

FRANKly

The Fulbright Alumni e.V. Newsletter



Number 11, August 1998



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Greetings from the President

Dear Fulbrighters, dear friends of Fulbright Alumni e.V.,

this is the first FRANKly written completely in English, as a sign of our growing sense of internationalism. According to our statute, we need a publication useful for communication among Alumni Associations and related institutions worldwide. For this reason, we decided to publish the FRANKly in the language of the country where all of us spent at least one year of our academic life.

During the last year, our association grew as fast as in the years before, and now we are an organization with about 1080 members. We have 11 Regional Chapters, which are independently organized. In addition to the usual monthly "Stammtisch", our Regional Groups organized events and parties, for example 4th-of-July-BBQ's or Thanksgiving dinners. Other highlights were the Weekend in Freiberg/Saxony with a visit to an old silver mine or the "Ostalgieparty" in Frankfurt, where some of our members introduced the former GDR.

The responsibilities of our organization grew, too, and the handling of them needs to be well organized. To manage our association more efficiently, we started to use e-mail and the World Wide Web for our internal and external communication. This saves time and money and shows our sense for modernism and an international horizon. The new position of "Coordinator for electronical media" was created to manage and update our WWW-Pages and e-mail lists. During the last year we installed our own WWW-Domain and set up an e-mail account in our office in Frankfurt. This helps to organize our work faster and more efficiently.

Another point for further work is "Postacademic Relations" and an improved networking among our members. A first step is our e-mail list, which is much more frequented than in the years before. This should be used as a discussion platform. At this point I want to thank our friends of the Spanish Fulbright Alumni Association who maintain this list for us.

The current FRANKly gives a survey of the activities of the last year. All the events were made possible solely due to the active and enthusiastic work of many members. At this point thank you for your commitment in 1997. I hope we keep on the track of creativity, actionism and internationalism. The 1998 Welcome Meeting will take place in Stuttgart. The next General Assembly/Winterball 1999 is already planned for Frankfurt. I want to encourage you to take the chance to organize a national event. Right now, we are planning the first meeting in the "New States".

In August 1997 we had our last Strategy Conference in Böblingen, which takes place every 3 years. Special focuses were the new media, our future as an association and the increasing age of our membership.

Last September together with the Oregon Alumni Association e.V., a Special Focus Conference took place in Offenbach/Frankfurt. We had interesting speeches and discussions about "Managing public institutions". (See the article in this issue.)

The first national event in 1998 took place in Munich. At our yearly General Assembly and Winterball, more than 160 members and friends attended and made it impressive and unforgettable.

As a result of the growing number of American Fulbrighters visiting our events we renamed the former "Returnee Meeting" to "Welcome Meeting": Welcome to all returning German Fulbrighters and welcome to all American Fulbright-Grantees, who are in Germany now. We are very pleased that many American friends came to visit us in



Nuremberg and last time in Munich at our Winterball. Also, many Regional Chapters were visited by Americans at their "Stammtische".

During the last year the good cooperation with the German Fulbright Commission could be seen on several occasions. For example, we had the chance to introduce our association during all orientation meetings for both American and German Grantees. Another highlight was the Fulbright Conference in March in Berlin, to which about 20 of our members were invited.

Enjoy reading this FRANKly issue, and please give us feedback!

Michael Tonke

The Members of the Board ...

.....
... of the Fulbright Alumni Association of Germany (FA e.V.)

Michael Tonke – President

I was born on the 18th of December in 1967 in Schmölln/Thuringia. From 1989 to 1994 I studied mechanical engineering at the Technical University "Bergakademie" in Freiberg/Saxony. After receiving my Diploma, I went as a Fulbright Grantee to Colorado where I spent a year at Colorado School of Mines in Golden, close to Denver. There I studied mining and computer science. Since I came back in 1995 I have been working with a construction firm as a machine engineer in Cologne.

I became a member of our Fulbright Alumni e.V. in 1996. Last year in Aachen I was elected as Vice President International Relations & Returnees. During the last year I was responsible for our Host-Program for the American Fulbrighters, and tried to improve our relations to other Fulbright Alumni Organizations worldwide. Also, I contacted all German "Akademische Auslandsämter", where Fulbright-Grantees are counseled.

This year, beside representing the FAeV, I hope we can go further with our networking – internal and international – using new electronic media like WWW and e-mail. Other very special focuses in 1998 are our Host-Program, Strasbourg '98 and a national meeting in the "New German States".

Joe Straight –

VP for International Relations & Returnees

I was born and raised in a suburb of “The World’s Image Center”, Rochester, New York. After finishing my sophomore year at the State University of New York at Buffalo, I was off to Tübingen, Germany, to continue my studies of the German language and culture. During my two years in the Neckar Valley I developed a deep love of German chocolate and learned the art of “Stocherkahnfahren”. After returning to the US to finish my degree, I applied for the Fulbright Grant. I received the grant for a teaching assistantship in Königs Wusterhausen, home of the Prussian King Wilhelm’s hunting lodge, for the 1995-96 school year. I am currently pursuing a career with a large German electronics firm.

My first contact with the German Fulbright Alumni Association was the monthly “Stammtisch” in Berlin. In April of 1996 I joined the Association, and have been active in national and regional events since. I have conducted a workshop on “How to survive Germany” for American Fulbrighters at the last two Welcome Meetings, participated in the 1997 Strategy Meeting, and joined a crew of 20 Fulbright Alumni for a week of sailing on the SS Albatros in August of 1997. Since July of 1997 I have coordinated the regional events for the Berlin/Brandenburg chapter of the Association together with Udo Looser.

My goals as the Vice President for International Relations are:

- cooperation with other European alumni associations through the Strasbourg conference, common events with the Polish Alumni Association, and the realization of an interwoven World Wide Web presentation of the different associations,
- stronger integration of American Fulbrighters through early contact and registration for the host-program, and offering more workshops for American Fulbrighters at our national events,
- continued recruitment of German returnees through a strong presence at orientation meetings and the Welcome Meeting,
- contact with professors at German universities as a source of ideas for national events, and
- the continued cooperation with the Fulbright Commission.

I am very honored to have been given the opportunity to serve the German Fulbright Alumni Association and look forward to a great year.

Ralf Medow – VP Information Center

Born in the State of Schleswig-Holstein, I studied electrical engineering at the University of Stuttgart. A Fulbright travel grant allowed me to study for the academic year 1987/88 at Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA. For more than seven years now I’ve been working in the electronics development department of a mid-sized mechanical engineering company in Esslingen.

I joined the Fulbright Alumni e.V. after the first Stuttgart Pow Wow in 1989. Soon I got involved in various activities of the Regional Chapter Southwest. My involvement on the national level began 1994 as Coordinator – Publications Management, the year thereafter I was elected Coordinator – FAIN, and since 1996 I’ve been serving the Fulbright Alumni e.V. as VP Information Center.



Elke Brosin – VP Events & Regional Chapters

Born in Neubrandenburg in 1967, I spent my Fulbright years in the United States from 1992 to 1995. The first two years, I went to Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan, to study for my Master's degree in international tourism. After completing my degree in May of 1994, I moved to Juneau, Alaska, to work for a regional cruise line company for one season before I joined the University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau as the Visitor Industry Program Coordinator training future travel agents for two semesters.

Since July of 1995, I have been working in Frankfurt for several United States tourism representations promoting places such as Alaska, Oregon, and the state of Washington to the German speaking European market.

I joined the Fulbright Alumni Association Germany right after my return from Alaska and became president of the Frankfurt Chapter in March of 1996 before I got elected to serve on the national board in January 1997. I have greatly enjoyed working with and on behalf of the Fulbright Alumni members and, I am therefore looking forward to my work as the coordinator for national and regional events in 1998.

Dr. Ludger Schöcke – Treasurer

After having been the treasurer of the FA e.V. in 1997 I was willing to do the job again for one more year. The most interesting thing about this job is that one gets information on everything that happens in the association right away. At least that is how it should be. Also, there is the chance to quantify the success of the job done at the end of the term.

After having earned a M.S. degree in Bacteriology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in 1993 I was able to graduate from my Ph.D. studies in 1997 in the field of microbial physiology. Looking for a change in my career, I was lucky enough to get the chance to work as the personal assistant of the CEO of the German Red Cross of Hamburg: A job that offers a whole lot of new perspectives of society to someone who was involved with science for a couple of years. I am confident that both the Fulbright Alumni e.V. and the Red Cross Organization are successful in promoting the ideals of mutual understanding between different societies.



*From left to right:
Ludger, Ralf, Elke, Joe,
Michael*

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Joe Straight

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Ralf Medow

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FRANKly

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History and Purpose

The German Fulbright Alumni e.V. was founded in Frankfurt in 1986 by former Fulbrighters. By 1997, our membership has increased to over about 1000. The association brings together internationally oriented students, scholars, and practitioners from a wide range of academic fields and areas of professional expertise. Most of our members have spent a Fulbright year in the United States.

Fulbright Alumni e.V. is the platform for former grantees with a special affiliation to the U.S., who want to promote global understanding. As we are committed to tolerance and true internationality, we are striving to learn more about other peoples' customs, surroundings and histories.

Based on the personal and educational experience and insights gained as participants of an international exchange program, it is the overriding mission of German Fulbright Alumni e.V. members to

- strengthen and support cross-cultural contacts and exchange between Fulbrighters from all around the world;
- encourage dialogue and interaction between international scholars, experts, and activists on topics important to the political, social, and cultural life of nations.

