

FRANKly

THE FULBRIGHT ALUMNI E.V. NEWSLETTER



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Informal get-together, the evening before the General Assembly in Frankfurt, February 1999

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Fulbright Alumni e.V. General Assembly in Frankfurt, February 1999

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Winterball and Masquerade in Frankfurt, February 1999

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Greetings from the President

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

In your hand you hold the latest issue of the external publication of the German Fulbright Alumni Association, the FRANKly. Again this year, we want to show our activities, visions and work to all related organizations, institutions and friends worldwide.

During the last year, the number of members of our association was about 900. Our organizational work has been more efficient since we use medias like E-Mail and WWW. In spite of that, the printed FRANKly still has its position in our communication!

This FRANKly gives an overview of the activities of the last year. From this point I want to thank all active members who made all events possible. Often it is idealistic and enthusiastic work to organize an event and it needs much time. I hope we will keep on track!

In 1998 our Welcome-Meeting – a warm Welcome for the American Fulbrighters in Germany and a Welcome back for the returning German Fulbrighters – was organized by the Regional Chapter Southwest in Stuttgart. Another successful event was the General Assembly combined with the Winterball, which took place in Frankfurt / Main in February 1999.

Following a tradition over the last years, we organized a meeting together with the Oregon Alumni e. V. It took place in June 1999 in Frankfurt with the special topic "Education Systems".

Beside these FAeV-standards, we should highlight the European Fulbright Alumni Workshop in Strasbourg, France. Representatives of associations from 11 European countries met in late August 1998 in the "Capital of Europe" and discussed topics of cooperation, further developments and a European network among related organizations. It was a great pleasure to meet many different people with a common Fulbright background. As a result of this interesting and successful meeting, our Spanish friends work on a European Fulbright Alumni E-Mail-list and want to organize the next event – Toledo 2000.

Also, during the last year we continued to work in good cooperation with the German Fulbright Commission. We had the opportunity to introduce our association during all orientation meetings for both American and German grantees. We were invited to the Conference of European Fulbright Commissions last year in Budapest to

show our activities as former Fulbrighters after the return to our homecountry. In October 1998, representatives of our association spoke at the "Annual Meeting and Conference" of the US-Fulbright Association in Washington D. C. about our activities. As one of the youngest and largest Fulbright Alumni Associations in the world, we could gather respect and appreciation. Another highlight was the Fulbright Conference in March 1999 in Berlin for the American grantees.

A very special pleasure is to announce that the FAeV became a member of the "Association of Friends and Sponsors of the German – American Fulbright Program". We are proud to be in an organization which supports the work of the German Fulbright Commission to increase the number of scholarships. We, as an association of former Fulbright scholars, now take the opportunity to give back some of the help we received some years ago. In the academic year 1999/2000 the Fulbright Alumni e. V. gives direct financial support to three German Fulbright grantees in the USA.

In September 1999, the Regional Chapter of Munich organized a Pow Wow on the island "Frauenchiemsee" in the lake Chiemsee. The special focus was "Genetics and Biotechnology". We had interesting and controversial discussions. The program was accompanied by very funny and interesting touristic activities.

Another highlight was a sailing trip in the Baltic Sea.

Our WELCOME-Meeting in 1999 took place in Leipzig. It was a special pleasure to celebrate in the "New States" for the first time, right at the Decennial of the East German Revolution. We got to know much about the former GDR and the changes during the last 10 years. Many American Grantees were our guests there.

And of course, our 11 Regional Chapters also organized many interesting events. Traditional 4th-of-July-parties, Thanksgiving, and Halloween were celebrated. Other activities like bike tours, BBQ's or cultural trips took place or are already planned.

Enjoy reading this FRANKly issue, and please do not hesitate to contact us!

Best wishes and regards

Michael Tonke

The Board

MICHAEL TONKE **President**

Born on December 18th 1967, in Schmölln, Thuringia. I studied mechanical engineering at the Technical University "Bergakademie" in Freiberg, Saxony, between 1989 and 1994. After receiving my diploma, I went to Colorado as a Fulbright grantee, where I spent a year at Colorado School of Mines, in Golden, close to Denver. There I studied mining and computer science. Since my return in 1995, I have been working for a construction firm as a machine engineer.

I became a member of our Fulbright Alumni e. V. in 1996. After a year as Vice President – International Relations & Returnees, the members of FAeV elected me as President last year in Munich. This year in Frankfurt, I was reelected. My special focus for 1999 was on the "The Association of Friends and Sponsors of the German – American Fulbright Program" as well as to organize the first national meeting in the "New States".

- 4/1991-4/1999: Management consultant at Booz-Allen & Hamilton in Düsseldorf, Communications, Media & Technology practice (principal/member of the German management team since 10/1997)
 - Industry Focus: Telecommunications, Manufacturing
 - Functional Focus: Strategic Management, Innovation Management, Process Optimization
- Since 3/1999: Founding partner at ANALYTICUM GMBH, management consultants in Hamburg
- Since 5/1999: Full Professor, SAP Chair of Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management at Technische Universität Dresden
- Ca. 20 German and English language publications and more than 45 presentations at national and international conferences on business administration topics

UNIV.-PROF. DR. MICHAEL SCHEFCZYK **Treasurer**

- Born March 31, 1967 in Hamburg, Germany
- High School Graduation in Hamburg in 1986
- 1986-1989: Student of Industrial Engineering at Universität Hamburg
- 1989-1990: Student of Industrial Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, as a Fulbright scholar, Master of Science in Industrial Engineering
- 5/1994: Doctorate in Business Administration (Dr. rer. pol.) at Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule Aachen, based on an empirical dissertation on key success factors in declining industries, focusing on the foundry industry
- 12/1997: Post-doctoral degree (Habilitation) in Business Administration at Gerhard-Mercator-Universität Duisburg, based on an empirical work on key success factors of German venture capital firms

