet of then Austrian Foreign Minister Ferrero-Waldner. After almost four years as foreign policy adviser



Governor General Michaëlle Jean and Ambassador Werner Brandstetter. Photo: Sgt. Serge Gouin, Rideau Hall

and speech writer to the then Foreign Minister he was appointed Austrian Ambassador in Brazil.

In terms of priorities involved in representing Austria in Canada, Ambassador Brandstetter mentions the further enhancement of cultural, scientific and people-to-people ties between Austria and Canada. He wishes not only to intensify bilateral relations, but would like to diversify them and include the provinces as much as possible.

Ambassador Brandstetter views Austrians living in Canada and Austro-Canadian friendship organizations as instrumental in this endeavour and also underlines the Embassy's role of seeing to the needs of Austrians living in Canada. Beyond that, he is

looking forward to making new friends for Austria among Canadians.

Referring to the Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, which are slated to be an important event for the two winter sport nations Canada and Austria, the Ambassador believes that sports is likely to become an ever more important field of common interests, even if Austrians and Canadians might be fierce competitors in winter sports.

As for political relations, Ambassador Brandstetter expects new avenues of cooperation with Canada as a result of Austria's holding a non-permanent seat on the Security Council of the United Nations for the period 2009/10. Canada had generously supported Austria's candidature. The two countries share common values and a long-standing tradition in support of human rights, human security issues, and co-operation in the multilateral framework.

Ambassador Brandstetter also recalls that Canada is Austria's fourth-largest trading partner overseas. For him, this warrants paying much attention to one of the modern tasks of an Austrian Embassy, namely to create favourable conditions for trade relations, a task carried out in cooperation with the Austrian trade commissions. Both countries, at this point, look well set to weather the international financial crisis due to responsible, yet market-friendly fiscal and regulatory policies.

Ambassador Brandstetter is the author of a number of publications on East-West economic issues, in particular on energy projections and on the American and the Austrian political system.

With his two adult children now living in Austria, Ambassador Brandstetter hopes to be able to devote more of his leisure time in Canada to his favourite hobbies: hiking, jeeping and playing the piano.

*OeCulture* wishes Ambassador Brandstetter success for his new assignment.

*Mag. Peter Storer*  
Director of the Austrian Cultural Forum

Austrian Society Ottawa members welcoming Ambassador Brandstetter on October 3, 2008. Left to right: Hans Wyslouzil, Ambassador Mag. Werner Brandstetter, Heidi-C. Temelie and Roland K Pirker.  
Photo: Irene Orasjaerue for Rollframe



## Alfred Wirth continues to support charities aimed at health, culture and education

**B**USINESSMAN and philanthropist Alfred Wirth is well-known to the readers of *OeCulture* and the Austrian-Canadian community at large for his multi-million dollar gift to the University of Alberta's Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies (see *OeCulture* 2004, Nos. 1 and 2). In the meantime, he has continued to support several other important projects in an amazing variety of fields.

In 2007, he established an Endowment Fund for Special Studies at the C.D. Howe Institute, Canada's most influential think tank, with a donation of more than \$1,000,000, the largest gift ever made to the Institute in its 50-year old history. This fund will support analysis and public policy papers on important subjects which are not of commercial interest and therefore would not get done otherwise. The donation will bolster the Institute's research capacity in five key areas: fiscal and monetary policy, economic

growth and innovation, trade policy, social policy and public institutions, and governance questions.

In the same year, Alfred Wirth do-



ated funds to the Royal Ontario Museum, Canada's largest, to establish the Wirth Gallery of the Middle East. This gallery, which occupies more than 4,000 square feet, highlights the many key contributions to our civilization (including religion, writing, mathematics, food, etc.) originating

from these ancient lands. More than 1,000 artefacts examine the region's contributions to both eastern and western civilizations through culture and technology from the Palaeolithic Age to AD 1900. The Wirth Gallery of the Middle East was opened in February 2008. You can visit it at <http://www.rom.on.ca/exhibitions/wculture/middleeast.php>.

Dr. Wirth continues to support the SOS Children's Villages, both monetarily and by serving as a member of the Board of Directors. He has also made major contributions to the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies at the University of Alberta, to the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research in Toronto, and, together with his daughter Elizabeth, to the Arthritis and Autoimmunity Research Centre Foundation at University Health Network in Toronto.

*Manfred Prokop*

## Conference at the University of Ottawa: Gender and modernity in Central Europe: The Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and its legacy

THE conference “Gender and Modernity in Central Europe: The Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and its Legacy” was held at the University of Ottawa between May 16 and 18, 2008. It was hosted by the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

and the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies, and sponsored by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Sheraton Ottawa Hotel, the Faculty of Arts (U of Ottawa), the Austrian-Canadian Council, the Austrian Cultural Forum, the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures (U of Ottawa), the Embassy of the Republic of Hungary, the Rákóczi Foundation, the Canada-Hungary Educational Foundation and the Embassy of Romania. The conference intended to explore, in an interdisciplinary forum, the complex interplay between gender and modernity in the region that once made up the Habsburg Empire, reflect on the multiple legacies resulting from this interplay and increase awareness about those legacies in Canada. The conference thus brought together scholars and graduate students from Austria, Canada, Hungary, India, Israel, the Netherlands, Poland, the U.K. and the U.S. from various disciplines (history, literature, sociology, psychology, art history) who work in the field of Habsburg studies so as to explore,

discuss and expand recent developments in the study of gender and modernity in Central Europe. The opening address was given by the organizers (Prof. Agatha Schwartz and Prof. Judith Szapor), Prof. Franz Szabo, Director of the

of national manhood in fin-de-siècle Hungary, re-definitions of masculinity through sport and the impact of the Viennese *Jugendkultur* on gender concepts of the Kibbutz of Hashomer Hatzair. The role that Jewish women of Vienna and Budapest



and the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies, and sponsored by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Sheraton Ottawa Hotel, the Faculty of Arts (U of Ottawa), the Austrian-Canadian Council, the Austrian Cultural Forum, the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures (U of Ottawa), the Embassy of the Republic of Hungary, the Rákóczi Foundation, the Canada-Hungary Educational Foundation and the Embassy of Romania. The conference intended to explore, in an interdisciplinary forum, the complex interplay between gender and modernity in the region that once made up the Habsburg Empire, reflect on the multiple legacies resulting from this interplay and increase awareness about those legacies in Canada. The conference thus brought together scholars and graduate students from Austria, Canada, Hungary, India, Israel, the Netherlands, Poland, the U.K. and the U.S. from various disciplines (history, literature, sociology, psychology, art history) who work in the field of Habsburg studies so as to explore,

Wirth Institute, László Bakos, Consul of the Embassy of Hungary, and Dr. Lori Burns, Vice-Dean (Research) of the Faculty of Arts.

The first plenary session was presented by distinguished Hungarian historian Viktor Karády who lectured on women's entry into higher education in Dualist Hungary. The panels on the first day analysed the crisis

played in the construction of modernity was also explored, as were lesser-known psychoanalysts of the period such as Sándor Ferenczi and women who contributed to the field.