The German Fulbright Alumni e.V. is guided by the idea of the program's founder, Senator J. William Fulbright, to bring together people of different nations and contribute to world peace through better international understanding.

Activities

Based on a young, lively and broad-based membership, our association organizes a diverse range of regional as well as nationwide events, which are usually open to the public.

Welcome Meetings

Each Fall our Welcome Meetings offer the opportunity for contacts and networking between former and new German returnees as well as American Fulbrighters currently in Germany. The meetings also serve as forums for the discussion of any issues relevant to people after a year abroad.

Our Welcome Meetings:

1986: Frankfurt
1987: Frankfurt
1988: Aachen
1989: Bonn
1990: Frankfurt
1991: Tübingen
1992: Frankfurt
1993: Hamburg
1994: Berlin
1995: Cologne
1996: Mülheim/Ruhr
1997: Nuremberg

Pow Wows, Seminars, Special Focus Conferences

Different regional chapters of our association organize several national conferences and seminars every year, usually covering a specific topic.

German-American Pow Wows:

1987: Frankfurt
1988: Minorities, Conservatism and Design, Frankfurt
1989: Playground Future, Stuttgart
1990: The Future of the Information Society – Personal Communication in a Crisis? Hamburg
1991: Traffic Concepts for the Future – How Mobile will our Society be in the Year 2000? Munich
1994: Where is our New Frontier? Stuttgart



General Information about the FA e.V.

- 1995: First Fulbright Fun & Future Camp, Lenggries
- 1996: A Chance for Global Understanding, Berlin

Special Focus Conferences

- 1988: The United States and Germany Corporate Cultures in Comparison (Business Administration), Mannheim
- 1989: The French Revolution in American and German Perspectives (History), Regensburg
- 1990: Signs for Tomorrow's Architecture, Landscape and Urban Development in Europe and the United States (Architecture), Darmstadt
- 1991: German Reunification and the Future of German-American Relations (Political Science), Berlin
- 1991: Living and Working in Changing Structures (Interdisciplinary), Todtmoos/Black Forest
- 1992: Health, Cologne
- 1993: Market Leadership and Brand Names, Böblingen
- 1993: Ecology and Structural Change, Essen
- 1994: Organizational Development and International Competitiveness, Frankfurt
- 1995: Environmental Strategy, Heidenheim
- 1996: Multimedia, Stuttgart
- 1997: Managing Public Organizations, Frankfurt

Regional Chapter Activities

Regional chapters organize more informal cultural and social events on a monthly basis, including lectures, discussions, and "Stamm-tische". To find out about the next "Stamm-tisch" in your area, contact the regional coordinator listed on this page.

Other Activities

Our association has put an emphasis on building and strengthening personal contacts among Fulbright Alumni all around the world. One example was the 1993 "European Fulbright Alumni Convention" in Brussels.

In 1996, members participated in the World Fulbright Alumni Conference in Budapest, Hungary, "The Spirit of Global Understanding".

Fulbright Alumni from various countries joined our international sailing trips on the Baltic Sea "Bright People under Full Sail" in September 1991, 1993, and August 1995 and 1997.

The association publishes its national journal, FRANKly, the bi-monthly Fulbright Alumni Internal Newsletter FAIN, and an Alumni Membership Directory.

In service to the general public, the national office provides information and assistance to any private person, university or institution on questions of cultural and academic exchange with the United States.

Each regional chapter contacts and assists American Fulbright visiting scholars in its local area. A host program for American Fulbrighters in Germany was successfully established in 1993.

In promoting its political support for the Fulbright program, our association stays in close but independent contact with the Fulbright Commission in Bonn.



The Fulbright Alumni e.V. is supported by its members only. Grants and contributions from foundations, corporations and individuals are welcome.



For further information, please contact our national office in Frankfurt or one of our officers listed here.

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The German-American Fulbright Program

A Bilateral Program with Global Components

Dr. Barbara Ischinger

Bilateral relations on a political, cultural and economic level will continue to be the strong pillars for international understanding and will constitute the crucial elements for the success of international partnerships and networking.

The same applies for the Fulbright Program. While the bilateral programs represent the commitment of individual governments and their interest in building long-lasting bridges into the next generations, cooperation on regional and international levels are important components of the work of the Fulbright commissions.

Regular consultations among European executive directors have proven to be a valuable and fruitful experience for all involved. It has been especially rewarding for me as a member of the Executive Committee to identify changes and assume responsibility for planning regional meetings for Fulbright executive directors from Europe, Canada and Israel. Meetings with representatives of Fulbright Programs worldwide have helped to give to the global program new perspectives and an orientation towards the new millennium.

In January I was asked to lead a workshop for my Central European colleagues on the administration of Fulbright grants. My colleagues from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia gathered in Poland to address a variety of issues relevant to the Fulbright Program and to discuss ideas and share observations.

My continued dialogue with my colleague in Tokyo has proven to be useful to both the German-American as well as the Japanese-American program, especially in the fields of teacher exchange and programs for young journalists.

Cooperation with other commissions is not limited to the exchange between executive directors but is present among the secretariats and grantees as well. European commissions are invited to send their grantees to participate in the Commission's annual Berlin meeting. American grantees in Germany were recently invited by the commission in Brussels to attend an EU-NATO meeting.

Many of you may know that in addition to its regular programs for students and scholars, the German Commission offers a number of special programs for university administrators and professors in German and American studies. One such program is an American Studies Summer Institute for university teachers offered at New York University. Due to German initiatives, the program will be expanded in 1998 to include participants from Bulgaria, Hungary and the Czech Republic. Another example of cooperation projects on an international level includes the 1998 German Studies Seminar "Deutschland und Mitteleuropa". With this topic, the Commission will give American professors the opportunity to examine firsthand Germany's new role in Europe. A highlight of the seminar will be a high-level ambassadorial luncheon panel on Germany's relations to its eastern neighbors.

In a world of increasing globalization, it is our goal to promote international understanding by first providing a solid bilateral partnership for the new generation and then a means of networking to communicate with the Fulbright family worldwide.

Dr. Barbara Ischinger is the Executive Director of the German-American Fulbright Commission.



The Fulbright Program ...

... and International Academic Mobility

Ulrich Littmann

Fulbright exchanges constitute a demonstrative example for the success of an idea way beyond its original concept. The basic concern of the junior Senator from Arkansas was peace, and peace policies he pursued – as we all know – in a number of fields by a variety of instruments. Education and international exchange was one of them.

If we realize that the Fulbright Program in its different forms has been around for about 25 per cent of United States history, it may be worthwhile to comment on its “biography” which is characterized by a mixture of continuity, drastic changes, seeming contradictions, dichotomies, clear objectives and misunderstandings – and all of these elements have created remarkable achievements and success.

The impact of Fulbright exchanges upon international academic mobility – or upon international education, for that matter – was different in each of the periods which we can distinguish in the existence of the program, as they were marked by rather specific events about 15 years apart from each other.

The first period, obviously, began with the original Fulbright Act of 1946. Even though the biblical motto “swords into ploughshares” gained political momentum much later, it formed the philosophical core of the new program – partnership and empathy as well as respect for a balance of interests were to be rationalized by knowledge and education. The vehicle for implementing these ideas, of course, was the exchange program itself. Bill Fulbright did not “invent” educational exchanges, nor would he aim at a substantial scope of academic mobility. From his own experience in England and from earlier exchange models in the U.S. and in Europe he built his own vision of bringing together the best minds of the World War II generation for the benefit of a peaceful future society of nations. The concept thus appeared to be rooted in the elitist traditions of academic mobility.

At the same time, however, the provisions of the War Surplus Property Act, i.e. the use of funds that could not be transferred into U.S. dollars, allowed a structure of implementation, which integrated U.S. institutions, colleges and universities as cosponsors and funding elements into the program; it came very natural that NAFSA (which was founded exactly 50 years ago as an association of Foreign Student Advisors and celebrates its anniversary as the Association of International Educators) and the Fulbright Program maintain a close partnership to this day. The implementation of the program involved the U.S. Department of State, the Presidentially-appointed Board of Foreign Scholarships and the various binational Fulbright commissions (or foundations) abroad; the U.S. Information Service represented the operational support in the American embassies.

As it turned out, on that basis the early binational Fulbright programs not only pioneered intellectual reconstruction, but in most of the participating countries, notably in Europe, they became a very substantial portion of trans-Atlantic (or trans-Pacific) mobility. They established patterns of cooperation which could be adopted or supplemented by other organizations. The implementation of Fulbright exchanges developed a momentum of its own, strong enough already in 1954 to survive the onslaught of Senator Joseph McCarthy who had reverted to the political implications

of the exchange program. Some other funding from governmental U.S. sources could be integrated, and a slow process of expanding all kinds of international mobility set in, when the funds of the original post-war period neared exhaustion towards the late 1950s.

The second period of the Program's biography began with the Fulbright-Hays Act of 1961. It continued the basic philosophy of Fulbright exchanges – now even spelled out much more clearly the ideas of mutual understanding “toward a peaceful and more fruitful life for people throughout the world” and meant “to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic, and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world”. An important change in the structure of Fulbright exchanges occurred through the nature of the new partnerships: Foreign governments – and with them their constitutional partners such as parliaments – became integral parts of the structure – not only by financial commitments but also by the stipulations of the respective agreements providing the same authorizations and rights that the U.S. Secretary of State could exercise. The Department of State was drawn closer into an area in which the American federal government had not felt a strong commitment under the constitution: to provide a frame for facilitating cultural and educational cooperation in general, and to do so in concert with foreign governments; issues of admission, equivalences of curricula and degrees, textbook issues, recognition of educational institutions or organizations thus transcended the State Department's mandate for Fulbright exchanges.