LOTHAR SCHÄFER-LANDEFELD **Vice President Information Center**

The first 21 years of my life I spent in Frankfurt/Main. 1990 I moved to Bayreuth to study environmental sciences and graduated there seven years later. The Fulbright grant took me in 1993/94 to the department of Soil Science at the University of Wisconsin/Madison. Presently I am working on a project about soil conservation for an agricultural research institute in Freising/Bavaria. I joined the FAeV after the Welcome Meeting in 1994. Being quite removed from the next Regional Chapter, I was a rather passive member the first 3 years of my membership.

At the Annual Meeting in 1998, though, I decided quite spontaneously to apply for the job as the coordinator of data management. Before this year's meeting, it was suggested that I run for VP Information Center, an idea I could not resist.

WILTRUD HAMMELSTEIN

Vice President Events & Regional Chapters

I was born April 5th, 1965 in Nieukerk/Lower Rhine-valley and studied Business Administration in Cologne from 1984 through 1990. That was interrupted in 86/87 by an academic year at the Eastern Illinois University in Charleston/IL in the direct exchange program between the University of Cologne and Eastern and thanks to a Fulbright travel grant.

After my studies I went to Berlin in fall 1990 to start my career in the Human resources department in the German branch of an American elevator company. After 8 years in Germany's fascinating capital I returned to Cologne in 1998 to work as Human Resources Manager for another American high tech company.

I joined the Fulbright Alumni e.V. in 1989. Besides being the photographer I served as an advisor to the board for the new federal states and organized the Returneemeeting in Berlin in 1994. In 1995 I served as Vice President Events and Regional Chapters, in 1996 and 1997 I was president. In 1996 we also organized the Decennial Pow Wow in Berlin to celebrate the 10th anniversary of our association and the 50th anniversary of the Fulbright Program. In 1998 I served as one of the auditors to the treasurer and returned to the board in 1999 as Vice President Events and Regional Chapters.



ULRIKE REICH

Vice President International Relations & Returnees

Born in the Eastern part of Berlin during the Cold War, I never even dreamt about studying in the US. But lucky me – The Wall came down in 1989 and I headed West to study journalism at the University of Dortmund. But before finishing my degree in Germany and starting into a professional career, I was looking for some challenge, some adventures. In 1997 I received a Fulbright grant and spent a whopping time under Floridian sun! I studied broadcast journalism at the University of Miami and finished after 13 months of really hard work with a M.A in Communication. (Do you have an idea, how hard it is to study in the library or work in the TV-studio while the sun is shining and the beach is calling...?)

Back in Germany, the Floridian weather wasn't the only thing I missed so hard: The reverse culture shock was and still is having me in it's clutches and doesn't let me go. But it turned out, there is a very good medication to fight this (besides going back to the US): the Welcome Meeting of the Fulbright Alumni Association and it's regional chapter welcomed me warmly and let me feel, there are other people out there that feel like me and I could share my experience with.

That's why I want to give something back. I joined the Fulbright Alumni Association Germany right after my return and got involved in the alumni work: In February 1999 I got elected as Vice President for international relations and returnees. I hope I can continue my predecessor's work the way he did. And I am looking forward to a great year.

*The first meeting
of the 1999 board*

General Information

History and Purpose

The German Fulbright Alumni e.V. was founded in Frankfurt in 1986 by former Fulbrighters. By 1999, our membership has increased to about 950. 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: Mühlheim/Ruhr	1997: Nuremberg
1998: Stuttgart	1999: Leipzig

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
- 1995: First Fulbright Fun & Future Camp, Lenggries
- 1996: A Chance for Global Understanding, Berlin
- 1999: Genetics and Biotechnology

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
- 1998: Intercultural Communication, Frankfurt
- 1999: Education Systems, Frankfurt

Regional Chapter Activities

Regional chapters organize more informal cultural and social events on a monthly basis, including lectures, discussions, and "Stammtische". To find out about the next "Stammtisch" in your area, contact the regional co-ordinator listed in the back of this issue.

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". The first working conference of all European Fulbright Alumni associations was organized in Strasbourg, France in 1998. Fulbright Alumni from various countries joined our sailing trips on the Baltic Sea "Bright People under Full Sail" in 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997 and 1999.

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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22 Years - Fulbright does stick

Since I was one of the oldest Fullies at the 1998 Welcome Meeting in Stuttgart, I was asked to write something about what I expect from the Fulbright Alumni and if the Fulbright experience still effects my life.

To start with the latter: yes, my experience as a Fulbright grantee at the University of Miami in 1976/77 definitely still influences my life. Not only that I got married in downtown Miami in 1977 (a fact, which, of course, still has a very strong effect on me), but I am also still in contact with some of my professors. Last year, on the occasion of our 20th wedding anniversary, my wife and I went back to the "Tatort" (scene of the crime) to visit our friends and see what had changed since (public transportation!) and what was still the same (University Bookstore).

My Fulbright experience was also one of the major reasons why I got a job at the Norderstedt (near Hamburg) affiliate of the US corporation Johnson & Johnson after my PhD. Proud as I was about that success, I told my friends in Miami about it and one of them responded that another Fulbright grantee, who had been in Miami in 1975/76, was working at another Johnson & Johnson affiliate in Düsseldorf. He gave me her number and we got in touch and have been friends since.