The second plenary session was opened on Saturday morning by Jirina Šmejkalová, specialist in Central and East European feminism, who presented on Czech feminist phil-





Left to right: Rebecca Margolis (University of Ottawa, session chair), Michaela Raggam-Blesch (Austrian Academy of Science), Alison Rose (University of Rhode Island, Providence), Howard Lupovitch (Colby College, Maine)

osophy at the fin de siècle based on the example of Anna Pammrová. The panels that followed examined fin-de-siècle women writers from Austria and Hungary and themes in their narratives such as ethnic and sexual tension, on the one hand, and the city, on the other. Modernity in the arts exemplified by Klimt, Czech cubism and Hungarian entertainment films of the 1930s was the topic of the last panel that morning. The afternoon was devoted to discussions about the literary legacy of Viennese modernity on the examples of Musil and modernism in Trieste, Csokor's *Idee Europa* and the impact of Viennese misogyny on Czech poetry. The debates around Empress Elizabeth in Trieste and her re-emerging cult in Hungary today along with the presentation of Austria-Hungary at the 1893 Chicago Columbian Exhibition raised questions about representations of the Imperial past.

The third and last day was devoted to the memories and legacies of the Empire in women's narratives, both in fiction (in Romanian-German literature) and through oral testimonies (in the post-Trianon Hungarian diaspora) while also reflecting on anti-modernist

tendencies leading up to women's involvement in the pro-fascist Arrow Cross party in World War II Hungary. The last panel looked at legacies of violence through civilian internment in World War I and the impact of gender and ethnic stereotypes in drawing the Austro-Yugoslav border following World War II. A round-table discussion led in a convivial atmosphere concluded a what was generally felt to be a successful conference.

The conference was accompanied by several exciting social events. On the first evening, a reception was held at the Sheraton Ottawa Hotel. Among the guests were Her Excellency Elena Ștefoi, Ambassador of Romania, Mag. Peter Storer, Director of the Austrian Cultural Forum, Dr. George Lang, Dean of Arts, and Dr. Geneviève Mareschal, Vice-Dean Academic, University of Ottawa. The reception was followed by a reading by Romanian-born German author Carmen Francesca Banciu. The author read an excerpt, in English translation, from her novel in progress, *Blütenstaub und Diamanten*. The novel is set partly in turn-of-the-century Vienna and partly in contemporary Berlin. On the second evening, advanced students from the School of Music presented a concert of fin-de-siècle music by Brahms, Kodály, Mahler, Richard Strauss and Schönberg, an event that added a fine musical touch to the intellectual debates at the conference.

Agatha Schwarz  
University of Ottawa





## Marina Kovrig supports Post-Doctoral Fellowship

THE position of Post-Doctoral Fellow and Assistant Director of the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies at the University of Alberta has found a new sponsor. After being in abeyance for two years, the Wirth Institute was once again able to engage a talented young scholar of Austrian and Habsburg history for the 2008-2009 academic year, thanks to Ms. Marina Kovrig.



Marina Kovrig is a senior manager and executive, with a focus on government relations, public relations and sustainable development, in a Canadian-owned, privately held multinational chemical manufacturing company who is currently phasing into retirement and looking for new outlets for her energy. With twenty years of experience in lobbying, multi-stakeholder consultations and voluntary industry initiatives, Ms. Kovrig has built a reputation within her industry and in many government departments for integrity, dedication and deep commitment to the consultative process for dealing with sensitive issues.

As the first woman to be elected chair of the Canadian Consumer

Specialty Products Association and the first woman on the board of the Canadian Chemical Producers Association, Ms. Kovrig's career demonstrates an ability to work graciously and win respect in difficult environments, while being frankly outspoken and passionate about defending just causes. In addition, she has earned a reputation as a pillar of civil society through her volunteer work. The chemical sector has seen her working with Provincial, Federal and NGO groups to deal with issues as broad as household special waste management, smog reduction, designing senior-friendly packaging, and establishing liaisons with colleges and universities to enable workers to continuously upgrade qualifications. In other voluntary capacities she has been a Director on the Board of CAMH and an active member of the Corporate Leaders Committee, is a member of the Shaw Festival Governor's Circle, an active member of the AGO Curators Circle and the Textile Museum Patron's Circle.

Above all, however, Ms. Kovrig is committed to her Central European heritage, and to the maintenance of Canada's bridges to that part of the world. Born in Prague, but equally at home in Austria, she sees the Wirth Institute as the best institution to preserve this legacy and to transmit her cosmopolitan Central European vision to future generations of students. Ms. Kovrig has a broad interest in culture and learning, and is intimately familiar with the academic environment. She has been especially impressed by the Wirth Institute's dual mission to act as both an academic and a cultural institute, and by its commitment to raise the profile of Central Europe in both areas, not only locally but also nationally. Ms. Kovrig is also author

of many articles on management, gardening and life, the mother of two children and is currently working on drafts of two books.

The scholar that the "Marina Kovrig Post-Doctoral Fellowship" supports in the 2008-2009 academic year is Dr. Michael Chisholm. After studying at Carleton University and the University of Toronto, Dr. Chisholm completed his studies at Oxford University



under the renowned Robert Evans, with a dissertation on the Habsburg Counter-Reformation in Tyrol. Specializing in 16th century Austrian history, Dr. Chisholm is currently assisting the Institute in the organization of an international conference on the famous Habsburg emperor Maximilian I. The conference is scheduled to take place at the University of Alberta on October 2-3, 2009. In addition, Dr. Chisholm participates actively in the activities of the Institute and lectures widely on Early Modern Habsburg history. He is the translator of Joseph Riedmann's *Short History of Tyrol*, and is currently completing a major book on the Tyrolean Counter-Reformation.

*Franz A.J. Szabo*

## ACC Dissertation Prize awarded to musicologist

THE 2008 Austrian-Canadian Council Dissertation Prize was awarded this year to a musicologist for the first time in its history. ACC dissertation prizes are awarded on the recommendation of an interdisciplinary selection committee appointed by the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies at the University of Alberta, and are valued at \$1,000. A special certificate issued by the ACC accompanies the monetary award. The ACC's prize for best Ph.D. dissertation in Austrian Studies can in principle be awarded annually, but the Council will only hold a competition if a minimum of three dissertations is submitted. As a result, since its inception in 1996, the award has not been made annually, and the 2008 award was made on the basis of dissertations nominated in 2006 and 2007.

Winner of this year's award was Dr. John Henry Wiebe for his 2006 dissertation submitted at the University of Alberta for the degree of Doctor of Music, "Carl Czerny – Mass No. 2 in C Major: A Biedermeier Composer in Life and in Practice." The award was presented to Dr. Wiebe on the occasion of the Wirth Institute's 10th anniversary celebration on September 5, 2008, by Dr. Alfred G. Wirth, Honourary Chair of the ACC, and by Mr. John Raschke, Vice-President of the ACC.

In its report, the selection committee noted: "In his dissertation Dr. Wiebe examines the life of Carl Czerny as a performer, teacher and composer, focusing specifically on Czerny's contribution as a composer of church music, and placing these contributions within the cultural context of the Biedermeier era in Austria. The main body of the dissertation consists of a modern performance edition of Czerny's Mass No. 2 based on archival manuscripts held by the *Gesellschaft der*

*Musikfreunde* in Vienna. This not only presents the work for the first time to modern audiences, but also provides an exposition of the work's uniqueness and strengths that will have the effect of bringing a neglected Austrian musical genius the prominence he deserves. It is a work of musical archaeology that has unearthed the tip of a yet to be excavated larger treasure."



