

Dr. Angela Ferguson, Samford University

Dr. Ferguson grew up in Germany (Kaiserslautern, Rheinland-Pfalz) and moved to the United States as a teenager with her parents and younger brother and sister. Her experiences living in Germany as a young person led to her love of the German language and culture, and so she studied German and French as an undergraduate at the University of Southern Mississippi and Germanic Studies at the University of Texas, where she completed her Ph.D. in 2013 (Focus: 17th-century German literature). Prior to moving to Birmingham, Dr. Ferguson spent two years living in Germany again, one in Berlin and the other in Greifswald. She started working at Samford in August 2004 as an instructor of German, with Dr. Terry Pickett, who was the Director of the German program until his retirement. She became Director of International Initiatives at Samford in 2012, and became Director of International Education in 2013. Upon completing her Ph.D., she became Assistant Professor of German and Director of the German Program (January 2014). Dr. Ferguson currently holds both positions as the Director of International Education and Director of the German program at Samford, where she is happy to work with her colleague Brad Burckel, a UA graduate in German who does an excellent job for Samford University teaching the lower division language courses. She teaches all of the upper-level German courses, which focus on German literature, culture, film, history and business. They lead study abroad trips to Bamberg, Germany each summer, where people can take German courses in an immersion context, and she also teach a German conversation course available to anyone in the community on Monday evenings (for more information [click here](#)).

Since moving to Alabama, Dr. Ferguson has supported German language and culture here in a number of ways. She enjoys volunteering with the Freunde Deutscher Sprache und Kultur (FDSK) in Birmingham, particularly when they hold their Oktoberfest and Weihnachtsmarkt. She also supported a group of young families, who were trying to put together a Spielgruppe, so that their kids could get together and practice German. Although that group no longer meets at Samford, they still meet regularly and the group can be a great way to get to know other Germans living in the Birmingham area. According to Dr. Ferguson, the AlabamaGermany Partnership is probably the most important group she have had the opportunity to work with, because it gave the Samford University students the opportunity to connect with German business here in Alabama and the U.S. businesses who work together with them. It is always her goal to not only provide students an excellent foundation of German language and culture, but also help them begin to think about their career plans after university and how their German language skills could be useful in their later work. She dedicated to working to support economic development in Alabama in any way she can, focusing on providing students skills in the German language and knowledge of German culture. Dr. Ferguson will be leading a trip to Europe in summer 2017 to celebration 500 years of Reformation. The 11-day trip will begin in Prague, travel across Germany and end in Geneva. It is open to anyone.

AlabamaGermany Partnership was delighted to present the 2016 Barbara Fischer Education Award to Dr. Angela Ferguson at AGP's 18th Annual Celebration Dinner in Birmingham earlier this month.