In addition to the personal connections resulting from the year abroad, there were many experiences that formed my view of life and improved my understanding of other cultures. The first lessons I learned after my arrival in Miami was the relative importance of private cars vs. public transportation. During the first weeks I even tried to learn more about the neighborhood by WALKING (!) around. This was not only difficult and dangerous due to the lack of boardwalks in many areas, but even resulted in suspicious looks from passing policemen (in cars) and residents (in cars or houses) –



LESSON 1: people walking in residential areas are either insane or burglars! Since I was living in a dormitory on main campus, but many of my classes were at RSMAS (Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences) on Virginia Key (only 9 miles away), I figured out how to get there by bus – which took about 2 hours each way, because I had to switch busses twice and even had to walk some distance to get from one stop to the next.

LESSON 2: public transportation is very cheap, mainly reserved for coloured people and never gets you where you want to go! The consequence of lesson 1 and 2 was that I bought a used car (with moral and logistic support from the foreign student office). And when I say "car" I mean a real big grown up "full size" car: a '69 Chevrolet Impala (no idea, how many horse powers that thing had because the documents didn't say much more than: color gold, 2 doors). After I learned how to drive this "battleship" (my first car with automatic transmission) I also learned

LESSON 3: driving a huge car (that actually ran on only 6 of its 8 cylinders) in the States can be just as expensive as driving a Volkswagen in Germany (20 - 25 l /



Coming from a densely populated area like Germany, I had never imagined before that in a country like the USA with huge metropolitan areas there would still be other areas where you could drive for hours or even days without meeting anybody. And, of course, being a biologist, I was very much impressed by the National Parks: my first personal encounters with rattlesnakes and blackbears raised my adrenaline levels, and I also experienced that smelling Yellowstone Park in reality is quite different from watching a report on TV.

To make a long story short: the year I spent in the States (especially the 3 months trip) is something that influ-

enced my life a great deal and that I will always remember (just like the famous "good old times") – and I will never miss a chance to talk about it. And this brings me back to the introductory question: "what do I expect from FAeV?".

100 km at a gas price of 50 cents per gallon)! My girlfriend thought I had lost my mind completely when I wrote "please send me some money, I have just bought a "Straßenkreutzer"!". But when she came over during Christmas break she quickly realized that my little grey cells were still quite OK and that the States were really a BIG country (by the way, the trip from main campus to RSMAS now took only 15 - 30 minutes, depending on the traffic).

Equipped with a car and, after a while also an American driver's license, I was publicly recognized as almost a human being – the only thing missing was a social security number. Of course we used the car a lot for travelling. The planning of these trips taught us

LESSON 4: when reading American maps, never just trust your eyes, measure the miles! Keeping this in mind we (my wife and me + 2 other Fullies) left for a 3 months journey after I had finished the second semester, starting from Miami through Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, and finally Colorado, flying home from Denver. One of the deepest impressions I gained from this journey was the feeling of vast spaces.

enced my life a great deal and that I will always remember (just like the famous "good old times") – and I will never miss a chance to talk about it. And this brings me back to the introductory question: "what do I expect from FAeV?".

One of the reasons why I joined FAeV this year is that I get the chance to meet people with similar experiences, who can talk about these issues with the same enthusiasm as I still do. Another reason is that Fullies are a pre-selected crowd that I enjoy talking to because they are open minded and are able to exchange ideas across borders (geographical, professional, and generation borders). But in the end the question is not only, what I can get out of the FAeV, but just as much what I can contribute to support the ideals of Fulbright and the alumni. My input will be to share my personal experiences with others in order to help them find their own way (e.g. how does a marine biologist become a freelance management consulting for quality management?). And a good start for this endeavor was the 1998 Welcome Meeting in Stuttgart.

Christian Jarling

Mr. Patricio Aylwin received the J.W. Fulbright Prize '98

His speech, delivered upon the reception ceremony on October 9th, 1998 in Washington DC.

I would like to thank the Fulbright Association for the important distinction it has conferred upon me. I receive it as an expression of recognition and appreciation for Chile's return to its democratic traditions. I understand it as the support for a people that, through love of freedom and in the defense of human dignity, was able to progress peacefully from a dictatorship to a democracy, setting the things that unite us above those that separate us. And I accept it, also, as a stimulus to our efforts to build a future of peace, based on justice and solidarity, for all the peoples of our America.

I come from a country that, within the context of the Latin American nations, had distinguished itself for the stability of its democratic institutions. The ideological polarization that Chile underwent in terms of how to best face the challenges of development, tested and finally broke the tradition of the Constitutional State in which we had taken such pride. Many of those who had dreamed of building a fairer and more egalitarian society went so far as to despise the law, and even democratic liberties, as hindrances that had to be removed in order to bring about the revolution that would lead to their image of the future. And those who feared that the revolution would infringe their rights and dispossess them of their property, went so far as to believe that the best way to save themselves was to suppress freedom. Thus a paradox arose in this country of democratic traditions, where those of us who believed that safeguarding liberty was the essential value were reduced to a minority.

As you know, this drama came about within the context of the cold – or not so cold – war, where, at a global level, there was a confrontation between the strategies of revolutionary subversion and that of the so-called national security doctrine. This confrontation, where the United States was one of the leading contenders, is now a thing of the past; the collapse of communist totalitarianism signaled the triumph of freedom over tyranny. But it is paradoxical that the dictatorships that arose in Latin America “to defend our democracies” from the communist peril, should all have fallen prior to

the Berlin Wall. Also significant is the fundamental role that the defense of human rights – so inherent to the political ideals of America – played in demolishing those dictatorships that had systematically trampled them underfoot.

