

## The Otmar Drekonja German Cultural Studies Scholarship

The German Studies Program of the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University invites applications to the Otmar Drekonja German Cultural Studies Scholarship. This scholarship was initiated by former students of Dr. Drekonja who are seeking in this way to celebrate and prolong his legacy of international education.

Promising undergraduate students of Saint John's University and the College of Saint Benedict who have demonstrated a commitment to German Studies in keeping with the enthusiasm of Otmar Drekonja are eligible to apply for this scholarship. Eligibility is restricted to those who have been admitted or definitely planning to apply to the major in German and who will be juniors or seniors in the fall.

The scholarship will be awarded according to the following criteria:

- Demonstrated commitment to German Studies including curricular and extra-curricular activities.
- Aspirations for using German in the future for teaching, graduate studies, or other professional activity in the field of German.
- If candidates are equal, financial need will be taken into consideration.

The amount of the scholarship varies every year.

Please apply to the Otmar Drekonja Scholarship Committee as follows:

1. Submit a current transcript of studies.
2. Draft a one-page curriculum vitae, including German-related activities and experiences (in English)
3. Write a formal letter of application describing present involvement in German-Austrian-Swiss study and activities as well as future aspirations, goals, and commitments (300 words, in German).
4. Applications must be submitted electronically via email attachment to [mniedenfuer@csbsju.edu](mailto:mniedenfuer@csbsju.edu).  
Selection is made by a committee of faculty members of the German Studies Section of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures. The deadline for submitting completed applications will be announced each year.

### **Biographical Sketch of Professor Otmar Drekonja**

Otmar Drekonja was a Fulbright grantee at Kent State University during the 1962-63 academic year and initially taught at Saint John's during the 1963-64 academic year. After returning to Austria, he was recruited by Saint John's to teach full time, beginning in 1967; his distinguished teaching career in the Department of Foreign Languages spanned 35 years. He sparked renewed interest in German studies, teaching all levels in the department and inspiring students by his own intensely obvious love of German and Austrian literature and culture. A native of the Austrian Lesach Valley, Dr. Drekonja also threw his incomparable energy into directing some fifteen groups, more than 200 students, on study abroad programs in Central Europe, including many semesters of the Salzburg Study Abroad Program which he himself founded in 1977. Dr. Drekonja's contacts and keen interest in the former East Germany also allowed students of Saint John's and Saint Benedict's to study abroad behind the Iron Curtain and enabled many East German writers and scholars to travel to Minnesota. Inside and outside the classroom, during the college years and beyond, Professor Drekonja's untiring and enthusiastic efforts to open his students' eyes to a wider world have led many of them to careers

and relationships involving international cultural exchange. His distinguished teaching career resonates in the personal and professional lives of generations of students.