

FRANK *by*

THE FULBRIGHT ALUMNI E.V. NEWSLETTER



EDITION 2001

Inside Out

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GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Fulbrighters and friends of the Fulbright Alumni e.V.,

We start the new millenium with the 13th edition of our FRANKly, which is definitely not a bad sign.

The FRANKly is the only official printed publication of our association and it's aim is to inform our members and friends about our activities, discussions, and work. It is published once a year.

All our activities, be it local, regional, national, or international, are organized by some of our 900 members on a solely voluntary basis. I would like to thank each and everyone of them for their tireless efforts which made our events and work successful last year.

After 15 years of our existence, the German Fulbright Alumni e.V. has matured into a broad based association with a solid foundation that provides us with the strength, energy, and creativity to keep up the high standards for our events and activities which are primarily aimed at the Fulbright family in Germany. But the foundation also makes it easy for me as the president and for everyone else who represents the association to the outside world to take a stand and be sure we can deliver what is committed.

We started the last year in February in the German capital with our annual meeting and a splendid Winterball in the Hilton Hotel at one of Berlin's most beautiful locations, the Gendarmenmarkt.

Our members were invited to a strategy meeting in July to Burg Hohnstein in Saxony to discuss the association's goals and activities for the coming years.

In September, 30 members gathered with Fulbrighters from 17 other countries in Toledo/Spain for the 3rd European Fulbright Alumni workshop to get to know each other and work on common projects to bring the European Fulbrighters closer together.

Our Frankfurt Regional Chapter organized last year's Welcome Meeting at the beginning of November. This meeting has been a tradition since we started our association to welcome back the just returned German Fulbright scholars and to welcome current American Fulbright grantees to Germany.

The new year started with a very effectively held annual meeting and a splendid Winterball from 9th till 11th of February 2001 in Hamburg. A new board was elected which presents itself in this edition.

Our 11 regional chapters, the backbone of our activities, have also been very active throughout the year in organizing local and regional events. They "represent" our association to the German and American Fulbrighters on a local basis, and they get

more and more involved in local German-American interest groups. Representatives of the Frankfurt Regional chapter, for example were invited to the President's lunch to the Amerika-Haus. The Cologne Fulbright alumni chapter was invited to the Thanksgiving party of the Deutsch-Amerikanische Gesellschaft. You will find reports of our regional chapters in this issue.

The cooperation with the German-American Fulbright Commission was further enhanced last year: Members represented our association at all orientation sessions for both German and American scholars. We were invited to the Berlin conference in March and members sat on the selection committees interviewing German applicants for the exchange year 2001/2002. We just asked members to help organize internships for German Fulbright scholars while being in the US in the Fulbright Alumni program for FH-students. Five German students are supported financially this academic year through a donation to the "Verein der Freunde und Förderer des Deutsch-Amerikanischen Fulbright Programmes e.V.", which we joined in 1999.

What lies ahead for 2001? Our regional chapters are discussing the organization of our yearly events, e.g. the regional chapter Stuttgart plans to organize a PowWow in September on "food/nutrition". Another sailing trip on the Baltic Sea will be offered under the slogan "Bright people under full sail" in October. We will also organize our first Fulbright family weekend; it is scheduled for 14-17 June. The weekend is intended to invite Fulbrighters, with or without family, for an informal reunion with no scheduled agenda and topics. We would like to gather, discuss, and have fun. And if members find common interests and want to develop a project or an event for the association, well, great!

The Hungarian Fulbright alumni association is going to celebrate their 10th anniversary, and so is the Oregon Alumni Association. We hold close ties with both associations and would like to congratulate both on their anniversaries.

We have already started to discuss our activities for the year 2002, which will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the German-American Fulbright program. At the annual general assembly in Hamburg, an advisor to the board was elected to coordinate our activities and the participants came up with splendid ideas.

You will read about this in our next edition of the FRANKly.

For now I would like to invite you to take some time to enjoy reading this edition of the FRANKly.

All the best,
Wiltrud Hammelstein

GENERAL INFORMATION

History and Purpose

The German Fulbright Alumni e.V., FAeV, was founded in Frankfurt in 1986 by former Fulbrighters. By 2001, 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 a forum for the discussion of any issues relevant to people during and 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
1998: Stuttgart
1999: Leipzig
2000: Frankfurt

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, Frauenchiemsee
2001: Food/Nutrition, Stuttgart

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), Todtna/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

GENERAL INFORMATION



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. The second conference of this kind was held last year in Toledo, Spain. 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 support for the Fulbright program, our association stays in close but independent contact with the Fulbright Commission in Berlin.

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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INTERVIEW PRESIDENT

FRANKly: Wiltrud, congratulations on your election as President of the German FAeV. What made you decide to candidate for your position on the board of the FAeV?