Mr. John Raschke (left) and Dr. Alfred Wirth present the ACC Dissertation Prize to Dr. John Henry Wiebe (right)

Carl Czerny (1791-1857) was a protégé of Ludwig van Beethoven and the teacher of Franz Liszt, but until recently, was virtually absent from the canon of classical music. In one of the musical world's most intriguing stories, Czerny is being rediscovered as a major late Classical and early Romantic composer. Scholars and music lovers are listening intently to his work, and writing about his masterful compositions. Often thought to be merely a purveyor of pedagogical piano exercises and quite well-known as such among pianists, his vast output of serious work is little known. Occupying a pivotal niche in music history, some of his works that have recently come

to light (especially at a 2002 Czerny Music Festival mounted by the Wirth Institute in cooperation with the Society of the Friends of Music of Vienna) have stunned and impressed music critics. But most of Czerny's output of what he considered "serious music" remains unpublished. This includes a variety of chamber music (among them a number of profound string quartets), six symphonies and a broad

range of sacred music. The later category includes 11 solemn masses for soloists, choir and orchestra, eight of which exist only in manuscript form in the archive of the *Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde* in Vienna. It is one of these manuscripts that forms the basis of Dr. Wiebe's dissertation.

Dr. Wiebe has agreed to produce parts from his performance edition of the Czerny Mass No. 2 so that the work may receive what may very well be a world premiere – and will certainly be a North American premiere – performance within the next 18 months. The public performance will take place in Edmonton and will be sponsored by the Wirth Institute. The Institute is currently negotiating a per-

formance agreement with a number of musical organizations in Edmonton. The date and location of the performance should be fixed within the next six months and will be published in the next issue of *Oe Culture*.

The ACC Dissertation Prize competition is open to all theses completed

at Canadian universities in fulfillment of the relevant graduate degrees, and accepted by the appropriate graduate faculty in the twelve months prior to the annual nomination deadline of October 31. All doctoral dissertations in the social sciences, humanities and fine arts which deal with any as-

pect of Austrian history, culture, society, economics, politics or literature are eligible. Past winners of the Prize have been Jürgen Heizmann, Brigitte Gerdes, Jill Scott, Alexandra Heberger, and Marc-Oliver Schuster.

Franz A.J. Szabo

## Austrian Centres of the world meet in Canada

**I**N June 2007 the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research organized the first annual international convention of Austrian Centres of the world at the Centre for Austrian Studies of the University of Minnesota. To help celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies, the Ministry chose to convene the second annual meeting at the University of Alberta on September 7 and 8, 2008. The purpose of these annual meetings is to encourage closer cooperation among the Austrian Centres, and also to give an opportunity to graduate students at the respective institutions to present papers and to allow the next generation of young scholars in the field to get to know each other and to establish networks for their future careers.

The institutions that are represented at these meetings are, in addition to the Wirth Institute (Prof. Franz Szabo, Director), the Centre for Austrian Studies at the University of Minnesota (Prof. Gary Cohen, Director), Centre Austria at the University of New Orleans (Prof. Guenter Bischof, Director), the Center for Austrian Studies at the European Forum of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem (Prof. Bianca Kühnel, Director), the *Institut für Osteuropäische Geschichte* at the University of Vienna (Prof. Arnold Suppan, Head), and the Faculty of Central European Studies at the Andrassy University in Budapest (Prof. Dieter

Binder, Dean). Thanks to the generosity of the Austrian Ministry, each institute can bring up to four graduate students to the annual meeting, and the papers presented by these students are subsequently published by the *Institut für Osteuropäische Geschichte* at the University of Vienna.

embassy in Ottawa, Dr. Peter Storer, and the Director, Office of Science and Technology of the Austrian Embassy in Washington, D.C., Dr. Philipp Marxgut. Twelve student papers were presented at the meeting, but Prof. Bischof and his students from New Orleans were prevented from com-



Left to right: Peter Storer, Ulrike Csura, Florian Gerhardus, Franz Szabo, Philipp Marxgut and Christoph Ramoser

The Austrian Science Ministry itself is usually represented by its Head of the Department for International University Relations, Dr. Christoph Ramoser, and for the 2008 meeting in Edmonton, he was joined by Ministry officials, Ms. Ulrike Csura and Mr. Florian Gerhardus, as well as the Director of the Austrian Cultural Forum at the

ing by the untimely descent of Hurricane Gustav on that city. In addition, Centre Directors presented reports of their respective institutions' activities over the past year, and Prof. Suppan presented the volume of published papers from the 2007 meeting.

*Continued on p. 14*

## MGV Kaning on tour through Western Canada

THE picturesque village of Kaning, the “Gate to the National Park Nockberge”, is located north of Radenthein, Carinthia, at an altitude of 1,203 m. Unspoiled nature and an active community life characterize the village and its surroundings.

The *Männergesangsverein* (male choir) Kaning was founded in 1890 by a handful of men who loved to sing. For almost 120 years the choir has dedicated its efforts to maintaining traditional folk songs while also singing a variety of international songs. Under the guidance of choir director Burgi Leeb, the 30-member MGV rates among the very best choirs in the province of Carinthia, which is justly famous for its many choirs and its singing traditions. You can visit their website at <http://www.kaning.at/> and listen to some of their music.

The choir’s outfit pays tribute to the Nockberge: black pants, a loden jacket and a flower-adorned sleeveless jacket.

Two traditions distinguish the choir’s work: maintaining close contacts with choirs around the world, but especially in Europe, and “working” in the community: weddings, village celebrations and religious events are the times when the choir participates in the life of the village and donates its time and talents. Activities such as hikes in the local mountains and tours keep the choir’s communal spirit high. Most members meet frequently in their daily lives, helping each other when someone’s roof needs to be redone, for instance; of course, when the hunting season starts many choir members take to the hills together.

The singers maintain the quality of their singing by taking classes to improve their voices; young singers joining the choir can point to the fact that their efforts are being rewarded by the high esteem in which the choir



is held, as it is a privilege to sing with the MGV Kaning.

The choir has participated in several television events, and in 2005 they themselves produced “Voices of the Mountains” – a high-quality DVD that showcases their songs as well as the fauna and flora of the mountains and the folk customs and traditions of the Nockberge.

This past summer the choir took its longest trip yet when they traveled to Western Canada, and at concerts in Calgary, Victoria and Vancouver they demonstrated their talent and repertoire to enthusiastic listeners.

Special program highlights included a visit to a Hutterite colony near Calgary (as the Hutterites’ history is also closely linked with the province of Carinthia), horseback riding on a Native reserve in the Okanagan, and whale watching on the Pacific. Since the choir members are all avid outdoorsmen, they were thrilled to see several elk and bear from the Rocky Mountain roads – and the modern cities of Vancouver and Calgary left an enduring impression as well.

This trip – for which all funds were raised by years of singing and selling the music – will surely be a lasting memory for the choir.

Gery Valtiner (born in Carinthia and living in Vancouver for 20 years) from Special Travel International in Vancouver organized the trip and guided the choir on this summer’s tour. In return, Canadian choirs travel to Austria and pay return visits to the touring choirs. This exchange of culture is especially wonderful as the common bond – music – makes any trip all the more special!

*Gery Valtiner*

Find out more about some of these trips on [www.sticanada.com](http://www.sticanada.com). The first 20 persons to write or call at 1-800-665-0998, requesting a brochure, will receive a FREE copy of the DVD “Stimmen der Berge” by the MGV Kaning. You will get great pleasure from listening to it – songs, countryside and folk traditions at their very best. The DVD is formatted for the North American playback system.