It turned out that this second period of Fulbright exchanges added new responsibilities and opportunities. Even though it would be desirable to comment on the role of Fulbright exchanges during the Vietnam controversies, my topic here is the impact on general academic mobility.

As Fulbright had been a trend-setter, the binational commissions now served in their respective countries, and in cooperation with their various American partners in government and in academe (such as the Institute of International Education), helped to plan, to coordinate, and to facilitate the many initiatives for educational exchange beyond their own programs. Expertise and experience were made available in feasibility studies, coordinating conferences, design of new programs of other organizations, as well as operating a variety of experimental exchanges, such as the new Fachhochschul-Program or the seminar-type programs for educational administrators or for German and American Studies faculty. Moreover, the regional cooperation between the Fulbright commissions became a pattern for inner-European exchange schemes.

At the same time, national exchange programs, such as in Germany the DAAD, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the direct university partnerships, as well as American Study-Abroad programs expanded at an enormous speed. And the Fulbright Commission, certainly in Germany, found itself deeply involved in the democratization of educational opportunity, in the application of the “expanded cultural concept“ which included a broad democratic base – departing by far from the elitist concept of the first phase of the program – but yet stressing the highest possible quality for its own grantees. As a new challenge and responsibility for overall exchanges, the Commission provided reports on German-American exchanges, their needs, potential etc., and it rendered extensive services on items such as equivalencies of degrees and curricula, curricular reforms, study-abroad issues – most of these items were for the benefit of non-Fulbright exchanges. Thus, Fulbright exchanges not only served as a kind of catalyst



for a general increase in mobility, but they also faced the challenge, actually a dichotomy, to maintain high standards and to offer opportunities for the socially disadvantaged and to contribute to reforms.

There is no question, that the figure of Senator Fulbright, his contributions to international politics and to international education, were understood, or misunderstood, to support his criticism of the “arrogance of power” (so the title of his 1967 book); while the American stewards of the Program stressed its alleged “non-political character”, the very existence and the operation of Fulbright exchanges turned out to be a major asset for academic mobility on a world-wide scale. At the same time, however, competitors for for attention and funds were quite successful, and for a number of reasons the U.S. government planned for a major review of its foreign cultural relations – incidentally just at the time when the German Bundestag reviewed the report of its enquete commission on foreign cultural policies.

The results of such deliberations on the American side coincided with the end of the war in Vietnam, and, in contrast to the recommendation of the so-called Stanton Panel, President Carter issued his Executive Order 2/77 in 1977 by which all cultural and educational activities were removed from the State Department and transferred to a new agency which grew out of the United States Information Agency (USIA) and subsequently adopted its old name. With this, the third period in the biography of Fulbright exchanges began. By that time the Senator had lost his seat in politics, and the term “mutual understanding” in itself assumed a new meaning, slightly different from the peace policies that he represented; but the patriot and world-citizen remained a model abroad.

Educational exchanges became the “flagship program” of USIA, and funding of the Fulbright Program increased substantially. Global academic mobility grew at the same time, but in certain areas of the world USIA could expand the so-called “non-Commission” Fulbright exchanges as a major incentive and model for private or institutional activities. For a variety of reasons, however, the new structure and new programmatic emphases of the Fulbright Program meant a shift in its contributions. The binational interests were concentrated in many different forms in the – now more than 100 – countries that participated in Fulbright exchanges of different sizes and forms. Alumni in the U.S. and abroad became spokespersons for exchanges of, and with, America, but the expansion of student mobility in general and the tremendous internationalization of the research communities in all parts of the world plus the new technologies of the emerging information or communication society added new dimensions (and perhaps some limitations) to the ideas and operations of the sponsors of Fulbright exchanges.

The Fulbright structure, i.e. the binational commissions, the Board of Foreign Scholarships (somewhat later to be named the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board), the cooperating agencies like IIE and CIES, all these together with NAFSA, continued to serve as a collective forum and motor for the many private and official efforts to put exchange plans to reality.

And once more a new period for Fulbright exchanges and exchange programs was ushered in when the traditional patterns of political and academic life changed in the early 1990s. Even before the Berlin Wall collapsed, a new development occurred in that the regional exchanges supplemented the binational arrangements. The EU-U.S. exchange program with joint funding from FIPSE in the U.S. and ECU from the European Union was formalized in 1990 – and still made reference to Fulbright exchanges, although something new had emerged.

But, of course, the end of global confrontation between the Western and the Eastern blocks would affect the nature of Fulbright exchanges. New priorities have financial consequences, and new forms of funding and cooperation create new challenges and opportunities for the individual binational programs.

At the time of this writing, the U.S. Department of State will again assume final responsibility for cultural and educational affairs, and the National Humanities Center Steering Committee on the Future of the Fulbright Educational Exchange Program has published its findings last year. By now, this future includes new partners, among them the alumni of the program – and, hopefully, the exchangees who may not have been Fulbrighters themselves but could profit indirectly from the idea of Senator J. William Fulbright and its implementation of 50 years.

Ulrich Littmann, former Executive Director of the German Fulbright Commission, 1963-94, studied in Germany and in the U.S., doctoral dissertation on U.S. Black History at Göttingen University. Numerous publications on U.S.-German academic relations. In his foreword for the Festschrift "Transatlantische Partnerschaft" Senator Fulbright commented on his long relations with Ulrich Littmann: "I feel blessed to count him as a friend."

News from the Regional Chapters

Aachen

Nils Brouër

The year 1997 started with a lot of work: Aachen was the host of the annual General Assembly ("Mitgliederversammlung") of the Fulbright Alumni e.V. But the successful event was well worth the effort we put into it and we also had a lot of fun. We can only recommend this experience to other local chapters. It is not as much work as you might think ...

Other highlights last year included informal get-togethers, a seminar for students interested in the Fulbright program, our traditional Thanksgiving dinner, and – coming up – a hike into neighboring Netherlands on Valentine's day. Also, we agreed to meet for a nice Sunday brunch whenever one of our members gets his/her Ph.D. There was not much to celebrate recently but rumor has it that we might have many opportunities this year ...

Because of the fact that the group in Aachen consists mostly of students, we seem to have a high fluctuation. Others might call this "infiltration" of other regional chapters ...



The last ones to leave were Marcus Kollar (now in Würzburg), Rene Langen (München), Henrik Liebau, and Dirk Lindenau (both Stuttgart). The Martin family (Sigrid, Franziska and Rainer) are planning a year-long stay in the USA. We say Good-bye to all those who chose to leave Aachen and are looking forward to the next generation of Fulbright Alumni!

Cologne-Bonn

Sonja William, Sebastian Kraft

The chapter consists of two towns which are equally represented in our group. Therefore we meet in Cologne on the even months and in Bonn on the odd ones. Every first Tuesday of a month we come together at 8 o'clock p.m. not only to chat about our US experiences but also to organize further activities.

Last year we not only celebrated the 4th of July with a barbeque in Bonn but also went on a walking trail in Altenahr. On this special occasion we had the opportunity to savour a regional speciality: the red wine of the Altenahr region. We had as much fun that we are thinking of doing a similar tour this year.

Besides these activities we went to the movies in Cologne and had an Easter brunch. Because of the changing weather conditions we were not able to realize the planned bike tour from Cologne to Bonn. However, if people are interested and the weather is fine, we think of doing the tour this summer. And, we also talked about visiting a brewery.

Anybody who feels to come to one of our regular meetings, here are the places in Bonn and Cologne where we meet:

- Bonn: Em Hoettchen, Markt 4, next to the old town hall of Bonn
- Cologne: Baronesse, Zülpicher Str. 26, next to the OFF-Cinema

Don't be afraid if the name of the place in Cologne has changed by the time you join us because that is what happened three times since we meet there.

Frankfurt

Claudia Hemmann

In 1997 we – the Frankfurt Fulbrighters – have also been very active. Among our almost 180 members in our regional chapter – there exists a group of very active members who are always organizing an event. Furthermore, in 1997 we admitted approximately 10 new members to our Frankfurt chapter.

Thanks to the co-operation of the National Fulbright Alumni Board with the Fulbright commission, we have successfully contacted the current American Fulbright scholars in the Frankfurt area. Therefore, let's say "Hi" to: Ryan, Travis, Catherine, Jennifer, Ellen and Aine! We think it's great that we have gotten to know you!

Besides our regular meetings (each 1st Thursday of the month we meet at the pub "Künstlerkeller" at Seckbacher Gasse, close to Willy-Brandt-Platz in downtown Frankfurt) we have organized a lot of other activities in 1997:

In March we have chosen our new "chiefs": Jochen and Claudia. This was celebrated with a Mini Pow-Wow: smoking a real pipe and wearing an indian chief's

headgear. This is a great tradition, which was actually founded in 1996, which will be continued year by year in our Frankfurt chapter. It is real fun.

In June we continued with a bicycle tour, where only a few of us took part. The question is: do Fulbrighters not ride bikes?! But we did not let them put us off. We invited all Fulbrighters to the annual 4th of July-BBQ Party in Frankfurt. The “hard core” of the Frankfurt chapter met on a nice, warm Saturday evening in a park of Frankfurt. It was fantastic!

