Dear UF Alumni Association,

The annual 16 day Oktoberfest Festival started in 1810 and is held each year in Munich, the capital of Bavaria, Germany. Beginning in September and running through the first weekend in October, it is the world's largest fair with 6 million visitors per year. Here is your chance to enjoy the culture, music, food, and of course Bavarian beer, where they have been creating "liquid bread" for 3,000 years! Upon arrival into Munich, make your way to Innsbruck, Austria, situated in the Tyrol region of the Alps and your home for the next seven nights. Innsbruck is the perfect hub to venture from and experience majestic scenery, sample wonderful food and explore historic cities & sights of the Alpine Countries.

The exploration begins as you enjoy an Innsbruck City Tour, stroll the streets with your guide and learn about the history of this 800-year old university city which hosted the 1964 & 1976 Winter Olympic Games. The featured Oktoberfest day begins with a scenic drive into Bavaria for a panoramic Munich City Tour including the world's fourth largest Glockenspiel. Then experience Oktoberfest, visit the "Wiesn" as it is called by the locals, in reference to the fairgrounds where the event is held. Dom-Pah music, great food and of course beer will be part of this famous German & European cultural event. Another day in the Alps brings the famous Neuschwanstein Castle, commissioned by Ludwig II of Bavaria, the Wies Church, a UNESCO World Heritage site & the village of Oberammergau, known for its Passion Play, performed every ten years after the village was spared from the plague of 1633. One day travel to nearby Salzburg, well known as the birthplace of Mozart and its role in the classic movie 'The Sound of Music'. Enjoy a tour of Salzburg that includes Old Town, Mirabell Gardens, Mozart Square, the Dom Cathedral and the cobble-stoned Getreidegasse. This unique special event trip also features two traditional dining experiences with a Bavarian Restaurant & Beer Hall Lunch in Munich & Bier Garden Dinner in Innsbruck. Additionally the program allows for self exploration, free time and/or more touring with 2 days at your own pace.

Please review the itinerary details and keep in mind that roundtrip airfare is not included in the tour price. We hope that you can join us on this incredible trip!

Sincerely,

Matthew Hodge
Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations &
Executive Director, UF Alumni Association

University of Florida Alumni Association presents

Alpine Countries & Oktoberfest

featuring Munich, Salzburg &
7 Nights at One Hotel in Innsbruck

9 Days September 24-October 2, 2019
Daily Itinerary

Day 1: Depart USA
Depart from USA on your flight out to Munich, Germany.

Day 2: Arrive Munich - Innsbruck
Upon arrival in Munich, meet your Tour Director and enjoy a panoramic drive through the German Alps into Austria. Enroute enjoy your first glimpse of the majestic mountain scenery that awaits you. Later check into your hotel for a 7-night stay in Innsbruck, Austria nestled in the Austrian Alps. Tonight enjoy a Welcome Dinner with your fellow travelers. Meal - (D) Overnight - Innsbruck

Day 3: Innsbruck
This morning enjoy an Innsbruck City Tour, an 800-year-old university city surrounded by the beautiful Alps and host to the 1964 & 1976 Olympic Winter Games. Enjoy a guided walk through the Old Town to see the famous Golden Roof, built in 1500 and decorated with 2657 fire-gilded copper tiles. Also see the Imperial Palace and visit the Hofkirche (Imperial Chapel), built in 1553. Visit the famous Swarowski Crystal Fantasy World in the nearby village of Wattens. Later return to Innsbruck and enjoy the evening at leisure. Meal - (B) Overnight - Innsbruck

Day 4: Munich’s Oktoberfest
This morning travel north into Germany for a full day visit to Munich & Oktoberfest. The day in the Bavarian capital begins with a Munich City Tour featuring views of Olympic Park and a visit to the famous Marienplatz, home to the fourth largest Glockenspiel in the world. Then stop at a local Bavarian Restaurant & Beer Hall for an afternoon lunch with an included ‘bier’. After lunch your motorcoach will take you to experience Munich’s legendary Oktoberfest at your own pace. They’ve been brewing ‘liquid bread’ here for 300 years and they do it better than anyone else. Enjoy time on your own to stroll the festival grounds and indulge in the unique and amazing atmosphere of Oktoberfest. Be sure the sample the brew and feast on Bavarian food and specialties as you discover an array of Munich’s history and culture. This evening return to Innsbruck. Meal - (B,L) Overnight - Innsbruck

Day 5: Neuschwanstein Castle - Oberammergau
Today travel to Germany and make a photo stop at Bavaria’s famous Neuschwanstein Castle, commissioned by Ludwig II of Bavaria. Then visit Wies Church, a pilgrimage church and UNESCO World Heritage site. Continue to the charming village of Oberammergau for an orientation of this famous village known for its Passion Play, performed every ten years to fulfill a pledge made by the villagers to God for sparing their city from the ravages of the plague in 1633. Enjoy time to wander the quaint village as well. Later return to Innsbruck. This evening join your fellow travelers for an included dinner. Meal - (B,L) Overnight - Innsbruck

Day 6: Innsbruck at Leisure
Today is at leisure for shopping or enjoying the beautiful Alps. An optional excursion will be available to Merano, Italy and the Italian Alps. The tour features the town of Merano to visit Castle Trauttmansdorff, built in 1895 to explore this beautiful spa town that was the destination of choice for Austria’s nobility. The area is also famous for its delicious wines. Enjoy a Wine Tasting of various local vintages before returning to Innsbruck.

Day 7: Salzburg
Today enjoy a full day excursion to Salzburg, Austria, Mozart’s birthplace. The city’s picturesque streets with their wrought-iron signs, its spacious squares with sculptured fountains and the noble architecture of its buildings inspired by bishops with a passion for construction, leaving memories for which linger for years. Enjoy a Salzburg Walking Tour of Old Town, Mirabell Gardens, Mozart Square, the Dom Cathedral and the cobble-stoned Getreidegasse. Later enjoy some time at leisure to shop, relax at a café or maybe visit the Hohensalzburg Fortress. Later return to Innsbruck. Meal - (B) Overnight - Innsbruck

Day 8: Innsbruck at Leisure - Bier Garden Farewell Dinner
Today is at leisure to enjoy the Innsbruck area. An optional tour will be available to the Bavarian Alpine town of Berchtesgarden & Eagles Nest. Tour the 500-year-old Salt Mine by train and also visit Hitler’s Eagles Nest which towers high above the village and the valley floor. Eagles Nest was intended as a 50th birthday present for Adolf Hitler to serve as a retreat, and a place for him to entertain visiting dignitaries. Tonight in Innsbruck enjoy a Bier Garden Farewell featuring an Oktoberfest style bier garden for an included ‘bier’ followed by a traditional Bavarian meal. Meal - (B) Overnight - Innsbruck

Day 9: Innsbruck - Munich - Flight Home
Depart for Munich and fly home filled with wonderful memories of your Alpine Countries Tour. Meal - (B)