*Manfred Prokop*

## U of A welcomes new Austrian guest professor and research fellow

AS part of the Austrian government's support for the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies at the University of Alberta,



Irene Fussl

the Austrian Federal Ministry for Science and Research supports two important visiting positions: a visiting Austrian guest professor through the Austrian Academic Exchange Programme (ÖAD) for a period of three to five years, and an annual graduate student intern who receives a Doctoral Research Fellowship at the Institute.

2008 marked the end of the five-year term of the previous Austrian visiting professor, Dr. Clemens Ruthner,

who has now gone on to a teaching position at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, with the result that the Austrian Sciences Ministry launched a search for his replacement in 2007. The candidate selected by the University of Alberta was Dr. Irene Fussl.

A native of Graz and a graduate of the Universities of Vienna and Salzburg, Dr. Fussl specializes in Jewish-Austrian literature. After dealing with literary forms of coming to terms with the Nazi legacy in the work of Ilse Aichinger and Ruth Klüger, she wrote her Ph.D. thesis on the hermetic poems of Paul Celan. She has previously taught at the University of Salzburg and at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, and is now the guest of the University of Alberta's Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, teaching a full range of German literature courses and strengthening that Department's already intense focus on Austrian literature (three other Germanists also work on Austrian themes there, making it Canada's leading centre for Austrian literature). Dr. Fussl also has a strong interest in music and is an accomplished violinist.

The winner of the Austrian Science Ministry's Doctoral Research Fellowship tenable at the Wirth Institute for the academic year 2008/2009 is Ms. Bernadette Allinger, a native of

Melk, Lower Austria, and a doctoral student in the Department of Sociology of the University of Vienna. Her doctoral dissertation research focus-



Bernadette Allinger

es on international comparisons of the politics of work-life balance, with emphasis on Austria, Denmark and Canada. As an intern at the Wirth Institute, Ms. Allinger participates actively in the many activities of the Institute. She is also an amateur musician, and has joined Edmonton's Cosmopolitan Music Society and Wind Band as a clarinetist.

*Franz A.J. Szabo*

### Anniversary

*Continued from p. 4*

across a broad range of disciplines by sponsoring and organizing 18 major international symposia and conferences at the University of Alberta, as well as 11 others in cooperation with other universities and institutions in Canada and the United States. It has also undertaken commissioned research projects. Most conference proceed-

ings and research projects have been or are being published. The Institute has also organized or helped organize some 70 public lectures by scholars in various disciplines, as well as a series of Round Table discussions at the University of Alberta. In addition to its academic activities, the Institute has also mounted a variety of cultural activities, frequently in cooperation with various community associations and

clubs and with other units on campus. These include concerts and recitals, theatrical performances, exhibitions and film festivals with an Austrian and Central European theme.

For a copy of a 76-page Anniversary booklet summarizing the history and activities of the Institute please contact the Institute at <http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/wi/>.

*Franz A.J. Szabo*

## Austrian scholars in Canada

IN the winter term 2008, Carleton University's Centre for European Studies (CES) organized an international conference, "Transatlantic Relations and International Conflict Management". The conference took place at Carleton University on February 7-8, 2008. The initiative came from Professor David Long (Norman Paterson School of International Affairs) and Professor Franz Kernic (Centre for European Studies and University of Innsbruck). Three Austrian guest speakers participated in the conference: Professor Heinz Gärtner (Austrian Institute for International Affairs), Gunther Hauser (Austrian National Defence Academy) and Arnold Kammel (Austrian Institute for European Security Policy).

The conference brought together academics from Europe and Canada to consider the differences and similarities in academic approaches to and official policies of international conflict management on either side of the Atlantic. Panels focused on the use of force in conflict management, intelligence, and human security. The conference also examined different international approaches to conflict management and post-conflict reconstruction in Afghanistan, as well as the peace process in the Middle East. The conference concluded with a discussion of the prospects for transatlantic cooperation in managing conflicts around the world.

Austria's contribution to the academic discussion focused primarily on four areas of research: major trends in EU-Canada relations with respect to international peacekeeping and crisis management (Kernic); the use of force in today's world order and the European Union's new theoretical and practical approaches in its foreign, security and defence policies (Gärtner); new role and missions of

NATO and EU in the emerging global security architecture (Hauser); and democracy, energy security and climate change as new challenges and prospects for future transatlantic cooperation (Kammel).

During their visit to Canada, all Austrian scholars were also invited to a reception held at the Austrian Ambassador's Residence in Ottawa.

The event was sponsored by the Centre for European Studies and made possible by major financial support from the European Commission and Carleton University, including the Centre for Security and Defence Studies. Both the Austrian Embassy and the Austrian-Canadian Council supported this event through a small travel grant. Other contributions and support came from the Austrian Institute for European Security Policy, the Austrian Ministry of Defence, the diplomatic mission of Poland in Canada, the Egmont Institute, and the Slovenian Research Foundation.

Before returning to Austria, Professors Franz Kernic, Gunther Hauser and Arnold Kammel also travelled to Kingston where a seminar was held at Queen's Centre for International Relations (QCIR) on February 13, 2008. Professor Charles Pentlend and Professor Christian Leuprecht welcomed the Austrian scholars. The topic of the seminar was "Global Conflict Management: The EU's New Military Missions", and both Hauser and Kammel gave short presentations, particularly focusing on Austria's experiences in new EU military operations in Africa. At the same time, arrangements were made to foster research cooperation between Austrian and Canadian scholars in the field of security studies in the future.

*Franz Kernic*

### Austrian Centres

*Continued from p. 11*

Graduate student papers covered a broad range of topic, mostly focused on the history of Austria and the Habsburg Monarchy, with some papers on literature and philosophy and one on eighteenth-century opera. The topics included discussions of the role of women in the Slovak national revival of the 19th century (Nina Pavlovicova, Alberta), the properties of the Herbersteins in present-day Slovenia (Maja Tos, Vienna), the history of Austrian Brody in the 19th Century (Börries Kuzmany, Vienna), the so-called High Treason of the Prague Infantry Regiment 28 in 1915 (Richard C. Lein, Vienna), post-war Austrian-Slovak relations (David Schriffel, Vienna), Eastern European Authors Looking Westward (Eva Hudecova, Minnesota), 'Ossies' in post-socialist Berlin (Tatiana Matejskova, Minnesota), Survivor Testimony on Theatrical Performance in Theresienstadt (Lisa A. Peschel, Minnesota), Arminius in 18th-century 'opera seria' (Roger C. Skarsten, Minnesota), the Reconstruction of Jewish Communal Life in Central Europe (Susi Cohen, Jerusalem), Franz Werfel and the First Austrian Republic (Anat Varon, Jerusalem), and the relationship of Sigmund Freud and Sandor Ferenczi (Andras Sziklai, Jerusalem). The next annual meeting of Austrian Centres is scheduled to be held in Jerusalem in 2009.

*Franz A.J. Szabo*

**Please inform us of a change of address, and please renew your membership in the ACC for 2009!**

## Top-notch Carinthian choir visits Canada

IN July 2008, the famous Austrian choir *Kärntner Doppelsextett*, which had previously toured such places as China, Brazil and many European countries, came to eastern Canada for a ten-day visit. Heinrich Striessnig, the treasurer and spokesperson for the Carinthian ensemble, and Roland K. Pirker, President of the Austrian-Canadian Council, had organized the concert tour over a two-year period.