The historical process of the recovery of democracy in Chile, which began exactly ten years ago – with the victory of the “No” votes in the plebiscite held on October 5, 1988 – is what I have ventured to call “the reuniting of the democrats.” This victory was possible because those of us who in the past had disagreed like bitter enemies, were capable of understanding and agreeing with each other about the democratic values of freedom, equality and justice, which involve the subordination of all to the law, a respect for our adversaries and the necessary search for basic understandings to achieve the common good.

I believe that the transition toward democracy in Chile, with its achievements and its limitations, would have pleased Senator James William Fulbright, because it has involved a sincere effort to combine idealism and realism in an attempt to govern our relations on the basis of the values that he himself advocated: “humanism, tolerance and reconciliation.”

We human beings have a tendency to make absolute judgments, to judge whatever happens in terms of black and white. But life is far more complex: as the Gospel says, wheat and chaff go together. The dictatorship that prevailed in my country has given rise to contradictory judgments: abominable to many, an example to others. The truth is that the human rights violations that took place – arbitrary imprisonment and exile, torture, assassination, disappearances – merit nothing but condemnation and are totally without justification; they are unpardonable. But the economic reforms and the rehabilitation, liberalization and opening up of the Chilean economy – without detriment to the criticism that is due for the drastic way in which they were implemented and the high social cost they involved – responded to a reality that needed to be addressed and opened up a new stage of development for the Chilean economy.

The Prize was created in 1993 by the Fulbright Association. It "honors individuals who have made extraordinary contributions toward bringing peoples, cultures, or nations to greater understanding of others" and carries a US\$ 50,000 award provided by the Coca-Cola Foundation. See also: <http://www.fulbright.org/prize.htm>

J. W. Fulbright Prize 1998

Similarly, Chile's return to democracy was marked by special features. Contrary to what generally occurs when dictatorships start to wear out, that they are brought down by force or collapse under the weight of their own failure, the Chilean dictatorship was vanquished by a plebiscite that the dictatorship itself had established as part of its institutionality. This shaped some of the features of the Chilean transition: the advantage of having been a peaceful process, with no violence or bloodshed, and the drawback of having been limited by that same institutionality, which has only been possible to modify in part through the complex means of constitutional reform. The most ostensible symbol of this limitation was the continued tenure of the former ruler as Commander in Chief of the Army and his subsequent incorporation into the Senate.

These circumstances have had a strong influence on the profound change that has taken place in the national scenario: from an ongoing confrontation that divided Chileans into friends and enemies, there is now a peaceful coexistence where the political debate between the government and the opposition, and the relationship between entrepreneurs and workers, has developed along institutional channels and, on important issues, with a will to arrive at consensus-based solutions.

Today Chile lives in democracy and freedom. Human rights are respected; the truth has become known and an effort is being made to do justice with regard to past violations. The country is prospering, with over ten years of high rates of economic growth, progressive international integration and lower inflation and poverty rates. Active social equity policies, in particular in terms of housing, health and education, are improving people's lives.

However, even though the situation of the Chilean people has progressed considerably in almost all sectors, reactions are contradictory. While in successful business and professional circles there is a prevalence of optimism, to the point of what Galbraith called "the culture of satisfaction" – muted only recently by the repercussions of the Asian economic crisis, – signs of discouragement and insecurity are perceived in the middle sectors of the population, in particular with

regard to the issues of unemployment, delinquency, sickness and aging. Parallel to this is a declining interest in politics and in voting, especially among young people.

If we look at what I have said about the Chilean situation from a universal perspective, it is clear that it is only a small part of what is going on in the world. Allow me some brief reflections on what, in my view, are some of the great challenges that should be addressed.

Two hundred and twenty-two years ago, when this great Republic was born, your Founding Fathers made the following statement: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles..."

In this century that is about to end, two types of totalitarianism rose up against these values and put them in grave danger: nazism and communism. In the democratic struggle to defend freedom, the United States committed itself with all its immense power. Its involvement was decisive to achieve victory and ensured the reinstatement in the world of what Lincoln called "a government of the people, by the people and for the people."

Up to now, this form of government has been put into effect by the mechanisms of what is known as representative democracy: authority is based on the will of the citizens, who group together according to their interests, aspirations and ideals, and periodically elect their rulers.

The vast scientific and technological progress of the past decades and the changes that have been imposed on the living and working conditions of men and women, the massification and frantic pace of contemporary existence, the speed with which news circulates through the communications media – especially television – and

the enormous influence they exert on people's opinions, together with the egocentrism that characterizes modern consumption-oriented societies, are destroying, or at least weakening, the community bonds (unions, ideologies, even neighborhoods) that used to be the basis for exercising citizenship.

Parallel to this, the globalization that characterizes today's economics goes beyond or eludes the sovereignty of individual states, and thus the power of their rulers. It is not they, but rather financial groups in control of vast amounts of capital, who decide upon their vertiginous passage through nations, without taking into account the serious crises they might generate. The fate of the people is frequently determined at the Security Exchange rather than in Parliament.

This explains why ordinary men and women may often feel unmotivated to exert their citizenship, either because they cannot tell the difference between the different alternatives, or because they have lost faith in the political classes, or because they feel that the really important issues are not in their power to decide. This happens especially among young people, who consider themselves to be misunderstood or underestimated by the adult world and tend to feel a generational rejection for the established order. But – contrary to what happened in their parents' generation – they have neither purpose nor any alternative Utopia.

