



## AN ENDURING LEGACY

Picturesque cobblestone streets and idyllic castle views greeted me in Heidelberg as a study abroad student in the early 1980s. The first in my family to travel outside of the United States, I was eager to learn more about life in this enchanting country. In that initial year of study in Heidelberg through Pepperdine University, I immediately fell in love with the German language, culture, and people. With excitement, I returned to Heidelberg a few years later and enrolled at the Uni. The Institut für Deutsch als Fremdsprachenphilologie on Plöck became my new home-away-from-home, allowing me to deepen my knowledge of the German language and culture. Of course, I learned far more than the subject matter. It was humbling to write academic papers in a non-native tongue, and it was inspiring to meet fellow students from all over the globe. My closest Uni friends came from France and Greece. These experiences helped to shape my choice of graduate study and led me to complete a Ph.D. in European History from Claremont Graduate University. A true Germanophile, I endeavored to infuse the German language and travel to the European continent as often as I could in my post-student years. After marrying and starting a family, my three children were able to experience travel to Germany at a young age.

oben: Diane Guido 1983  
an der Berliner Mauer  
unten: Diane Guido mit  
ihrer Tochter Alina



Their memories just might include eating Spaghettieis in Marktplatz and climbing the tower of the Heiliggeistkirche for spectacular views of the old city.

As a Heidelberg alumna, I was excited when my daughter, Alina, considered studying abroad in Germany. Of all places, she landed at Heidelberg University in 2014, some thirty years after my time there. She spent a year of her undergraduate studies walking the same beautiful streets that I had known as a student, visiting the historic library, studying in charming cafes, and discussing current events with friends while strolling along the Neckar. She, too, met new people from around the globe – her closest friends that year were from England and Morocco. And her stories about navigating the challenges of second-language study – whether with joyful accomplishment or frustration – rekindled my memories of the same. I was able to relive my student days in my favorite city during Alina's year in Heidelberg and, of course, I made it a point to visit her there during her studies. It was a pleasure to see her favorite bars and restaurants as well as the university-owned student housing where she lived, directly in the Altstadt.

It is delightful to be able to share a fondness for Heidelberg University with my daughter. Although our classes were different and our experiences were unique and separated by three decades, we now share a special bond as Heidelberg alumnae. We are both part of an enduring legacy connected to an extraordinary university and its city. I am proud that Alina and I can count ourselves among the many Heidelberg students »seit 1386«.

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