Under the leadership of its founding member and choir conductor, Dr. Margit Heissenberger, a musical genius in her own right, the choir connected to audiences wherever they sang, bringing on one standing ovation after another. The group's repertoire ranges from American, Brazilian, Slovenian, German, and Austrian folk songs to old and new songs from their homeland Carinthia. Their performances brought tears to many Austrian and non-Austrian listeners alike, making each concert a truly memorable experience.

On July 3, the Choir arrived at the Ottawa airport. They spent the second and third day sightseeing in the nation's capital with Roland Pirker and gave their first concert – organized by the Friends of Austria Ottawa – on July 5 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. On July 6 they left Ottawa and drove to Montreal where they were met by Erich Kruschitz, who gave them a city tour through old Montreal. In the afternoon of that same day a picnic concert was held on the shores of the St. Lawrence River; it was organized by Pia Teichmann, Past President of the Austrian Society Montreal.

On July 8, Andy Mora, President of the Donau Schwaben Club in Scarborough, greeted the group in Toronto. He not only arranged to have them sing at his club, but also volunteered to become their tour guide,

and showed them Toronto and the Niagara Falls. On July 10, the *Doppelsextett* was greeted by Kitchener's



Mayor, Carl Zehr, and a concert was arranged by Hans Kroisenbrunner senior at the Alpenclub.

On July 12, the Choir performed at the Donau Schwaben Club; in attendance were the Austrian Consul and Trade Commissioner, Dr.

Karl Schmidt, and Christine Meyer, President of the Canadian Austrian Society Toronto. The final concert was held in Burlington at the Continental Austrian Club on July 13. There the ensemble was welcomed by President Arno Risse and hosted by Peter and Ursula Hoffman.

The *Doppelsextett* left Canada with great memories and wonderful impressions of our new homeland, but also with mixed emotions. They were sorry to have to leave so many new friends behind! Within days of their departure, all of us who had assisted the group received personal thanks from them for helping them make their first Canada tour unforgettable.

On September 29, 2008 the Choir celebrated its 20th anniversary; for that occasion they produced a new CD, titled "Du berührst mi" ("You touch me"). For more information please see their website at [www.kaerntnerdoppelsextett.com](http://www.kaerntnerdoppelsextett.com).

*Roland K. Pirker*



Ottawa, Parliament Hill (July 5, 2008). Left to right: Elisabeth Eichholzer, Manfred Heissenberger (secretary), Margit Petutschnig, Hubert Reiner, Mag. Claudia Fantur, Albert Striessnig, Gabrielle Fugger, Dr. Margit Heissenberger (founding member and conductor), Monika Regal, Heinrich Striessnig (treasurer), Annemarie Maierwieser (English host and speaker), Wolfgang Reimann, Karin Smretschnig, Heimo Lechner (president) and Sylvia Stöger.  
Photo: Roland K. Pirker - Rollframe

## Alberta's Austrian Library Collection highlighted



It is well known that the resources of the University of Alberta Libraries comprise the second largest – and first in volumes per student – research collection in Canada and represent one of the major collections in all of North America. Perhaps less well-known, however, is that it includes the most outstanding collection of Austrian, Habsburg and Central European materials in Canada, and is among the five leading libraries in this field in North America. The University of Alberta also houses Canada's most extensive university map collection, which contains a significant series of maps of Central Europe not available anywhere else on the North American continent. The unique strength in Austrian and Central European subjects of the University of Alberta Libraries dates back to the 1960s and has at its heart the acquisitions of two major Austrian collections: the famous *Priesterseminar* library of the Archbishop of Salzburg, purchased in 1965, and the library of the Viennese *Juridisch-Politischer Leseverein*, purchased in 1969.

Highlighting and paying tribute to the extraordinary richness of the

University of Alberta's Austrian and Central European library collection was an undertaking that was long overdue. Awareness of the full extent and significance of this resource is scant, despite the fact that many scholars who have stumbled on it serendipitously over the years have been both surprised and amazed at its richness. It was for this reason that the University of Alberta's Bruce Peel Special Collections Library decided to bring these unique resources to the attention of a wider audience by mounting an exhibit entitled "Legacy of Empire: Treasures of the University of Alberta's Central European Library Collection" from September to December 2008. Professor Franz A.J. Szabo, Professor of History and Director of the Wirth Institute, curated the exhibit and wrote the catalogue, which continues to be available on request from the Wirth Institute.

The Salzburg Collection is one of the most important collections in Canada for Central European law studies and consists of the original law collection of the Seminary Library of the Archbishop of Salzburg. The collection leans heavily toward

canon law, of course, but it covers all aspects of law and the different fields of jurisprudence: civil, canon, Church, Roman, criminal, commercial, and constitutional, as well as history and philosophy of law. It contains important source materials and a wealth of secondary literature on law. Also included are books documenting the history, politics, and culture of the Habsburg Monarchy, of the Holy Roman Empire, and of other European countries, regions and societies in the Early Modern and Modern Eras.

The *Leseverein* Collection consists of the private library of the Juridical-Political Reading Club of Vienna, and was purchased by the University of Alberta when the *Leseverein* took the decision to sell it and transform the society into a Foundation in 1969. Publication dates of the books in this collection range from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries, but the vast majority of the imprints date from the nineteenth century. The collection focusses heavily on history, law and the social sciences, with particular emphasis on the history, economy and







society of the Habsburg Monarchy. It contains important lexica, handbooks and primary source collections and is especially strong on periodicals, often containing complete runs of serials difficult to find elsewhere – even in Austria.

While the purchase of these two important collection represented an important building block of the University of Alberta's Central European collection – and, indeed, gave it foundation that would be virtually impossible to duplicate today – it should be stressed that rounding out these assets was an ongoing process. As long as library budgets remained relatively generous, engaged faculty members were focused on book orders for the library continuously, so that the holdings in Central European subjects soon rivaled the best in North America. A survey of library-of-origin stamps in volumes now held by the University of Alberta identifies literally dozens of Central European sources of the material.

In addition to books and periodicals, the University of Alberta Libraries also includes the William C. Wonders Map Collection, one of the most prestigious in North America and the largest academic map collection

in Canada. It consists of more than 460,000 map sheets, 5,000 atlases, 600 gazetteers and reference works, and boasts the largest academic aerial photograph collection in Canada.

This collection, too, has unrivalled strengths in Central European subjects, thanks in part to the tenacious efforts and Austrophile enthusiasms of the late Ron Whistance-Smith, former map curator. The map collection has also benefited from important private donations. Most recently Mr. J. Eugene Horvath of Vancouver, a Canadian collector of Hungarica, donated a substantial portion of his valuable Hungarian map collection to the University of Alberta.

The presence at the University of Alberta of these unrivalled Austrian, Habsburg and Central European resources were in turn a critical factor in the

1997 decision of the Austrian government to award an important incentive package to the university for the establishment in 1998 of what was initially the Canadian Centre for Austrian and Central European Studies and was subsequently renamed Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies in 2003.

In its mission to sponsor and encourage scholarship on Central European subjects across the broad range of disciplines and to raise the profile of Central Europe and Central European Studies in Canada the Wirth Institute has a resource base in the University of Alberta's Libraries unmatched anywhere in this country.

This exhibition on the Main Floor of Rutherford Library South served to provide but a small preview of its riches.

*Franz A.J. Szabo*



## „The Path of Remembrance” dedicated to the Jewish residents of the Volkertviertel

Before World War II more than 180,000 Jews lived in Vienna. In the Leopoldstadt, the Second District, more than 40% of the population was of Jewish origin. With the invasion of the Nazis, the Jewish population was at once deprived of all their rights, their jobs, their belongings, and their human dignity. Those who were refused emigration were deported and murdered.