In addition to the two circumstances outlined above which conspire against democratic ideals in these times, another more long-standing one can be mentioned: this is the profound inequalities that separate human beings. As was indicated in the Declaration of the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen in March 1995, "in many societies, both in the developed and developing countries, the gap that separates the rich from the poor has increased... and although some developing countries are experiencing rapid growth, the gap that separates the developed countries from many developing countries is also greater... Over one billion of the world's inhabitants live in extreme poverty and a majority goes hungry daily... Over 120 million people in the world are officially unemployed and many more live in a state of underemployment. There are too many young people, even among those who have followed

academic studies, who have scant hopes of finding gainful employment."

Let me add that here, in our continent, in the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean, around two hundred million people, almost half the population, live on incomes of less than 60 dollars a month, and of these, over 90 million survive under the poverty line on less than one dollar a day.

These circumstances, which from a moral standpoint are scandalous, represent a serious obstacle to development, an attack against social peace, are incompatible with democracy and pose a dangerous threat to the political stability of nations.

Not even the industrialized nations are free from this tragedy. According to the United Nations Report on Human Development for 1998, there are over 100 million poor people in the OECD countries and at least 37 million of them are unemployed. The same report indicates that even in the United States, the richest nation in the world, poverty affects 16.5% of its population.

All these are symptoms, in my opinion worrying symptoms, of a serious process of dehumanization in which men and women are increasingly enslaved by consumer goods, more self-centered, less supportive of others and less capable of loving their fellow men.

I believe that these issues, together with the theme of environmental sustainability which was addressed in the Earth Summit of 1992, would cause William Fulbright special concern if he were among us, because they are issues that affect human coexistence and compromise fundamental ethical values such as justice and solidarity. An inequitable social organization that generates abysmal disparities in its midst and denies a large part of its members access to goods that it offers profusely to others to the point of satiation, is a grave sin against justice.

I know very well that the Summit of the Americas, held in Miami in 1994 and in Santiago this year, represent major steps toward awareness of some of these pressing challenges and the need to face them decisively. But I do not know – and I say this with the

respectful frankness that is inherent to true friendship – just how far this great nation is prepared to commit itself and do everything in its power – as Senator Fulbright proved through his actions that he wanted and knew how to do – to ensure that the inspiring declarations and

plans of action approved at these Summits are fully met. I pray to God that this will be the case, for the sake of the Americas and for Humanity.

Thank you very much.

European Fulbright Workshop '98



The European Alumni Workshop at Strasbourg from August 28-30, 1998, was attended by participants from Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Spain, and the United Kingdom. Partly, travel expenses were sponsored by the German Fulbright Alumni e.V.

Several workshops prompted written results available at the national offices of the associations. A rough outline is given here.

Workshop I: Infrastructure

It was proposed to create a post for a Foreign Liason officer on all national boards. Associations offered each other assistance in setting up communication nets and proposed to link various webpages.



Workshop II: Medium Range Projects

One idea of this workshop was to jointly organize events currently offered by national associations, such as Welcome Meetings, on a European scale.

Workshop III: Long Range Visions

The need for an exchange forum was stressed. Also, alumni could take an active part in shaping the Fulbright Program of the future.

By exchanging experiences and ideas a base for future cooperation was laid at the conference and the participants hope to realize some of their ideas soon.

The planning for Toledo 2000 is in full swing and the Fulbright Alumni e.V. is keeping you up to date.

PowWow '99 Raises Difficult Questions

Three days of perfect weather and the ideal setting of the Kloster Frauenchiemsee provided the background for the Fulbright Alumni Association's 1999 PowWow last September 10-12. This year's topic was Genetics and Biotechnology, and the goal of the program was to provide an introduction to the technologies and controversies surrounding these topics. Conference participants arriving on Friday night received ID badges that succinctly summed up one of the major themes of the conference, the potential benefits and risks of gene technology. In addition to one's name, the badges also had two pictures of Dolly, the cloned sheep whose existence was made public in 1997. One image of Dolly was drawn in the likeness of an angel; the other a devil, the two together symbolizing the positive and negative consequences of genetic manipulation. Attempting to reconcile these two sides in the form of a moral, socially responsible approach to gene technology challenged the conference participants throughout the weekend.

Prof. Dr. Horst Backhaus and Dr. Anja Haniel began the official program Saturday morning by way of a two-part panel that provided the framework for the rest of the conference. Dr. Backhaus began with a whirlwind tour of genetics and gene technology. In addition to the basic mechanisms of biological inheritance he also provided an overview of the tools and techniques that scientists use to analyze and manipulate DNA. He concluded by pointing out the differences between somatic cell therapy and germ-line therapy. Somatic cell therapy is analogous to traditional medical intervention in that it targets specific tissues and its effects are not inherited by an organism's offspring. In germ-line therapy the DNA of an organism is changed in such a manner that all future generations are affected. The two techniques are very different, and thus raise very different moral and ethical problems that were explored by Dr. Haniel in the second part of the panel, which illustrated the diversity of concerns regarding gene technology. Her survey ranged from the potentially disastrous ecological consequences resulting from the introduction of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) into the environment to the troubling implications of pre-natal diagnoses of human beings.

With the basic issues firmly in mind, the conference participants spent the rest of the afternoon and part of the evening discussing specific topics in smaller groups. We met again for a panel discussion to close out the formal proceedings, where it was clear that we ourselves could reach no consensus on any of these difficult questions. That was perhaps the most important lesson to be learned from the conference: the issues surrounding gene technology are both scientifically and morally complex, yet they affect all of us. Therefore we all need to engage the issues, discuss them publicly, and work toward consensus with patience and respect for a diversity of viewpoints. We certainly did not find the answers, but the congenial atmosphere that surrounded even the broadest disagreements showed that we were on the right path.