Later on in July we and some members of the National Fulbright Alumni Board (Michael Tonke, Ralf Medow) spent a nice evening which actually started at the English Theatre. The performance “Don’t dress for dinner” made us laugh a lot. After that we went to “El Pacifico” in Bornheim, probably the best Mexican restaurant in Frankfurt, where we spent a great evening.

In August our regional chapter needed to take care of the mailing for our next National Alumni Event in Offenbach. That’s why we had to prepare more than 1000 letters to get them mailed. Our regular meeting in August was therefore used as a “Mailing-evening”. Imagine: us – working really hard in a Frankfurt beer-garden on two big beer tables on a hot summer evening in the city!!! Incredible! Nevertheless, it was a funny evening. Ten people finished this work after 2 hours. Thanks a lot to all who helped us this evening!



Hiking in Thuringia ...

In September, a small group of us went on a weekend to Thuringia for hiking. It took us only 3 hours from Frankfurt to the Thuringian forest. On this weekend in Thuringia we experienced the silence and beauty of a wonderful nature. We went hiking on historic ground – the Goethe hiking route – and got to know Thuringian cuisine (guess what? Thüringer

Klöße!) That was a wonderful weekend at the end of the summer. Let’s see where we will go hiking next year ...

And the “Ostalgie-Party” in November: The idea for this party was born after a Fulbright ladies night in the summer. The reason were discussions about East Germany and life before and after the wall came down. We talked also about some very adventurous recipes from the people in the former GDR. That’s why some of the Frankfurt Fulbrighters became curious to get to know more about the former and today’s Eastern part of Germany. Suddenly the “Ostalgie-Party” became interesting not only to the Frankfurt Fulbrighters, but also to others all over Germany. More than 30 Fulbrighters took part in this party. With music from the GDR, typical food (e.g. Soljanka-soup and Halberstädter sausages) we enjoyed the evening. The highlight was our “Test of East German as a Native Language – TEGNL”, on which almost all Fulbrighters more or less successfully participated. This test made us laugh a lot. We were very surprised how intelligent Fulbrighters can be in creating new words. The most important was: we all had lots of fun at this party!



A week later we met for our traditional Thanksgiving Dinner. We were again almost 30 people, who met for a cosy evening while eating turkey and drinking good wine. It was great that we could also welcome a few Americans: spouses of German Fulbrighters or American Fulbright scholars who are currently studying here in Frankfurt. Also Martina from Strasbourg came all the way from France to Frankfurt.



... and enjoying Thuringian cuisine

The last time we met in 1997 was on the Frankfurt Christmas market where we drank “Feuerzangenbowle” (which is hot red wine with lots of rum and spices). This time there participated almost more American Fulbrighters than German Alumni. Probably, the visit of a German Christmas market to Americans is more interesting than to Germans ...

Finally, we – the Frankfurt Fulbright Alumni – would be happy to see you here in Frankfurt at one of our meetings.

Berlin

Joe Straight (“A swell ride”) and Udo Looser (“Thanksgiving”)

A swell ride

Flat. My beloved bike had a flat tire. That is of course the best way to start off a bike trip. Undaunted, I mounted my sleeping roommate’s rusty three speed (who would’ve expected her to be up at 9 am on a Sunday?) and made my way to Berlin-Tegel.

The meeting point for our “Fourth of July” bike trip on July 7 was an ice cream stand in the Tegel pedestrian zone, but I first went to Udo Looser’s apartment to discuss the game plan and route for the day. He must have noticed my pain in having to ride a squeaky purple woman’s bicycle (the bike, not the woman, was squeaky and purple), since he immediately offered me one of his two super bikes, namely the mountain bike from Bob’s Bike Shop somewhere in California. Shortly thereafter Wiltrud Hammelstein showed up. After saying hello and chatting a bit, I went back to the ice cream stand to meet other Fullies who might have shown up in the meantime (and to gobble down an ice cream cone). It soon became clear that it would only be the three of us who would experience the coming cycling adventure.

We rode along the Promenade, past sailboats and Berliners out for a walk, through the park, past old villas and through some forest. I was astounded that the weather was so inconsistent in the short time we needed to reach the ferry at Tegeler Ort. It was July, but in Germany; so it was actually no wonder that the wind was cold and the sun was hot. The scattered clouds made all the difference: when they blocked

the sun, we were cold; when the sun shone through, we sweated. And so Udo and I were constantly stopping to put on or take off various layers of clothing.

Udo had planned a route along the former “no man’s land” where the Wall had stood. We followed its twists and turns enjoying the natural spectacles of cawing birds, calm ponds, high grass and a humming high voltage power line.

We gave in to our hunger and took a break on the bank of a small lake. The drunken campers loudly singing German folksongs on the other side of the lake were all but forgotten once Wiltrud pulled out her famous blueberry muffins. After a nutritious lunch we got back onto our trusty two-wheelers and headed off into Brandenburg. Our trip into the “Mark” didn’t last long, as Wiltrud’s bottom lip became the innocent victim of an angry bee. Her lip swelled up immediately, giving us reason enough to turn around and head for home.

Back in Tegel, we tried to appease the swollen lip with ice cubes and tea. As we were discussing whether or not to play it safe and bring Wiltrud to the hospital, the phone rang. A current American Fulbrighter and her boyfriend were interested in



*“Buffalo” Joe
preparing the barbecue*

coming to the barbecue planned for that evening. But how should they find us? Udo said they couldn’t miss us: one of us was wearing a “Buffalo” sweatshirt, and we’d be in Tegel Park as of 5 pm. As I was the bearer of said sweatshirt (with the name of my alma mater sewn on to the front in huge letters), I took the grill and coal into the park. We had agreed that I would light the grill and stand in the park to be noticed, while Udo brought Wiltrud to a doctor.

I found a nice grassy area and put together our brand-new Berlin/Brandenburg-regional-chapter-grill. After filling the grill with charcoal and lighting it, I spread my arms and slowly turned in circles to make my “Buffalo” well visible to anyone looking for us. My lighthouse-existence came to an end when our guests spotted me and came over to introduce

themselves. Shortly thereafter Udo and Wiltrud showed up (the swelling now almost gone), and we celebrated Independence Day with steaks, Pringles and delicious blueberry muffins.

The same procedure as every year?

Thanksgiving in Berlin’s Amerikahaus

And now let’s stress the difficult part of life – Thanksgiving Dinner.

Everybody is happy, everybody wants to come, so wehre to go with the whole bunch? Fortunately there is the Amerikahaus at Bahnhof Zoo with Mrs. Chellis. After checking with her business calender she’s happy to book the event for us.



Well, and now let's write the invitations and mail them and then count the arriving letters ... first 10, then 20, 30, 40, finally almost 60 registrations. There will be a problem with the available space in the Amerikahaus. A look at the site and I'm sure about my worries. There are only about 40, though very comfortable chairs waiting for guests. Looks like we have to move a little closer and bring some additional chairs from around.

And now the turkeys. It looks like Joe asked too frankly about a big American size oven for to prepare the Turkeys. Nobody wants to sign up as a volunteer! – So where to get the bird? – As a solution we got our president Wiltrud and the cafeteria of her employer. 5 Turkeys? No problem at all, Thomas the cook says.

And then there is the day – actually it is a day after Thanksgiving, since the Amerikahaus is closed on Thanksgiving Thursday. Trained Americans professionally cut the Turkeys (one German trial beforehand ends devastatingly).

As Ms. Josie Shumake gives a short visit with a greeting note, she doesn't forget to point out the fact that there is another event in the room next door – so don't get too cheerfull folks. The turkeys are gone soon, the wine as well. Fortunately it's not 8 p.m. yet, so right across the street at Ulrich's we can stock up. At around ten o'clock it's time to clean up, wash the dishes and get rid of the trash. It's time for the guards to go home, so we have to leave as well. – Thanks a lot for the nice evening!

Southeast

Reinhard Koch, Martin Riese, Kristina Hinz

The Regional Chapter Southeast was founded recently through a merger of the former chapters Saxony and Thuringia. These chapters had been suffering from a continuing loss of active members. By the beginning of this year, the remaining active members had reached the point when they started thinking about disintegration of their Regional Chapters.

In February, about 15 people – the “hard core” of the Saxons and Thuringians, reinforced by some new members and returnees – met in Leipzig in order to discuss the future of the chapters. After an interesting sightseeing tour by historic tram and listening to the traditional Cantata and Motet in the famous St. Thomas Church, we got together in a restaurant willing to reach a consensus.

There we finally decided not to disintegrate the two chapters but to bundle our forces by merging them into the new Regional Chapter Southeast which territorially embraces the Bundesländer of Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, and Thuringia. Above all, Carsten Keller, a 1997 returnee who moved from Rhineland-Palatinate to Leipzig recently, showed laudable enthusiasm and agreed to become the coordinator of the chapter, assisted by Kristina Hinz of Jena and Matthias Hable of Dresden. Steffen Meusel of Freiberg, the former treasurer of the Saxons, continues to hold this position in the new chapter.

In the course of the discussion, Martin Riese characterized the calamity of both the Thuringian and the Saxon chapters having been mainly a problem of insufficient address management, communication between the members and dissemination of information about the chapters. The author of this article, Reinhard Koch of Kranichfeld near Erfurt, a 1997 returnee as well, has aimed at solving this problem and therefore assumed the address management and Info Center of the new chapter. Today we have a mailing list of 85 members, returnees and American Fullies in Germany, 60 of them are

being contacted and regularly informed by e-mail. (To be added to the list, please send a message to: r.koch_ld@t-online.de; or mail to: Reinhard Koch, Am Walde 90, 99448 Kranichfeld.)