In 2005, Vienna’s association “Stones of Remembrance” under Dr. Elisabeth Ben David-Hindler – a relative of one of the victims – launched a project, the “Street of Remembrance” in the Leopoldstadt’s *Volkertviertel*. With it, the community wanted to give back to the people who had been rooted here a place at the very spot where they had lived with their families. A special feature on this street are 84 stones set in the pavement, reflecting the idea of “stumbling blocks” (*Stolpersteine*) in memory of individual inhabitants of the *Volkertviertel*.



Stone of Remembrance for Dora, Henriette and Edith Bretholz. Wallensteinstrasse 23

This project has moved many people deeply. Another, more ambitious project, “The Path of Remembrance” (*Weg der Erinnerung*) was launched in 2006. It takes the visitor to the many significant points of former Jewish life in the Leopoldstadt and brings to light the history of the expulsion and murder of the Jewish population. It touches on everyday Jewish life

and – in an exemplary manner – memorialises the people who had lived there. Seventy-five stations already mark this Path, many of which include Explanation Plaques (20 by 20 cm)



Plaque at Ybbstrasse 5, Vienna

with inscriptions, Stones of Remembrance (10 by 10 cm) for murdered Jewish inhabitants, and Path Markings as identification signs. Some are set in front of their former houses with the sign “Here lived ...”.

There is a Canadian connection to this moving story. On May 18, 2008, Edmonton’s Hilda Stoehr and her daughter Valerie Schirmaier attended a Memorial Service in Vienna for the laying of Stones or Plaques in memory of Hilda’s mother, father, brother and many others who had lost their lives during this horrible time.

Hilda Stoehr (Stöhr) was born in April 1914 in Vienna. She was the youngest of four children born to Berta and Alois Aufrichtig. Hilda was a furrier; she had learned this trade because of a promise that she had made to her oldest sibling, also a furrier by trade, who had died in 1927 at

the age of 20 years.

Hilda always had the desire to do something new. So when an office in Vienna was looking for people to work as domestic help in England, she signed a one-year work contract and left for England in May 1935, returning to Vienna in May 1936. This year of employment was to be Hilda’s salvation when Austria’s *anschluss* to Germany took place in March 1938. After seeing Hitler march into Vienna, Hilda contacted people in England and again found a job as a domestic help. One of the prerequisites to receive permission to leave Austria was a previously arranged place of employment. Hilda’s mother, father and brother would not be so lucky.

Hilda met her husband-to-be Erich Stoehr (Stöhr) at an immigration hall in Guildford, Surrey, England. Erich was born in Karlsbad, Austria-



Hilda Stoehr and her father Alois Aufrichtig Hungary, and was a staunch member of the Social Democratic Party. Because of his opposition to the Nazi regime he had to flee his beloved Sudetenland. Theirs was a marriage of convenience. At that time, Canada accepted Sudeten Germans as political refugees, but they had to be married; bachelors had to be sponsored by a married couple. So after knowing

*Continued on p. 22*

## Joseph Kandler: To make a difference

TEARS welled up in Joseph Kandler's eyes when the touring traditional Deutschmeister Military Band from Austria played "Vienna, city of my dreams" in an Edmonton performance in 1961. The band leader, who happened to turn around, said aloud to the audience, "It got to him," in Viennese.

But Joseph's affection for his homeland's rich musical heritage had "got to him" many years earlier. For the past 40 years, it has fuelled his vision to generate scholarships that offer the best of Austria to Canadian students.

His three initiatives – the Johann Strauss Foundation of Alberta, the Johann Strauss Foundation of British Columbia, and the University of Alberta Student Exchange with the University of Economics and Business Administration, Vienna – have generated in excess of \$2 million in scholarships and capital funds. Close to 300 Canadian music and business students have studied in Austria so far, often returning to report that the experience had been life-changing.

At his Salt Spring Island home in British Columbia, Joseph sits in his dining room over charts and figures fanned out on the table. An accountant by profession, he has kept detailed records of the financial and academic success of his initiatives. But it is the photocopies of student reports that hold the most significance for him. "It's easy to stay committed if you see success in the people who participate," he says, adding that some former music exchange students like Kinza Tyrell (pianist) and Susan Platts (mezzo-soprano) from British Columbia have gone on to make names for themselves in the music world.

Joseph, too, at the early age of eight was an aspiring vocalist. The

days leading up to an audition with the Vienna Choir Boys was truly where his affection for music began.

Born in Vienna in 1921, Joseph was encouraged by his music-loving mother to join the Vienna Choir Boys. After attending weekly preparation classes for two years, he missed his chance at the final audition because he had lost his voice during a bout of



diphtheria. But music nonetheless remained his first love and he continued as a soloist in a local church choir.

He attended *Realschule 16* in Ottakring and graduated just prior to being drafted in 1939. At war's end he became a prisoner of war in camps in Germany and France until his eventual release in November 1945. Joseph says surviving the war "without a scratch" made him feel obliged to "give something back" in some way, but it was not until he immigrated to Canada that he realized which form his contribution to society would take. After graduating with a doctorate degree from the *Hochschule für Welt-handel* in Vienna (now the University of Economics and Business Administration), he emigrated to Montreal in 1952. He traveled to Edmonton in

search of work where he was hired as an invoice audit clerk by the construction company Brown & Root Ltd. Canada. After a year of practice with a firm of chartered accountants, he became the company's Chief Accountant and Administration Manager and remained there for the next 10 years.

In 1959 he met his future wife Melitta, an immigrant from Graz, Aus-

tria, originally from Czernovitz in the Bukovina. And it was with her that he attended the Deutschmeister Military Band's performance as a part of the show "Vienna on Parade" where he was moved to tears by the music of the city of his birth. And yet, he soon realized that he had become a Canadian. He and Melitta were married in 1963. He accepted the Controller's job at Healy Motors Ltd. in Edmonton, later to become Vice-President (Finance), and qualified as a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta in 1965.

With his identity now established and his career on an upswing, Joseph revisited his desire to "give something back" in some way. Melitta recalls, "He said to me, 'This country has been good to me. It's time I

do something for this country.” And it was at the premiere of the Vienna Opera Ball in Edmonton, hosted by Club Austria in 1967 as a Centennial Project, where his vision materialized. The event produced a surplus, and as a member of the Club he proposed to create scholarships for advanced study of music in Austria for qualified Canadian students. It was, “to express our gratitude to both our old and new country of allegiance and as a service to the community,” he says. He referred to Austria’s unique creative contributions in the field of music and the opportunity to link Central European and Canadian academic institutions – partnerships that were non-existent then. His proposal was met with immediate approval by members of the ball committee, and surplus funds were allocated annually to such scholarships until a necessary parting of the ways prompted him to establish the Johann Strauss Foundation of Alberta. This charity successfully continues to this day.

Also contributing to the internationalization of Canadian students as a member of the University of Alberta Senate and also of the Board of Governors, Joseph Kandler proposed a task force on Academic Planning in 1971. Later he proposed another one on second languages, led a task force on foreign students, the final report of which was considered required reading, bringing about subsequent first international exchanges at the university. His final and pinnacle achievement was initiating an exchange between the School of Business at the University of Alberta and his old University of Economics and Business Administration in Vienna that still flourishes today.