We concluded the weekend on a somewhat lighter note. Saturday night was spent dancing and cruising the waters of the Chiemsee. On Sunday (again under perfectly clear skies) we finished with a visit to the Herreninsel where we toured Ludwig II of Bavaria's ambitious but unfinished Schloss Herrenchiemsee. Viewing the contrast between the beautifully completed sections of the castle and the bare, unfinished rooms was an appropriate way to finish off the 1999 PowWow. We were reminded that ambition and drive can yield fantastic results, but one must also be careful not to try to reach beyond one's grasp.

Jeffrey Lewis



Fulbright Berlin Conference '99

"Fulbright and Berlin – Moving into the Next Century"

The motto of the 1999 Berlin Conference for the current Fulbright Fellows underlined the dynamics of the rapidly (re)developing European Metropolis on the Spree River as well as the Fulbright Program, also seeking its identity as financial and political conditions are changing. The German-American Fulbright Commission will enter the 21st century with a new home, an office on Oranienburger Straße in former East Berlin. The conference, held annually for well over 40 years, is an opportunity for the circa 250 current Fulbrighters in Germany to meet, celebrate, and get to know Berlin. For the first time ever, the Berlin Conference was held in the Eastern center of city, symbolically emphasising the fact that it would have been unthinkable merely ten years ago. A number of Fulbright Alumni e.V. members were able to attend a few of the events during the 5-day conference March 13-18.

The opening ceremony, the Festakt, held in the Volksbühne am Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz, welcomed distinguished guests, including H.E. Ambassador Kornblum and Prof. Meyer, Cultural Minister of Saxony. Kornblum delivered a short speech in which he thanked the Fulbrighters present, as well as the American soldiers stationed in Germany over the past decades, for their achievements as cultural ambassadors. Professor Meyer led the audience through the history of German universities, placing emphasis on the traditions of international education. I saw quite a few Fulbright Alumni, including the entire Board of Directors, a number of Berliners, and our "Rentenbeauftragter" Joachim Wahlich at the reception which followed, and enjoyed meeting some of the current Fulbrighters while sipping good wine.

The Fulbright Alumni Workshop, a part of the Berlin Conference Program for a few years now, was held on Tuesday. Maja Böhm, Sonja Bonin, Dagmar Hovestädt, Joe Greenman and I formed a panel of individuals with quite varied relationships to the City of Berlin. Our workshop, entitled "Perspectives on Berlin," first

described the historical framework of Berlin in the past five decades, then opened the floor for questions and discussion on such issues as construction, metropolitan identity, life before and after the Wall, and the future of the city. Special thanks to Maja, Sonja, Dagmar and Joe for taking the time to make the difference!!

About 30 grantees gave presentations on their work in Europe over the past months on Wednesday morning. The topics ranged from the Lewinski Scandal to spinal cord injuries, touching many unsuspected points along the way. I have always found this part of the conference to be the most interesting and impressive. The grantees have the opportunity to share the ideas and achievements which have moved them, and yet they must limit themselves to allow time for all of the other presenters. Reiner Rohr of the Fulbright Commission, the politely ruthless "Zeitgeist," did his job well, capping each presentation at the 5-minute-mark. One grantee, who had exhausted his 5 minutes explaining the physical properties of radiation absorption and reflection which lay the groundwork for his geological research by satellite, was gently asked to come to his conclusion. "Well, in conclusion, I found diamonds in the Andes." He received a round of applause and was encouraged to continue his presentation.

Equally impressive were the performances the Fulbright musicians gave at the annual Music Gala concluding the conference on Wednesday evening. Held in the concert hall of the Hochschule der Künste, this year's conference was a veritable gourmet buffet of sights and sounds. Thirteen musicians played a wide variety of instruments and styles, and were at least as interesting to watch as to listen to. Most fascinating for me were the marimba and bagpipes. The close of the Berlin Conference was just the beginning of the evening for most, as they were off to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Berlin's numerous Irish Pubs. The train ride back to all corners of Germany would provide ample time to sleep off any hangovers....

Joe Straight

Welcome Meeting '98

On Friday night about 80 returnees, members, and American Fullies in Germany got together in Sophie's Brauhaus in Stuttgart for the start of the annual Welcome Meeting. For me as a returnee it was the perfect opportunity to exchange my still new experiences and impressions from abroad with other Fulbrighters. Time passed by quickly, all of us enjoyed the evening, and we had lots of fun.

The next morning, the official part of the Welcome Meeting took place in Jugendhaus Mitte and it was attended by about 120 Fullies.

After an introduction by Jürgen Schwarz of the Stuttgart Regional Chapter, Mr. Matthias Hahn of Stuttgart's city council gave a presentation on the "Stuttgart 21" project: a complete redevelopment of Stuttgart's central train station and the surrounding areas. The highlight of the project is that it allows to create a new business and residential district in downtown Stuttgart, on an area now covered by rail tracks. The future rail tracks will be in underground tunnels.

This presentation was followed by a talk of Prof. Johann Jessen of the University of Stuttgart who compared urban development in the United States and Germany. His presentation was accompanied by many slides and caused some interesting questions and discussions, mainly because all attendants were very well aware of the differences between the two countries from their own personal experience.

After an excellent lunch the Fulbright Alumni e.V. presented its work. The board members gave descriptions of their work and plans for the future. Next, the different Regional Chapters introduced themselves. They also announced the dates and locations of their respective "Stammtisch" to give everyone the opportunity to keep in touch with fellow Fulbrighters on a regular basis.