Since our members are scattered over a large region, we decided not to set up “Stammtische” on a regular basis but individually invite our members and friends to our parties and meetings. Our Independence Day party on July 4th was a great success, and two more parties are coming up this year:

- Halloween: October 31, Leipzig; time and location: t.b.a.
- Thanksgiving Dinner: November 26, Leipzig; time and location: t.b.a.

Invitations will be sent to all people on our mailing list.



The Unstrut Valley
*View from
Neuenburg Castle*

Our first big event was a 2-day bike trip along the Saale and Unstrut Rivers from Jena to Freyburg (June 20-21), preceded by a Get Together in Jena’s “Cheers” bar the evening before. Highlights of the trip included a sightseeing tour of the famous cathedral and the wonderful town of Naumburg, a BBQ party at our night quarters in Schönbürg, and the visit of the

romanesque Neuenburg above the Unstrut valley on Sunday. – We are pleased that almost 30 people from all over Germany – among them four American Fulbrighters – joined our trip which makes us full of hope for the future of our Regional Chapter Southeast.

Of course we don’t want to conceal that the former Regional Chapters of Saxony and Thuringia also organized some major events in the past year: The main event of the Saxons was the Freiberg meeting, which drew people from all over Germany including American exchange students to the old mining town situated in the Erzgebirge mountains. Highlights of the weekend were a visit of a historic mine and a dinner on top of the St. Petri tower.

Since its founding in 1994, the Thuringian chapter had always consisted of just a handful of active members, scattered across the region in all our “bustling urban centers”, such as Ilmenau, Jena, Weimar, and Erfurt. Nevertheless, we had always considered it important that a core of Fulbright Alumni remained active in our region, even if over stretches of time this simply meant coming together for a spontaneous meeting over a nice hot cup of coffee in one of the cozy Jena cafés to catch up on what we had been doing in the past weeks and months.

This, however, was only the “German side” of our Regional Chapter. In an interesting development, Thuringia apparently has become more and more attractive to American Fulbrighters in recent years, especially (for obvious reasons) to those universal minds who – academically speaking – insist on diving into the depths of German literature, history and philosophical thought. As a result, this year we have had more active



American Fulbrighters in our midst – several students, postgrads and a guest lecturer in Jena as well as several teaching assistants in Ilmenau and Erfurt – than German Alumni members to match them. This is one reason why towards the end of last year we decided to replace the traditional Thanksgiving dinner with a Christmas get-together to decorate cookies and to celebrate the German Advent. (We were so busy talking and decorating that none of us noticed that we were producing an amount of Christmas cookies which nobody would be able to finish before next Christmas. However, we were all brave to the end, and each of us carried home their fair share of the sweet stuff...)

We believe that the handful of active members we had and still have in Thuringia has been ample evidence that it is not the aspect of quantity which keeps the Fulbright spirit alive!

Hamburg

Britta Sweets

The North German alumni chapter in Hamburg underwent several changes in 1997. Having managed the regional finances before, I took over the job of the regional chapter coordinator when Christine Hoefler left Hamburg at the end of 1996. The beginning was quite frustrating: After the Pow Wow 1997 had to be canceled, the general level of participation in activities reached a very low point. It had been on the decline for some time – but it got even worse as also many of the formerly very active members had (understandably) withdrawn from active involvement. Without other members filling in the gap. When the participation in “Stammtisch” meetings had reached an absolute minimum (me alone) I decided to reduce the meetings in our local pub, the “Funzel”, to a bimonthly cycle.

However – the situation changed when I got fresh support from Markus Vogel and Susanne Farwer. Both had just returned from the States and had already been involved in the preparations for the Pow Wow. During a brainstorm-meeting in August we developed a questionnaire to figure out what the alumni in this region expect from our chapter at all. The central observation we gained from the evaluation of the questionnaires was that our local chapter can be roughly divided into two geographic parts: members who live in the Greater Hamburg area (where most of the regional activities take place) – and who frequently visit our “Stammtisch” meetings. And there are those living in the outer regions of North Germany – in Oldenburg, Bremen and up to Schleswig and Flensburg. They hardly visit our “Stammtische” but attend national events (Pow Wows etc.) frequently. They also pursue the activities of the local Fulbright Alumni Chapter attentively. This was especially evident in the returned questionnaires – most Alumni answering them were from those areas!

With that in mind, we came to the following conclusions:

- We moved our “Stammtisch” meetings to a more convenient time on a Friday evening at a place closer to central public transportation – to make a visit also possible for non-locals or members with full-time jobs. We meet every second Friday of each month at 8 p.m. in the “Gasthaus an der Alster”, Ferdinandstraße 65-67, 20095 Hamburg.
- We also plan to do more weekend-activities, such as renting a house at the North Sea, a hiking trip through the “Lüneburger Heide” – or visits to

Hamburg-typical places.

- More involvement in Hamburg-American activities – taking also in account the interests of our American guests.

However, these activities depend on volunteers who are willing to take over the organization of such an event (and if it is only for one single event). All I can do is coordinate everything ... But I am still somewhat optimistic – and maybe there is more to tell in the next FRANKly ...

Even if there doesn't seem to come much activity from our members, I would like to emphasize that one of the special things about the Hamburg chapter has been the close contact to the former "Amerika-Haus". We always got invitations to major events – such as the 40th anniversary of this institution earlier this year – but also to general events (talks, presentations etc.). And it was only natural that many alumni supported the newly founded "Amerika-Verein" that took over the closed down institution. Therefore – you will always find many alumni at the various events of the "Amerika-Verein". This is also something we would like to maintain and to expand. Just some weeks ago several of us attended the introduction of the new consul general, John C. Kornblum.

Some years ago, we established contact to the consulate general via the former "Amerika Haus". Since then we have always been represented by some alumni at the consulate's 4th of July parties. This was also the case in 1997 – when we were invited to enjoy the delicious American-Mexican food, jazz-music, and the sight of some local VIPs. Although – I think everyone felt a bit sad to see the well-respected consul general Daniel Weygandt leaving!

The true highlight of the year was our "Thanksgiving-Santa-Claus" party on



December 6. A full dozen people enjoyed the delicious turkey, mashed potatoes and also a wonderful pumpkin pie one of our American Fulbright guests had baked! (She had spared no efforts to get all the authentic ingredients from the States.) I think everyone enjoyed the great atmosphere – something we are definitely going to repeat next year!

*Doesn't that look delicious?
Turkey expert Dagmar Schreiber at work*

Munich

Karin S. Bannier

Be it summer or winter, spring or fall, one of our most preferred activities in Bavaria is going to the mountains. Our first trip of '97 led us to Austria to a little hut next to the lake Fuschl close to Thalgau. The weather was nasty and after some efforts to go for a long walk in the mountains the group split in two. One continued the hike, the



rest went looking for a warming sauna and eventually found it. It was quite a relaxing weekend. Everybody was stressed out by work, fed up with the city, ready for a break.

Back home the next little trip was organized to another hut, but this time to the "Albert-Link-Hütte" in Spitzingsee about 1,5 hours drive towards Schliersee.



Planning a walk in the mountains

It is a place we return to quite frequently and it is well known by lots of Fullis in Munich and beyond.

Several other weekends like this followed throughout the year, always being a mixture of going for long walks and talks, playing cards, fixing huge amounts of good food, laughing and relaxing.

Since the last summer only decided to show up in August, several of the bike tours that had been originally planned for July were either cancelled or postponed. We ended up with two bike tours, one went around the lake Ammer the other around the lake Starnberg. Not to forget that the lake Ammer is "accidentally" located close to a cloister where the monks still brew their own beer since quite some time. Needless to say that the tour was successful in a lot of regards.

During the summer we became aware of the fact that we had to start organizing the General Assembly for February '98. It took a lot of our spare time but fortunately there were still enough people left to set up several other things. Many thanks to Claudia Wörz, who organized a salsa-evening, which was as far as I heard nice and a lot of fun. At the end of July Andreas Schoberth made it again possible to go to the fashion designer show "some wear". A month later we decided to switch to a new restaurant for our regular meeting once a month. It's now located in the Schmellerstrasse and called "Schmellers". Everyone who participated in the casual get-together the night before the winterball took place will remember the pub. We are quite happy with it and please feel free to join us if you happen to be in town.

The organization team got more and more hooked up on the annual conference. A very stressful time started: suitable bars had to be checked out for the informal get-together on Friday night. Places were visited that could offer enough space and food for a brunch for about 90 people. A ballroom was rented, a DJ was found for the music, a square dance group and a gospel choir were hired and lists and more lists had to be written to ensure a successful weekend.

Meanwhile, another trip to the mountains was planned by Hubert Berndt. Eighteen Fullis decided to participate in a 3-days-break. It happened to be late October, also Petra Göbel's birthday, and thus worth the effort to carry lots of food and champagne up to a wonderful hut close to Kufstein/Wörgl in Austria. We had sun, rain and snow, and most of all a great weekend.

Our last activities of the year '97 were the annual Thanksgiving dinner at the "Haus der Evangelischen Jugend" with elections of the regional coordinators and the

Christmas-Stammtisch with juleklapp in December. The rest of the time was taken – again – by the organization of the annual General Assembly.

We do hope to be more active this year. One of the present activities that are planned for '98 is a sailing trip in September.

Ruhrgebiet

Karl-Walter Florin

The year 1997 in our regional chapter was marked by a constant and regular attendance at the "Stammtisch" and some minor activities focusing on the wishes of the active members in the chapter. After organizing the Welcome (Returnee) Meeting in 1996, we took a time-out to find new ideas and power for new goals.

