



The Texas A&M faculty coordinator procures the assistance and talents of colleagues in Europe who afford the program the highest degree of professionalism, experience and competence in their field of expertise. This is to ensure the greatest degree of organizational coherency and planning, sound cultural and academic content, attention to the personal safety and convenience in accommodation provisions and logistical support to the students of the Danube Institute during the two weeks when the group is on the field-trip portion of the four-week program. This is an indispensable resource that both deepens and broadens the cross-cultural objective of the program.

In this regard, the Danube Summer Institute is very fortunate to have Thomas Heckeberg as program coordinator for the field trips on the program. Thomas plans (with Professor Robertson), coordinates, and logistically executes the field trips of the program, as well as accompanies the group and Professor Robertson on all field trips during the two week field trip portion of the program.

Born in Munich, Bavaria, Thomas studied Political Education, History and Economics at the Ludwig Maximilians University in Munich, and the University of Bamberg. He was Program Leader and Head of Administration at European Academy Bavaria, Director of Political Education at European Academy Otzenhausen. From 1997 – 2003 Thomas was Vice-President of International Federation of European Houses (a network of over 130 academics throughout Europe specializing in the study of the European Union) and Head of the General Network for Education. Thomas' specialty includes teacher education, political education and cross-cultural education.

He has extensive experience designing and supervising more than seventy organized study tours throughout Europe since 1992, including programs to Russia, Cyprus, Bulgaria, as well as the United States. From 2004 to 2006 Thomas had been the Deputy Director of the European Academy of North Rhine-Westphalia in Bonn, and is now the permanent representative of the European Network for Education and Training – EUNET (www.european-net.org) an EU funded network of more than 50 European academies across 17 countries within Europe).

Thomas has designed, organized and led six study abroad programs for Texas A&M University since 2001. His rich association and highly productive collaboration with Texas A&M has included establishing (with Dr. Michael Meimeth of ASKO EUROPA STIFTUNG, and Professor Robertson) the Summer European Academy (the inaugural program in 2002, and 2003), and the Danube Summer Institute (with Professor Winand Gellner of Passau University, and Professor Robertson) and its inaugural program in 2006. He is also a Major in the Reserve Office Corps of Federal Republic's Army. His hobbies include travel, food, good conversation, Aggies and their traditions, and enjoying the company of people who enjoy life, humour and the tolerance for the human spirit.