In the following, several workshops and talks were offered in parallel and everybody could attend the one he was most interested in. You could choose between a Tango workshop, a seminar on wine (including a wine-tasting), workshops on career development, and workshops aimed at American Fulbrighters in Germany with topics such as "How to survive Germany" and "Working in Germany as an American".

Being a student who graduates soon, I decided to attend the two career workshops. The first one was a presentation by Mr. Johannes Züll of The Boston Consulting Group. He introduced the profession as a consultant and the special application and interviewing procedures required for this job. After a short coffee break, Ms. Anne Friedrich of Hewlett Packard presented an approach to personal evaluation that allowed you to identify your career goals and capabilities.

After a long day of talks and presentations it was time for the relaxing part of the meeting, which took place in the beautiful Marmorsaal, located on a small hill with an excellent view over the city. A first-class dinner buffet was followed by a great party (with free drinks) that lasted late into the night.

On Sunday a rather sleepy crowd got back together at the California Sidewalk Cafe for brunch. Unfortunately, the Cafe staff was not prepared to serve about 100 hungry Fullies so that some of us had to wait up to two hours to get their brunch. However, this was no reason to spoil our good mood. Finally, the meeting came to its end with a sightseeing tour of Stuttgart.

Special thanks to everyone involved in organizing this great weekend!

Jochen Elischberger



My Free Lunch in Stuttgart

It was dark when we arrived in Stuttgart. Katherine, Fahmy and I wound our way up into the hills looking for a youth hostel, and I was immediately reminded of my hometown, Seattle. With the windy, one-way streets that change their name halfway through and the incomprehensible numbering systems, I was home, and we were lost. Eventually, we did find the hostel, and made our way to Sophie's Brauhaus. The evening was much warmer than you'd expect for the end of October – it was a pleasant surprise. Sophie's held a large crowd of Fullies that became larger and noisier as the night went on. I knew no one. None of the people that I had met in Bremen were there. But, living up to our reputation as diplomats, I was welcomed by everyone and felt included. Being a member of such a friendly and open group of people is what really makes my Fulbright feel like an accomplishment to me.

Katherine and I stayed with her friend Martha in the University of Stuttgart dormitories. Her Studentenwohnheim has won an award for its Bauhaus style, and I went wild with the sheer efficiency of its design. The windows that you can flip inside-out and the real wood furniture in the rooms made me feel like I was staying in a luxury hotel, rather than sleeping on the floor of a dormitory room.

Saturday's presentations took place at the Haus der Jugend, which featured some impressive graffiti art. I'm not sure if anyone else noticed it, but I took some pictures. The presentations on "Das Projekt Stuttgart 21" and "Deutschland-USA: ein Städtebaulicher Vergleich" were right up my alley, since I was already so focussed on design. What was really incredible was to find myself sitting in Stuttgart looking at slides of Detroit, a city that I've never seen before. It's amazing how the world comes to you sometimes if you're in the right place and are keeping your eyes open.

At lunch I ended up with part of the faction of Germans who studied at The University of Miami. They told me all about another part of America I've never visited. I have to admit that Miami is beginning to sound pretty good now that the German Winter is setting in. Next, we piled into cars to drive to the Marmorsaal for tango lessons. Yes, while the more duty-minded of us Fullies were at sessions about how to become a management consultant, those hedonistic, live-for-the-moment members of the group were tango dancing.

The Marmorsaal is a gorgeous building on top of a hill, surrounded by a park, which seems like it should be part of a castle, but isn't. It is a decadent space, and though I don't know who built it, I let myself imagine that it was a capricious Duke, who one hundred years ago had secretly kept a harem there (those at my dinner table will remember my story). It was really the perfect place to spend a gorgeous afternoon dancing, and as we were strutting around pretending we were kings and queens, it didn't take much of a leap of imagination to feel like royalty.

A group of us whiled away the hours between dancing and dinner in the park overlooking Stuttgart, then in the overpriced, but gemütlich tea house, also on the grounds. We talked about the confusing topic of dating, German versus American style, and didn't come very far in discovering a term to describe "dating" (American style) in German. Good. Who needs it anyway? I'm glad that I left it behind.

Dinner was first-class. The flower arrangements were gorgeous, the silver was spotless, and the food was tasty and abundant. And, to the delight of many, the drinks were free! As an American Fulbrighter, I didn't have to pay at all, so who says there's no free lunch? It was like Schlaraffenland, as I told someone the next day. I think I speak for a lot of people when I say that the quality of the music did not match that of the excellent dinner that preceded it. Katherine and I had to leave anyway, because the S-Bahn only runs until midnight. The next morning most of us woke up an hour too early because with all of the festivities, we'd forgotten that daylight savings time had ended, but most of us made it to the California Sidewalk Café anyhow. If you were lucky enough to get there early enough to get your food within an hour, and before the excellent bagels ran out, it was great. I can't speak for those who came later. I sat with a group that I had eaten dinner with the night before, and now have contacts all over Germany, whose floors and extra beds I will be gracing over these next ten months.

As Katherine, Fahmy and I re-convened to drive back to Heidelberg, we all agreed that it was an excellent weekend. And for Katherine and me it was virtually free. What could be better than that? I think I'll do it again next year!

Sandra C. Andrews

Why do I do what I do?

Don't ask what the Fulbright Alumni can do for you, ask what you can do for the Fulbright Alumni....

I'm sure all of you recognize that quote. Sorry for being so uncreative. But for me that sentence is the essence of my motivation to actively work within and beyond the Fulbright borders to enhance the spirit of mutual understanding.