Nevertheless, there were quite a few activities taking place, e.g. visiting movies, plays, and concerts together. One of the highlights was the guided tour of the sculpture exhibition in Münster – on bicycles. The sculptures are usually especially designed for this exhibition which only takes place every ten years. Therefore, it was a must to go there.

At the End of September, a bunch of Fullies met for a 6-day-hiking-tour at Merzalben, a small town in the "Pfälzer Wald", south of K-Town (Kaiserslautern). Having a blue sky for the whole walk, we had a great time hiking about 15 to 30 km per day. The "Palatinate Trail" offers great landscape, a lot of fresh air, and historical remains (forts, castles, and American military bases). Along the way we had enough time for long talks. We, of course, had the opportunity to test the regional food (Pfälzer Saumagen – not only) and the excellent wines (Morio Muskat).

This year's host-program has offered the chance to support the arriving American Fulbrighters. We got in contact with the teaching assistants, who are now taking part in the different regional activities. They attended the Thanksgiving Party, meanwhile an annual get-together offering not only very good food but also a chance to meet Fulbrighters who usually don't attend the "Stammtisch".

To introduce people from other parts of Germany and the world to the "Ruhrgebiet" and make them acquainted with the mentality of the area, a group went to see a soccer game "auf Schalke". (The game between Schalke 04 and MSV Duisburg ended in a tie (1:1), by the way.)

There are always activities going on, some of them often by short notice (E-mail address is very helpful!), and everyone is invited to take part or, even better, to organize something her- or himself.



Impressions of the Welcome Meeting ...

... 1997 in Nuremberg

Fahmy Youssef

As a returning student from the US, full of vivid impressions you are more than willing to share, you quickly realize that there is only a limited amount of stories which parents, friends and relatives are able to swallow. The Fulbright Alumni Association wants to bring you into contact with people who had the same experiences and to whom you can tell your stories. But of course at first you have to meet some of them. Therefore the Welcome Meeting, at which you can meet returning "Fullies" and receive useful bits of information about prospective career choices.

I arrived on Saturday morning in Nuremberg for the official part of the meeting. It started with an introduction by the Chairwoman of the Association who raised some of the topics mentioned above, talked about the program and mentioned with a smile-evoking pride an article about the Association by the F.A.Z., a major newspaper, which she pointed out was not the outcome of special promotion efforts of the Association, but was written on the initiative of the paper alone. The headline is: "Wo ich einen Fulbrighter treffe, bin ich daheim." Where I meet a Fulbrighter I feel at home. The day would prove the true extent of that.

The next speaker was Mr. Pickrel of the German-American-Institute Nuremberg who talked about the situation of German-American Institutes in the wake of US troop departures from Europe. Then Professor Frederick talked about "Cultural Roadblocks on the Information Highway: How Germans differ from Americans in the adaptation of new technologies." His scathing criticism of Germans ("digitally illiterate") in terms of willingness to adapt to the new information technologies provoked much thought and discussion.

After extensive discussion, always the best indicator of the quality of a lecture, the different regional chapters presented themselves and their activities.

After lunch there were different workshops offered, all of them under the appropriate topic "USA – und danach?" Nearly all interests were covered: Universities, civil service and business. The chance to meet people who already have experience in the respective fields and can give you hints and information is most assuring, for you will definitely have to face the same problems one day; sooner or later.

Coffee was followed by another workshop series. Topics like "What happened during your stay in the US?" and "How to survive in Germany" were all attractive and you wanted to duplicate or triplicate yourself, but the lecture by Mr. Rastetter of Deutsche Bank: "Euro vs. Dollar?" was of particular interest. His thesis is that the Euro would prove to be an effective rival to the Dollar, it would be a big currency and it would come definitely with a likelihood of 80%. (How do you arrive at such a number? Not by high mathematics). His presentation of the topic included the chronology and mechanism of the process, all presented in understandable language. (Not a mean feat for economic issues!)

Nevertheless, all the information and impressions of the day had to be digested with a good dinner and the obligatory party late into the night. On Sunday, a good American breakfast with sight-seeing of Nuremberg rounded it up: A perfect week-end.

Kudos to the Nuremberg-Erlangen Regional Chapter for their much-appreciated effort.

Berlin between the Past and the Present

.....

The 1998 Berlin Conference put on by the Fulbright Commission from March 28 until April 1 was once again a huge success.

Joe Straight

The entire board of directors as well as a large number of Fullies in Berlin were invited to the Opening Ceremony on Sunday, March 29. After speeches by P.D. Dr. Barbara Ischinger, Executive Director of the German-American Fulbright Commission, Mr. Helmut Schäfer, German Deputy Secretary of State, US-Ambassador John Kornblum, Harriet Mayor Fulbright and Diana Perez-Buck (a current grantee), we had a chance to mingle and chat. Michael Tonke was able to meet Mrs. Fulbright and introduce himself as our new President of the German Fulbright Alumni Association.



Opening Ceremony
*US Ambassador
John Kornblum*

On Monday there was a meeting for Berlin Fullies with Mrs. Fulbright. In a casual atmosphere we described the activities of our association and talked about common issues such as usage of funds, political activity, and cooperation with Fulbrighters all over the world. Mrs. Fulbright had everyone spellbound with her liveliness and charm (what a nice smile!). She

was happy to hear of our cooperation with the Fulbright Commission, especially in the area of Post Academic Relations and in the improvement of the communications infrastructure among alumni associations worldwide.

Florian Techel and Dagmar Hovestaedt, Fulbrighters from Berlin, and Joachim Wahlich, a Fulbright Alumnus from Munich, held a workshop on "Architecture in Berlin" on Tuesday afternoon.



**Harriet Mayor Fulbright
and Joachim Wahlich**
*share a smile during the
opening ceremony*

After a brief greeting and introduction by Wiltrud Hammelstein (I ran the slide projector and lights), the three presented their perspective on the architectural aspects of the evolving capital, and answered questions by the approximately 30 American participants on such topics as the fall of the Berlin Wall, the move of the government from



Bonn to Berlin, and architecture. A number of participants remained after the workshop to continue their discussions.

On Wednesday morning the research projects of 25 grantees were introduced in 5-minute presentations. This was once again the highlight of the conference for me; not only does one recognize the diversity of the disciplines represented, but the collected intellectual capital present in the room as well.

In the evening the conference drew to a close with the annual concert in the Hochschule der Künste (Berlin School of the Arts). American Fulbright Music Grantees from a number of countries presented their work on a number of different instruments and in varying styles. As always, the musicians were spectacular. It was a great pleasure to see and hear them perform.

Although the conference has just ended, I am anxiously awaiting next year, when the conference will be held in the historical center of Berlin, and we will celebrate 50 years of the Federal Republic of Germany.

“Whenever Three Germans Sit Together”

Impressions from the Introductory Meeting for the American Fulbright Grantees in Bremen

Britta Sweers

The 1997 introduction of the new American Fulbright grantees took place in Bremen from September 14-17. As in previous years, also the presentation of the Fulbright Alumni organization was part of the program.

I had arrived a bit earlier on September 17 and got the chance to listen to the reports of “former” American grantees (i.e. the ones who had successfully applied for an extension of their grants). This gave me also an opportunity to experience Germany from a different perspective. One of the especially remarkable aspects of this meeting was the sensitive and understanding way in which Reiner Rohr – who, as head of the American Program Unit of the Fulbright Commission, was in charge of the introduction – conducted the discussions and dealt with upcoming questions. He introduced the students in a realistic but never deterrent way to everyday life in Germany and German mentality. The slight inner nervousness with which every single detail was absorbed was still familiar to me. We had sat in our introductory meeting in Bremen with a similar

impatient feeling – although the problems are different: the difficulties and (well worked out) tricks of finding a GOOD accommodation, the warning that local calls are NOT free in Germany, the remarkable fact that e-mail and computer equipment cannot be taken for granted at many universities and institutions, culture shock (“the winter isn’t that cold – but awfully grey ...”) and a unique German phenomenon called “Vereine” – being the best places for first contacts with Germans. The motto of the meeting seems to have been: “Whenever three Germans sit together – what is going to happen?” (“They found a – Verein”) Which was the best transition to the presentation of our organization!

Many of the American Fulbrighters had arrived in Germany just two days ago – and were visibly suffering from the jetlag. For that reason I kept my presentation rather short – and abandoned the idea of giving a talk in German. The response was very positive – I was asked a lot of curious questions. We also got a very good publicity from the side of the Fulbright Commission: Reiner Rohr had introduced the Fulbright Alumni as a very unusual, un-typical organization/“Verein” – and after my talk he once again encouraged the Americans to make use of the offered contact to the Fulbright Alumni. It was especially stressed that our organization has focused on offering hospitality (besides the large variety of conferences and local activities) – without demanding any service in return (i.e. payment or other social obligations).

I was also kindly invited to dinner with all the grantees – which gave me, once again, the opportunity to talk to several students – and to help with elementary language problems (i.e. what do you do if you don’t know the expression of this little thing that keeps the water inside the bath-tub? Stopper ... Stöpsel? Doesn’t that sound strange? And the verb – stöpseln ... einstöpseln??). And that was also a good opportunity to make some more publicity for our organization and for the Welcome Meeting that took place in Nuremberg in October.