In 1979, for the festive opening of the UN Centre in Vienna, the Austrian Embassy asked Joseph Kandler to organize a program for a visiting

group of Natives from Alberta. Remembering that he had been taken prisoner of war while briefly resting in the replica of an Indian village in the Hartz Mountains, he was happy to oblige. He organized the financing and transportation for the eight members of the Buffalo Child Society from Alberta, travelling under the guidance of 86-year-old Chief Albert of Hobema.



After Joseph Kandler and his wife moved to Salt Spring Island, B.C. in 1986 to retire, his drive to raise scholarship funds did not diminish. In fact, he had already booked the Empress Hotel in 1985, which spawned a version of Edmonton’s Johann Strauss Ball that of necessity began as the Tea Dance of the Johann Strauss Foundation of British Columbia. The Foundation dissolved in 2005, but its net assets were placed with the University of British Columbia (three awards annually) and the University of Victoria (two awards annually) for the continuation of its scholarship program in perpetuity.

“Events have followed my vision, because to study abroad is the thing to do today,” he explains. But this was not always the case, as depicted in a graph showing that student participation in the exchange at the School of Business has steadily climbed from two in 1990 to 13 in 2008 to become

the leading exchange program by far today.

Over the past 40 years Joseph Kandler has been recognized for his contributions with several Austrian awards, the most recent being named an *Ehrenbürger* (honorary citizen) of the University of Economics and Business Administration just a few months ago. Present at the ceremony in Vienna as the last surviving member of his

high school class, he says the honour moved him beyond words.

The retired couple continues to be active in various clubs in the Salt Spring Island community, including the Bessie Dane Foundation and Hospice, with Melitta being

a member of the Canadian Federation of University Women and the Hospital Auxiliary, Joseph active in the Salt Spring Island Tennis Association.

One day in 1978, Joseph had an idea. “He said to me, ‘I would like to establish a trust fund for a scholarship winner in our name.’” Melitta jokes that she said, “Okay, fine,” but she also said, “charity begins at home and I don’t have a fur coat yet.” Besides establishing the Trust Fund, he did buy a coat, of course: In the middle of summer, when fur coats are on sale.

And last year, former Canadian Ambassador to Austria, Dr. Maurice Copithorne and his wife Tama – their contribution having been matched by the Senate of the University of British Columbia – established such a scholarship in the Kanders’ name as well.

Amy Geddes  
Driftwood, Salt Spring Island

## Josef Ebner: Hôte lier extraordinaire

LIKE many of the great hoteliers before him, Josef Ebner began his career in Austria in an apprenticeship training program. Throughout his career, he learned first-hand about the importance of quality customer service and hospitality – a knowledge that has helped him to become the successful hotelier that he is today, the Managing Director at the Delta Chelsea Hotel in Toronto.



Josef Ebner's global work experience began in 1966 in Zurich, Switzerland. He went on to work in Paris, London, Toronto, Madeira, Montreal, Washington and then returned to Toronto in 1992. Josef first became a General Manager at the early age of 30 years.

With over 40 years of international hotel experience, Mr. Ebner has received countless awards for his contribution, growth and professional stature in the hospitality and tourism industries. His extraordinary achievements include: Hotel Association of Canada, Hall of Fame, (Humanitarian Award, 2006), Decoration of Merit in Gold of the Republic of Austria (2001), Ontario Hospitality Institute Gold Award (Category "Hotelier", 2000), and Canadian Hotelier of the

Year (Hotelier Magazine, 1997).

A tireless promoter of the Delta Chelsea Hotel, Mr. Ebner has also been very much involved in selling Toronto as a destination through his many significant volunteer positions. These include the Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership (board member, 1999-2001), the Greater Toronto Hotel Association (member of the Executive Committee, two 2-year terms in past 13 years), Tourism Toronto (board member since 1993; marketing committee chair, 1993-1996 and marketing committee member, 2005-present), Ryerson University, Dean's of Business Advisory Council (member since 2006), University of Alberta, Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies (member of the Development Advisory Council, since 2006).

Mr. Ebner has made countless trips to Asia, Europe, the United Kingdom, the Middle East and the U.S. on sales missions as well as acting as a good-will ambassador for Canada. Some of them have included the World Travel Market and the ITB Trade Show and ATM (London, Berlin and Dubai). From 2003 to 2006, he accompanied the post-SARS recovery missions to Japan, China and Korea, led by the Deputy Minister of Tourism. Mr. Ebner also supported the Canadian Executive Service Organization, a non-profit organization that helps to build proud, independent communities in collaboration with Canadian Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal and international clients.

Over the years, Mr. Ebner has contributed to many tourism-related student and youth programs. For Cornell University in New York State, he has acted a Mentor to the Master's students. He has encouraged the cooperative student program

to be a part of many departments in the hotel industry, including Humber College, Centennial College, Seneca College and George Brown College. He also works closely with many European hotel schools providing internships, and personally mentors many of the students himself. For example, he has enabled many students from the International Management Centre in Krems, Austria to complete their internship at the Delta Chelsea.



On Mendenhall Glacier, Alaska, 1999

The ability to "give back" to the community is not only an important philosophy of the Delta Chelsea Hotel, it is something that it practices every day. Under Josef Ebner's direction, the hotel has conducted fundraising efforts to benefit local as well as international charities. For the past 15 years, the Delta Chelsea has raised money in support of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and Special Olympics Canada. Since 2002, the Delta Chelsea Charity Golf Classic has raised more than \$450,000 for the Special Olympics. As a result of these

on-going efforts, he was inducted into the Special Olympics Ontario's Hall of



On Mount Kilimanjaro, 2007

Fame in 2003. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Montreal and Washington, DC, YMCA.

Only the most serious climbers

will attempt Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa and Aconcagua in Argentina.

Josef Ebner is one of them. Both treks were initially just a personal challenge but instead, Ebner decided to share his accomplishments with a charity so close to his heart. He raised \$30,000 for Special Olympics Canada with his Kilimanjaro climb last year and just over \$25,000 for

the Jane Goodall Institute this year. With his high-altitude mountaineering, cycling, running, playing squash and staying fit and healthy, he is able

to meet the daily demands of the fast-paced hotel industry.

Josef has been married 38 years to Annette and has a daughter, Brigitte, who is following in her father's footsteps and is currently attending the IMC in Kramsach studying tourism management.

Whether tending to the varied needs of his guests and employees or the demands of the owners of Canada's largest hotel, Mr. Ebner is a truly globe-trotting hotelier. He is very well-known and respected by his peers in Toronto, Canada and throughout the world.

Tracy Ford

**Path of Remembrance**

*Continued from p. 18*

each other for only three weeks, Hilda and Erich were married and left for Canada on July 10, 1939.

Arriving in Quebec more than a week later, they took the train to Edmonton and very soon continued their journey to a settlement in north-western Alberta called Tupper Creek/Tomslake, approximately 20 miles from Dawson Creek, B.C. They slept in a tent supplied by the CPR, until they had built a one-room cabin. Their first child, Valerie, was born in Pouce Coupe, B.C. in May 1940.

Realizing that homesteading was not the life for a tailor and furrier they moved to Edmonton in the fall of 1940 where they started a business known as Twin City Tailor and Furrier. Hilda and Erich had two more children.

Erich passed away in March 1997 after having been married to Hilda for 59 years. They had lived through challenging times, but their love grew over the years, giving them strength to endure all.