Mutual understanding – you may say – is a vision, a dream, which is too huge to ever become reality. Well, you might be right and an uncountable number of fights, misunderstandings, war, hate around the world among people and peoples seem to prove you to be true on every single day.

BUT, and I want to have this small word written in capital letters, BUT there is someone who can make a difference if he or she only believes in it. And this someone is simply: YOU or in my case ME.

If you have ideas to make our world just a little bit better where would you start if not in your own neighborhood, in an environment familiar to you with people you trust will support you.

Thus, if you want something to be done, ideas to be shared you need to become active yourself. Even if this means only to find people who are so enthusiastic about your ideas that they pick them up and realize them. Even then you did your share.

I like to see things done. And I love to do things with people I deeply enjoy working with because we sail on the same sea and believe in the same dreams. And I love to make people happy, see their smiles, enjoy their joy.

I have found such kindred spirits within the Fulbright community in Germany and in other countries. We share the same experience that make us unique in a sense of mindset and not so much in an elitarian way. No matter where a Fulbrighter comes from in the sense of age, race, gender, field of study and profession, he or she has been out to another world, has been curious for other people and has hopefully gained a deeper look into another culture which stays a lifetime.

Being a Fulbrighter does not stop with your year abroad. That is only the starting point. Being a Fulbrighter includes to go out and "preach" the Fulbright spirit. We are ambassadors and the world needs to see us and what we do. It's our duty to become active, these are the rules. If you do not want this duty, do not apply for the Fulbright program. There are other programs around which send you abroad for "nothing" but your own benefit.

Fulbright has been a win-win since I became actively involved. I give something and make things happen for other people and I receive so much from people and through activities. In my town, in Germany, and in the world. Fulbright for me is a powerful international network with wonderful individuals. Some of them have even become very close friends. When I first joined I attended the regional monthly meetings and the national events and started out as a photographer. I have met so many wonderful, intelligent, talented, highly motivated people and I wanted to work with them to learn from them, broaden my horizon. I have done this on different levels of our organization and it has been fun (and sometimes a lot of work but even then you learn for yourself). And it continues to be fun. Thus, by doing something for the Fulbright network, the Fulbright family has done so much for me. I do not want to miss this for the world.

Wiltrud Hammelstein

INTERNET-NEWS

Please take a look at our recently updated web-pages:

<http://www.fulbright-alumni.de/>

A Photo gallery and reports on past and upcoming events . . . See also the "What's new?"-section!

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Oliver Elting

Office hours are weekly on Wednesdays from 3 to 6 pm.

Membership Application

AUFNAHMEANTRAG

Entscheidend für den Aufnahmeantrag sind die Kerndaten (ohne *). Die Angabe der Zusatzdaten (mit *) ist freiwillig. Über die Aufnahme entscheidet der Vorstand.

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Hallo!

Hi! May I introduce myself? I am Matthias. During the academic year of 1993-94 I had the opportunity to study at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. Before and after my stay in Iowa I studied at the TU Munich in the ECE Department (Elektrotechnik und Informationstechnik) where I am currently pursuing a PhD. But: Do you really want to read about that?

At the Welcome Meeting in Stuttgart '98 I chose wine tasting as my afternoon "seminar". That really was a highlight of the Welcome Meeting! Towards the end of the seminar somebody asked me whether I would like to write an article about my experience and expectations with respect to the Fulbright-Alumni e.V. What a request for an engineer, writing! An article!! Well, the wine was fine and I said yes.

(see http://www.fulbright-alumni.de/Events/98-10_WM_Stuttgart/images/10.JPG)

So what are my experience and my expectations? Let me start with how I became a member of the club. I heard about it when I got an invitation letter as a returnee. However, I did not make it to my Welcome Meeting. On the one hand I was not sure whether an alumni association was what I would be interested in at that time. On the other hand it did not appear to be dangerous, indecent or expensive. Thus, I joined the club but never showed up. That was the plan, at least. But then fortune smiled on me: My first research paper was coauthored by an alumnus. I was interviewed for an industry position by another alumnus. I met alumni over and over again. All of them were bright people, yet somewhat strange but very friendly. And each one of them kept asking: Why don't you show up at our meetings?

I did not want to be unfriendly, or even harsh to nice and friendly people. Further, talking with many different people is something like a hobby of mine. Thus I went to the "Stammtisch" and even to the General Assembly in Munich. I have to admit that I am attracted by cool and crazy people. This seemed to become my doom when I decided to join the PowWow team. The organization of the PowWow was wild, sometimes vague, but also a lot of fun. At the end the PowWow turned out to be a great success due to the people, location and sponsors who made it happen. See

http://www.fulbright-alumni.de/Events/99-09_PowWow_Chiemsee/

for further information. Isn't that some experience? Expectations on the other hand are something that I did not think about so far. Sure, I am having expectations, but I have not tried to express them explicitly. The number one expectation is most likely that I want to meet people with whom I could match wits with, who could serve me as role models and maybe even vice versa. Since I like a smile more than a frown the number two expectation is having lots of fun with these people. Are those expectations too high?

At the end of my article many questions remain open. But that does not matter. I met many nice and interesting people among the alumni. That is what counts most to me.

It is the people that make the club!

Matthias Senn



A RATHER ORDINARY REGIONAL CHAPTER?

Feel free to call your Regional Coordinator listed in this issue. And join in the fun. By the way, the picture was taken at the Frankfurt Regional Chapter's Halloween party in 1998. And who knows the two on the photo? – Sure?