My personal highlight was the encounter with a student I somewhat knew from my time in Bloomington/Indiana (that was already four years ago). It turned out that we had stayed in the same dormitory! She was only a guest at the Bremen-meeting, as she was going to study in Vienna. A different world: The Austrians can even provide their American grantees with apartments!

However – I was a bit thoughtful when I returned to Hamburg. Reiner Rohr had told me that the Commission sent American Fulbrighters to Hamburg only at their special request. One has to bear in mind that Hamburg is called the “gateway to the world” (“Das Tor zur Welt”)! Too much academic bureaucracy (Hamburg is the only university that requires an extra language exam) and other obstacles (the “Studentenwerk” makes only few concessions to foreign students looking for an apartment) can easily turn the stay into a nightmare. Remembering my stay in Bloomington – and the large program the “International House” had offered to foreign students – I feel a bit ashamed about that ...

And this refers not only to students – the estimated rent in the University Guest-house is about 2000/3000 DM per month for a 2-3 room apartment. Even if it is 200-300 DM less – and the rooms are furnished and cleaned every week – and even if one takes into consideration that apartments are expensive in Hamburg – these prices are still above anything that is offered on the market. I still remember the disbelieving faces of some foreign guest-professors to that kind of reception – and that was already five years ago ... However, as Reiner Rohr pointed out, this is something that demands the help of organizations like us. It is probably not possible to change everything about the academic bureaucracy-chaos. Yet – and if it is just giving the exchange-students the feeling that there is someone they can talk to – so that they do not have to depend on the university only to solve academic and general problems – I think this is already a success.



Managing Public Organisations

Ursula Mich

The Oregon Alumni Association e.V. and the Fulbright Alumni Association e.V. annually invite their members to their common conference, which took place in Offenbach and Frankfurt am Main from September 19th through 21st, 1997. This year's conference topic dealt with lectures and discussions on "Managing Public Organizations".

But before we got underway, the Frankfurt/Offenbach Fullies and the Oregonis welcomed their members on Friday evening at the Künstlerkeller – the meeting place of the Frankfurt Fullies for their "Stammtisch". At the tables people exchanged jokes, laughter and conversation, which got us in the mood for the conference, which took place all day Saturday.

The next morning, the participants met at the city hall of Offenbach. The mayor of Offenbach, Mr. Gerhard Grandke (SPD), opened the conference with his very humorous and energetic speech on structural problems and their solutions regarding communities, taking Offenbach as an example. He offered many ideas and samples which sparked a lively discussion and many questions.

After the mayor spoke, Dr. Ulrich Bindseil, from the "Europäisches Währungs-institut", talked competently about the organization and the legal status of the "Bundesbank", the Federal Banks of Europe and of the USA as well as of the future European Zentralbank. Rainer Riess, of the Deutsche Börse AG in Frankfurt am Main, informed us about the "new market", its structure and conditions as well as its possible effects on the labour market. Both lectures were accompanied by many questions, which started controversial disputes.

After so much thinking, we took a break at the cafeteria on the 15th floor of the city hall, offering us a wonderful view around Offenbach and Frankfurt. After a delicious lunch we took a short rest on the roof terrace. With new strength, we listened to Mr. Bernd Ambrosius, the managing director and owner of the company E. F. Ambrosius & Son. He offered interesting and provocative statements regarding the question "Where does Germany stand?", which of course produced another heavy discussion.

While the boards of both associations met, we walked quite some time along the Main river heading towards Bürgel and Fechenheim. We enjoyed the sun and talked about the lectures while others rushed back to Frankfurt for a sightseeing tour. Around 8 p.m. the leisure part of the conference took place at the boathouse "Undine". We ate wonderful Greek food and were happy that the beverages were provided by the organizers of the conference. Like the evening before, much laughter occurred and many new ideas for future weekend plans in East and West Germany were discussed.

Sunday morning the conference ended with a brunch at the cafeteria on top of the city hall. It was followed by a slide show, representing photos of Washington and Oregon State, taken and presented by Elke Brosin. During the slide show we came up with the idea to travel together to a working ranch named "Ponderosa" sometime in 1998.

Thanks again to the organizers for a successful weekend, we are looking forward to the next one which deepens the relations between Fullies and Oregonis.

The General Assembly in Munich

February 6-8, 1998

Karin S. Bannier

By the time you read this article a few weeks will have passed by since the Fulbright Winterball took place in February in Munich. Maybe I should rather say the General Assembly plus Winterball took place. After all, a new board was elected. But before I get to this, first things first.

And first there was the casual get-together on Friday night at the “Schmellers”, our regular meeting point once a month. Normally we are about 15-20 people coming together at this restaurant. This time, 84 Fullies were supposed to be there and sure enough, they all showed up, much to our surprise. Even more to the bar owner’s surprise who was trying to feed those happy hungry fellas. He and his staff did a good job though, and it was quite late before the last ones found their way home.

Saturday was mainly occupied by the general meeting with board elections. The old board was relieved, the new one was elected, including a new president and several other board members. Congrats! From our perspective – the one of the organization team – over 60 Fullies needed to be fed, and at the end there was not much left but a few cookies and some fruits. At this point we would like to thank Christine Tröger, who made it possible once again to use the rooms and facilities of the “Haus der Evangelischen Jugend München”. We also like to thank all the additional “helping hands” that made it possible for us to show up at the ball on time.

We were welcomed by the staff of the “Augustiner” with a glass of sparkling wine. And being there before all the other guests arrived allowed us to wander around, have a look at the buffet and feel quite comfortable with the whole set-up. Soon the room got crowded and at the end we counted 162 people willing to dance and have a good time. It was quite impressive to see how this crowd had made its way from casually dressed Fullies at the “Schmellers” to a very well dressed group. Bravo!

Feeding 162 people at the same time – and we are talking about 162 Fullies who are well known for their very good appetite – was a challenge. It got solved basically by itself: lots of chatting was going on during standing in line and time passed by quickly. The food was delicious such that some of us did not get to try everything by the time we reached the buffet.

The party lasted until 3 a.m. the next morning. At least the official part. And we assume it is a good sign that you must have liked it. We did too, thanks. Rumours were heard about some insatiable friends who were seen in some sort of “gathering place” that you might want to call a bar or a restaurant.

Breakfast at Munich’s First Diner on Sunday late late morning. Sleepy heads showed up and more quietly enjoyed their American style breakfast. Soon enough they got back into their chatty and bubbly mood and again there was lots of laughter going on as it was heard all weekend long. The sightseeing tour early afternoon was a success, too, and around 2 p.m. people started to leave. Hugs and kisses here and there, exchange of addresses and a last wave before everybody had left.

Needless to say that after a weekend like that we must tell you that it was well worth organizing it. We had a lot of fun and are looking forward to new meetings and events throughout the year. Hope you liked it, too.

Cheers, the orga-team.



Bright People under Ful(1) Sail

Baltic Sea Sailing Trip, August 16-23, 1997

Elke Brosin

On memorable August 16, 1997, 20 “small-eyed” Fulbrighters met at the Hamburg bus station just after midnight – an unusual place to start a sailing trip! But the itinerary truly read: “Meet you at 1 a.m. at the Hamburg ZOB (Central Bus Station) for the sailing trip on the Albatros!” Well, everyone made it on time for the bus departure to Frederikshavn, Denmark, where our old-timer ship Albatros was peacefully awaiting our arrival. 20 happily spirited Fulbrighters and 7 crew members (who knew how to sail – Thank God!) embarked the Albatros that Saturday morning.

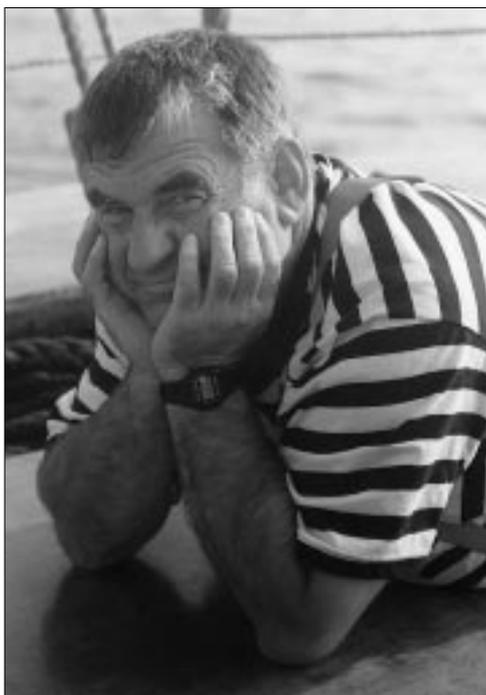
The first lesson I personally learned was: Always wear high heeled shoes when going on board a ship with overnight stay! Otherwise you may be the shortest person of the crowd and end up with the shortest bunk. I am not kidding you, that bunk was 170 cm short. The second lesson I learned was: Never volunteer to make a cake the very first day! You may get chosen the cake maker of the week. But honestly, it was a rewarding task to fulfill, especially when seeing big smiles on cake-stuffed faces.

The real reason that we all had to learn was naming all the parts of the ship so that we could act on the orders given by the crew such as: “Hol’ die Dirk!”, “Schieß’ auf das Seil!” (the English reader may forgive me for switching into this German sailing jargon but it was hard enough to learn it in German). We all learned one word by heart very quickly and that was “Klüvernetz” because it turned out to be the best place on board for sunbathing, talking, socializing, picture taking, and – I almost forgot – watching out for the oncoming sea traffic as one of our duties.