Hilda's father, Alois Aufrichtig, was born in January 1880 in Boskovice,

Moravia to Jakob and Betti Aufrichtig, one of eleven children. Alois lived in Vienna's Second District with his wife, Berta, and was the proud father of

(Brno) in what today is the Czech Republic; on November 16, 1941 he was transported from Brünn to the concentration camp Minsk.



Hilda Stoehr and her daughter Valerie Schirmaier talking to City Councillor for Culture and Science Andreas Mailath-Pokorny

four children. He was a traveling salesman by trade and also worked in a restaurant where on many occasions he would entertain the customers with his beautiful singing voice.

In August 1939 he lived in Brünn

Hilda's mother, Berta Aufrichtig, was born in June 1883 in Nikolsburg/Mikulov, Moravia, one of eight children. Berta would go out of town and sell soap to help put food on the table; she also worked for two aunts

in the restaurant business. In 1942, Berta was deported from Boskovice to Theresienstadt and then to the concentration camp Piaski.

Hilda's brother, Hermann Aufrichtig, was born in Vienna in September 1911. From September 1924 to July 1925 he attended the *Bürgerschule* in the Second District, Sterneckplatz, and learned the trade of men's tailoring. He was employed in Brünn from April 1938 until April 1939. It is believed that he was later deported to Nisko in the Lublin district or to Katavice.

Hilda and Erich Stoehr are well known in Edmonton's Austrian community as they were founding members of Club Austria in 1965. They



never forgot their countries of birth, but were ever so grateful that Canada had given them a new homeland in which to build a new life for themselves and their children.

At the age of 94, Hilda Stoehr still lives in the home that she and her husband bought in Edmonton in 1945. Her daughter Valerie is currently President of Club Austria in Edmonton.

More information on the *Weg der Erinnerung* can be found at [www.steinedererinnerung.net/](http://www.steinedererinnerung.net/) and [www.erinnern.at/gedachtnisorte-gedenkstätten/katalog/weg\\_der\\_erinnerung](http://www.erinnern.at/gedachtnisorte-gedenkstätten/katalog/weg_der_erinnerung).

Valerie Schirmaier

Organized by the Austrian Cultural Forum in cooperation with the German and Swiss Embassies and the Canadian Film Institute

## QUEBEC

### MONTREAL

January 1, 2:30 p.m.  
New Year's Concert "Salute to Vienna"  
Strauss Symphony of Montreal, conducted by Daniel Beyer (Munich), with Beatrix Lazin, soprano (Budapest) and Wolfgang Gretschnaier, tenor (Vienna) and dancers from the Kiev-Aniko Ballet of Ukraine  
Place des Arts, Salle Wilfrid Pelletier

January 11, 2:30 p.m.  
Société de musique viennoise  
Concert du Nouvel An (Tempo di valse)  
Ensemble Strauss-Lanner de Montréal, conducted by Jean Deschenes  
Ecole de musique Vincent D'Indy

February 8, 3 p.m.  
Société de musique viennoise  
Concert et Souper  
Ensemble Transatlantique Schrammel  
Musique de Schrammel, Strauss père et fils, Ivanovici  
Butte St. Jacques

February 22, 4 p.m.  
Concert  
Orchestre Metropolitain de Montreal, conducted by Yannick Nézet-Seguin

J. Haydn, Symphony No. 100, "Military" and G. Mahler's "Das Lied von der Erde"  
Salle Wilfrid Pelletier, Place des Arts

February 24, 7:30 p.m.  
Concert  
Orchestre de l'Université de Montréal, conducted by Jean-Francois Rivest  
Mozart symphonies 21 and 27  
Salle Claude Champagne

February 25–28, 7:30 p.m.  
Atelier d'opéra de l'Université de Montréal avec l'Orchestre de l'Université de Montréal, conducted by Jean-Francois Rivest  
Mozart, "Don Giovanni"  
Salle Claude Champagne

March 4, 7 p.m.  
McGill Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Alexis Hauser  
Anton Bruckner, Symphony No. 6  
Pollack Hall, Schulich School of Music, McGill University

March 18–22  
"Haydn 2009"  
Fondation Arte Musica presents Haydn's 68 string quartets and other activities to mark the 200th anniversary of the great composer's death

March 19–29  
Festival international du Film sur l'Art  
Cinéma Ex-Centris

April 3 and 4, 7 p.m.  
McGill Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Alexis Hauser  
Mozart, Symphony No. 40  
Pollack Hall, Schulich School of Music, McGill University

May 16  
Montreal Chamber Music Festival  
Concert with pianist Anton Kuerti  
St. James United Church

May 22, 8 p.m. and May 24, 2:30 p.m.  
Montreal Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Kent Nagano, with pianists Alain Lefevre, Andre Laplante and Michelle Nam in an Austrian program of Mozart, Concerto for 3 pianos, Anton Bruckner, Symphony No. 7 and world premiere of Variations on a Theme from Mozart for Three Pianos and Orchestra, Opus 79, by Jacques Hétu  
Salle Wilfrid Pelletier, Place des Arts

End of June 2009  
Concerts by choirs from Carinthia at Le Mondial Choral Lotto Quebec in churches in Laval

October 8–19  
Festival du Nouveau Cinéma avec films autrichiens  
Centre Ex-Centris

November 21, 7 p.m.  
51st Annual Gala Ball of the Austrian Society of Montreal  
Hotel Marriott Chateau Champlain

## CULTURAL EVENTS / MANIFESTATIONS CULTURELLES

**For a list of Austrian-Canadian clubs in Canada, and links to their Calendars of Events, please visit the Embassy's website at <http://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/embassy/ottawa/the-embassy/austrian-clubs-in-canada.html>.**

### ALBERTA

#### EDMONTON

January 25, 7:00 p.m.  
Annual recital of Johann Strauss  
Foundation scholarship recipients  
Convocation Hall, University of Alberta

February 14, 6 p.m.  
Annual Johann Strauss Ball  
Westin Hotel

March 1, 2 p.m.  
"The Austrian Connection"  
Concert featuring two symphonies by  
Leopold Mozart, Albrechtsberger's  
Trombone Concerto, Johann Stam-  
itz's Viola Concerto and three Church  
Sonatas by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
with the Alberta Baroque Ensemble.  
Robertson-Wesley United Church  
10209-123 Street

March 13–26  
Michael Haneke Film Festival  
Seventh Continent (1989), Benny's  
Video (1992), 71 Fragments of a  
Chronology of Chance (1994), Funny  
Games (1997) The Castle (1997), Code  
Unknown (2000), Pianiste (2001), Time  
of the Wolf (2003), Caché (2005), Funny  
Games US (2008)  
Metro Cinema

January 28 and 29  
„Hommage à Haydn"  
Nelson Mass, Violin Concerto in D-  
Major. NAC-Orchester, conducted by  
Pinchas Zukerman  
National Arts Center  
Artists from Austria: Peter Revers (Uni-  
versity of Graz), Peter-Maria Krakauer  
(Mozarteum Salzburg) and Hartmut  
Krones (University of Vienna)

### ONTARIO

#### OTTAWA

January 28–31  
"Transcendence, Reality and Universal-  
ity in the Music of Joseph Haydn"  
Concerts, lectures and a symposium  
organized by Carleton University in  
cooperation with the University of Graz  
and the Mozarteum Salzburg

"Arts Café @ Sheraton"  
Monthly concerts  
Sheraton Hotel  
150 Albert Street

Viennese Winter Ball  
February 7, 2009  
National Gallery of Canada

February 2009  
2nd German-Language Film Festival

*Continued on p. 23*

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Oe CULTURE

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