Mission Statement

The mission of the Center for Austrian Culture and Commerce (Center Austria), founded in the fall of 1997, is to direct international student and faculty mobility between the University of New Orleans and universities in Austria. Center Austria promotes the communication and extension of Austrian/Central European culture and commerce through scholarly and artistic activities and academic partnerships. Center Austria builds on more than three decades of cooperation with the University of Innsbruck and a Sister-City Agreement between the cities of Innsbruck, Austria and New Orleans, as well as a new partnership agreement with the University of Graz, Austria.
Center Austria
2011-2012

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1. Center Austria aims to enhance UNO’s international standing through international faculty recruitment. The Marshall Plan Chair and Professorship will strengthen international studies at UNO through its focus on Austrian and Central European Studies.

Objective 1.1. Increase instruction and research efforts in Austrian and Central European Studies

Strategy 1.1.1. Appoint a Distinguished Visiting Professor from Austria to occupy the Austrian Marshall Plan Chair on a one-year appointment.

Strategy 1.1.2. Utilize Austrian Marshall Plan Chair to offer 3 courses in Austrian and European Studies; especially in social science Departments affected by Katrina related resignations.

Strategy 1.1.3. Appoint Marshall Plan Professor in Austrian Studies from UNO faculty to conduct research and teaching in Austrian and European Studies.

Strategy 1.1.4. Facilitate one semester exchange between the University of New Orleans and the University of Innsbruck.

Strategy 1.1.5. Facilitate two short-term faculty exchanges between the University of New Orleans and the University of Innsbruck.

Objective 2.1. Enhance interdisciplinary studies curricula (BAIS, Women’s Studies) by offering at least 3 in Austrian and European Studies in the College of Liberal Arts

Strategy 2.1.1. Utilize the Austrian Marshall Plan Chair and visiting faculty from the University of Innsbruck for the teaching of Austrian and European Studies.

Strategy 2.1.2. Enhance international interdisciplinary studies majors with at least 3 courses in Austrian/European content.
Goal 2. **Center Austria will intensify and accelerate the study of Austrian and European history, culture, commerce, and area studies at UNO and aggressively recruit international students and thereby promote international student mobility at UNO.**

Objective 2.1. Support and maintain international student mobility at UNO and continue same number of visiting graduate fellowships and raise funds for 1 new fellowships for $12,000.

Strategy 2.2.1. Continue recruitment of students from the University of Innsbruck and Graz and increase the number of students.

Strategy 2.2.2. Continue recruitment of Austrian graduate student fellows and raise funds for new fellowships (such as the Austrian Marshall Plan Junior Fellowships).

Strategy 2.1.3. Build on strong partnership with new University of Innsbruck Office for UNO.


Strategy 2.1.5. Continue and support bi-annual Austrian Student Program for Students with Disabilities.

Assessment Tool(s): Number of students from the Universities of Innsbruck, Graz and Economics and Business Administration in Vienna recruited and retained. Number of graduate student fellows recruited. Financial support for graduate student fellowships raised.
Goal 3. Center Austria will expand scholarly research and publication efforts, as well as cultural and artistic exchanges to stimulate dialogue among faculty, student, business, and government leaders in the American Gulf South and Central Europe.

Objective 3.1. Sponsor annual Austrian scholarly conferences, research collaborative, publication series, and art exhibits in the City of New Orleans and the Gulf South region, as well as in Innsbruck and other Austrian cities.

Strategy 3.1.1. Coordinate and advertise locally and nationally one international conference and two cultural events on Austria/Europe at UNO as well one art exhibit from New Orleans in Austria.

Strategy 3.1.2. Support publication of two scholarly book series on Austrian/European and transatlantic affairs (Contemporary Austrian Studies Journal with UNO and Innsbruck University presses; TRANSATLANTICA with Studienverlag Innsbruck)

Strategy 3.1.3. Continue collaboration with Ludwig-Boltzmann Institute in Graz on research and publication projects on the Vienna Summit of 1961.

Strategy 3.1.4. Support one bi-annual international symposium on students with disabilities.

Assessment tools: Conference programs
Publications
Cultural Exchanges
Conference evaluations and publication reviews
Goal 4. Center Austria will coordinate and expand the partnerships between the University of New Orleans and the University of Innsbruck and the University of Graz, as well as other Austrian research institutions, into model partnerships for research collaborations, international education, and international student mobility.

Objective 4.1. Promote and strengthen the 3 long-standing scholarly partnerships with Austrian universities and research institutions.

Strategy 4.1.1. Continue to strengthen all activities with the University of Innsbruck, the University of Graz, and the University of Economics and Business Administration in Vienna.

Strategy 4.1.2. Intensify research collaboration with the Graz Boltzmann Institute for the Study of the Consequences of War.

Strategy 4.1.3. Develop new research partnerships with Austrian institutions

Objective 4.2. Promote and complete efforts to consolidate international studies activities at UNO by securing financial support for renovation of the Commons Building as the International Studies Center in the amount of $850,000.

Strategy 4.2.1. Secure partial Austrian funding for International Studies Center as future home for Center Austria.

Strategy 4.2.2. Build contacts with Austrian “Green Builders” to make renovations of Commons Building environmentally friendly.

Strategy 4.2.3. Determine space allocations for new International Studies Center for the Center Austria office spaces.

Assessment tools: University partnerships deepened and added
Research partnerships strengthened
International Studies Center progress monitored
Goal 5. Center Austria aims to enhance non-credit German language offerings for the UNO and greater New Orleans communities by establishing a Saturday School (Samstagsschule) in partnership with the Department of Foreign Languages, Ben Franklin High School and the Deutsches Haus.

Objective 5.1 Increase awareness of the German language for a wider audience.

   Strategy 5.1.1. offer non-credit classes language classes on 4-6 Saturdays for pre-K and K-5 children, for high school and college students and adults at the beginner level.

   Strategy 5.1.2. offer a non-credit culture/history class about Austria and Germany parallel to the non-credit language class

   Strategy 5.1.3. raise awareness about UNO in the community by partnering with Ben Franklin and the Deutsches Haus

Assessment tool(s): Number of participants in the Saturday School