Enough talk about lessons learned, what about the people on board? It would be worth writing a whole chapter on every single one of them because being “stuck” on a ship with 27 people for one week made for some people good psychological in-depth studies. I will only focus on a selected few of us:

Connie, for instance, our captain, deserves a paragraph for himself: We all loved him in his navy blue-white striped shirts, his remarkable belly and his even more memorable scruffy looking seafarer smile. One of his favorite sayings was “We will go to where the pope is boxing.”

Brigitte, our cook, was the good soul on the Albatros. Every day, she would cook up a storm for 27 hungry faces. And, boy, did she create magic there in the little galley. Her dear husband Martin, whose main territory was down in the machine room, occasionally came up to help his sweet wife in the kitchen – what a joy to have them both on board! We also had two birthday boys on board – Daniel and Joe –



*We all loved him:
Conny, our captain*

*Our two
Fulli-sailing birthday kids:
Joe and Daniel*



were: Marstrand in Sweden, Helsingor, Copenhagen, and Koge from where we took the bus back to Hamburg. The secret for this will not be disclosed in this article.

*The entire
Fulli-Sailing-Crew 1997
on the Albatros*



which made for a late night “Dany mit Sahne” session and some live entertainment on board as Joe had to undergo Connie’s baptizing ceremony. Needless to say that we had unlimited fun. The wind conditions, however, were a different story since we practically had next to nothing during this entire week. And yet, we made it to all of our scheduled ports of call which

Thinking back of the Albatros days brings a big smile on everybody’s face who was part of his adventure – thanks to Siglinde Kaiser who coordinated this trip wonderfully.

In conclusion, here is a little hint for those who are planning to join the next sailing adventure in 1999: Make sure you sign up early because there is always a long waiting list.



The First Palatinate Trail – Sep. 20-26, 1997

A Short Personal Dairy About a Fairly Long Trek

Horst Rakel

Preface

Oh no. Not again. “A group of twelve? In September? Sorry, that’s our busiest month. No chance.” I have to find a different place to stay for the lot. But that means we have to re-design the whole tour, while making it fit with the places already booked. Back to square one (do not pass “go”, do not collect \$200). Prolonged telephone conferences and e-mail sessions with Karl-Walter. Finally, after some eight months discussing and planning, the first Palatinate Trail is home and dry. – Is it really?

Arrival

Saturday afternoon, meeting at the “Gräfensteiner Hütte” (cabin) underneath the castle to take stock, count heads or simply have a chat. Because somebody dropped out on short notice, Claudia joined in and will be with us for at least the first part of the trip. She’s a lovely person and a tough cookie as well. Will be good for the chemistry of the group. Feel a slight tension in my stomach whether things will work out as planned, but Karl-Walter’s calm presence is reassuring. I just learned that the cabin is only open because they’re having a children’s party. Seems like luck’s on our side. Good start. I’m happy.

Sunday (Day 1)

What a day! Bright sunshine, 19° Celsius, ideal hiking weather. “When angels travel, the sky smiles,” my mum says. Take that as an omen. The group (5males, 4females) had a good night’s sleep in a cool youth hostel and is keen to kick off. Beginning of the route is easy, but soon we meet the first mountain (I resign to the fact that this will be our fate for the majority of the trip). Past the old castle whose tower provides a marvellous view of the Palatinate Forest. Frozen waves of rock covered with green fur of varying intensity, a vast canvas displaying shadow and light chasing each other in the travelling sun.

We just keep on strolling through the forest, take a break in the sunshine like lazy lizards and check in at our “Pension” in the early afternoon. Located right in the middle of nowhere, the group’s first encounter with indigenous cuisine (Vegetarians Beware!) features scores of venison, wild boar, dumplings and the result of the ancient practice of turning moldy, sticky fruits of *Vitis Vinifera* into this refreshing delight that plays so soothingly on the palate. – This is going to be a long night ...

Monday (Day 2)

To my great surprise, everybody is up on his/her feet on time (previously unheard of in Fulli-Circles!). Another sunny day in lush forests, generating the moist microclimate that makes even extended trips bearable. At nine o’clock thin fine lines of water vapour are

criss-crossing the sunny sky. At eleven, the fine lines have expanded into a thin haze dimming the clear blue colour that is one of the sources of our buoyant mood (oh Lufthansa, oh British Airways, one day this is going to end in tears). The tour is much more demanding than yesterday, the first endurance test for the group. In the late afternoon we treat ourselves to a Schnitzel of enormous proportions to compensate for the torture, but it's still a fair way to the next cabin. Try to hike uphill for an hour with a massive meal in your stomach and a 30-pound rucksack on your back!

Tuesday (Day 3)

Spirits are still high (mentally and bottled), but the first physical signs of wear and tear are beginning to show. Blisters are band-aided, rucksacks re-packed, straps adjusted. This is our culture day, meaning more emphasis on sight-seeing than on walking. Still, on our way to "Berwartstein Castle" we meet too much tarmac, a real killer on long distance walking. I worry about our feet.

The castle is great. Built into, around, and on top of a massive rock formation. But the real character is our guide. Waging his personal vendetta against a misguided glorification of the middle-ages, he rants on about plagues of fleas and rodents, cold and draughty rooms, spiced up with graphic descriptions of chopped off heads and limbs and decomposed bodies of varying origin being tossed over defences to induce diseases and epidemics among the defending warriors.

Thankfully, our accommodation at the "Naturfreundehaus" is neat and mas tranquilo. Undeterred by chopped up crusaders, the group meanwhile has developed an incredible instinct for sniffing out good food and drink. Well, that comes as a surprise, ey? Enjoy ourselves at a great countryside pub. Getting home in a pitch black night through thick undergrowth and up some 90 uneven stairs is accompanied by the occasional rude remark, much ironic comment and more giggling.

Wednesday (Day 4)

Judgement Day, as Arnie would phrase it. The longest stretch of our journey, including a murderous incline up "Zeppelinalde". Everybody knows it's going to be long, although I'm probably a bit more economical with the details than usual. But the weather gods are with us again. For four days now I've been wearing shorts and short sleeve T-shirts. This is late September, just unbelievable.

Kicking off has become a habitual exercise. Strapping, stretching and settling into a rhythm nearly a subconscious routine. The vegetation changes character, the landscape becomes more open and friendly. Where previously beech trees created dark, shady hallways, the now more frequent chestnut trees let bright beams of sunlight break through the leafy roof. Stefan is cracking jokes of almost American Indian quality. Dry as the sand underneath our feet. He must be in agony, I reckon, his feet looked pretty rotten yesterday already. Still, we shoot up the two-kilometre-incline in twenty minutes. Everybody at his/her own pace, but nobody is giving in. Guess we picked up too much of that frontier spirit ...

Still, the relentless up and down is taking its toll. The usual murmur of voices is petering out until heavy breathing and creaking boots are the only sound left of human origin. The camping stove cranks out a pot of hot coffee which is much welcomed,



despite the warm weather. The boots remain tightened until we reach the cabin, out of fear we wouldn't be able to put them on again. 29 kilometres – not bad for a bunch of car-pampered couch potatoes.

Thursday (Day 5)

I picked up a handful of mushrooms (Steinpilze, hmmm!) on the trail yesterday that earned me a generous helping of sarcastic comments and suspicious looks from many of the group. But the cabin has a kitchen, and revenge is sweet and mine. The scent of fresh mushrooms and onions sautéed in butter to a light brown, golden colour, delicately spiced and served with scrambled egg wavers through the place for breakfast. Suddenly, they sneak around the kitchen like cats around the cream pot and food risk worries go out the window as fast as the mushrooms disappear from the frying pan. Gotcha!

Today, we're going to take it easy, stay largely in the valleys and enjoy the bizarre rock formations unfolding on the way that earned this particular area the name "Rockland". "Bride and Groom", "Virgin's Jump" or "Devil's Table" are just a few of these sculptures created by nature's forces and layers of soft and hard rock that have spawned countless myths and legends in the oral history of the region. The youth hostel is also located on top of a massive rock plateau, which makes for a great view but also has our strained joints creaking, slogging up a sheer endless number of steps to the entrance.

However, considering the group finished could not have been further from the truth. Having picked up announcements of "onion quiche", "Flammkuche" and "Federweißer" (young fermenting wine) on the way, even the foot weariest of our soldiers are dragging into town. Descending on a small, yet truly authentic wine bar/restaurant we again prove that a handful, but determined number of Fullies can cause havoc in any restaurant's kitchen and wine cellar.

Friday (Day 6)

Time to say good-bye ... Much less dramatic than Henry Maske's departure, the group splits up after breakfast because of diverging plans for the upcoming weekend. The two Stephans, Uta and Detlef will take a taxi for at least part of the journey to get home in time, and Heike and Mona jump on the train to avoid unnecessarily aggravating back problems.

Karl-Walter and I take pride in covering the rest of the distance by foot. Again, a marvellous day. Crisp, clear morning air, a clear blue sky and the sappy scent of freshly logged pine trees propel me into an almost euphoric state of mind. Despite the almost 100 kilometres behind us I feel like I'm brimming with energy. Maybe it's just my body dishing out jabs of endomorphines to numb my aching limbs and joints, but today I couldn't care less. And judging by Karl-Walter's deep grin and bubbling conversation, I'm not the only one.

The Palatinate Trail Hike will be conducted biannually, depending on time and organizing resources available. Routes do vary and are not confined to the Palatinate Forest only. Further information can be elicited from Horst Rakel or Karl-Walter Florin via the Fulbright Alumni Germany network.

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FRANKly Nr. 11, August 1998

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