Wiltrud: I have been actively involved within the German Fulbright Alumni Association for 10 years. Starting as a "photographer" at national events, being advisor to the board for the East German states, vice-president for events and regional chapters and finally president. I like to work with people who have the same attitude and with whom I can share mutual experiences. I see that the German Fulbright Alumni Association has a vast potential of intelligent people who mostly are far more active and creative than the average. For me it is fun to work with these people on projects, support them with my experience and learn from them. It is a Win-Win learning experience. Being the president you are involved in all questions/projects (and I'm a curious person:-)) but you can also "delegate" tasks to members of the team. In addition, the president represents the Association to the outside world. It always makes me very proud to do so, talk about our work and bring back the astonishment and the respect of others about our achievements with only non-paid volunteers. I personally think this is the secret of our success: highly motivated people who do not give their share for fame or fortune but simply for fun.

FRANKly: What do you want to achieve for our members and for yourself in this position?

Wiltrud: - coordinate the activities of the board and the advisors: This is an ongoing task and its achievement depends on the time and motivation both parties can put in. This year we have a wonderful combination of three experienced and two new board members. The annual general assembly also elected various advisors who concentrate on a specific project or topic. The goal is to spread the work on more shoulders but also attract motivated members to get actively involved. One main task this year is to start with the preparations of the activities for the 50th anniversary of the German American Fulbright Program. We elected an advisor to support the board and we look for members who would like to work with us. So get in touch with me, I look forward to hearing from you.

- discuss strategic issues with members: We held a strategy meeting with about 30 members in Hohnstein and discussed various topics (regional chapter work, international, communication, finances)

- revitalize "sleeping" regional chapters: In the 10 years of my membership I have seen all regional chapters being active or sleeping. It highly depends on a driving person/group who gets things started

We have the tools and the media to share experiences and learn from each other. It is still a task to improve communication among the regional chapters and between the regional chapters and the board.

- broaden the contact with other Fulbright Associations: 30 of our members participated in the European Workshop in Toledo/Spain. For me it was the 3rd workshop of this kind. Although the German Fulbright Alumni Associations is the youngest by average age, we are perceived as the strongest and most important in Europe and as a driving force for further European activities. I believe we can live up to the expectations but it needs a shift in our perspective towards Europe.

- intensify the contact with the US-Association: Being a member of the US Fulbright Association I'm kept informed about their activities which I regularly distribute to our members. The attendance of their annual conference in Washington D.C. is a "must" for me. Over Easter I had the honor to be invited to an American university to talk about how important it is to study and live abroad for some time and to learn foreign languages. I was totally excited about it and I would like to thank Nadine Brewer and her colleagues from Buena Vista University in Storm Lake/Iowa for the kind invitation.

- intensify the work with the Fulbright Commission: The cooperation with the Fulbright Commission has been enhanced in the last years:

- we take part in the introduction meetings for German and US scholars - members are invited for the interviews of applicants

- we are invited to the annual Berlin conference in March

- we are present with an article in every "Funnel", the "Funnel" winter 2000 was dedicated to the work of the FAeV

- we are asked for support to find internships for German students in the US (a pilot program which is called "Alumni program" is running this year for the first time)



INTERVIEW PRESIDENT



continued "Interview - President"

- we are a member of the "Association of Friends and Sponsors of the German American Fulbright Program" and have donated financial support for two years now to support German Fulbrighters to go to the US. We look forward to continuing this with the new director of the Fulbright Commission.

- The 50th anniversary of the German-American Fulbright Program lies ahead in 2002 and we would like to align our activities with the Fulbright Commission to really give the program a boost.

FRANKly: What does "Fulbright" mean to you personally?

Wiltrud: For me "Fulbright" is an attitude: go out, be curious, live and learn, see the world through the eyes of others and enjoy the enriching experience of friendships with people of the same spirit all around the world. The Fulbright experience is very personal and it does not stop with the return to your home country; that's when it starts. And it grows and flourishes over a lifetime.

FRANKly: (How) did your Fulbright-experience influence your life?

Wiltrud: The Fulbright experience has shaped my life professionally and personally: after my studies I only applied at and so far have worked for American companies who operate worldwide. It's a daily challenge to work with people from different cultures and mostly communicate in a foreign language which can be more difficult and time-consuming than speaking in your mother tongue. But in the end I

think you learn more in an international environment. I think the Fulbright experience has made me more sensitive for people. Personally, I have found true friends through my Fulbright experience and within the Fulbright community.

FRANKly: Where do you think the FAeV should be going?

Wiltrud: I think that we have reached a stage in the development of our association where we should and could open up more to the "Outside" world. We have a solid foundation through 15 years of experience which we are expected to share with other associations in Europe. They see us as the engine for the Fulbright idea in Europe, manpower-wise, financially and by the sheer amount of activities we do locally, nationally, and internationally. All on a volunteer basis. We should be very proud of this and see it as a further motivation to continue our work. I do not think that we as the FAeV should get politically involved because it would mean taking sides. The board has been asked by members to speak up at various incidents and get involved in political issues, which we have refused to do. However, I see the FAeV as a platform for the discussion of topics that are discussed in society. The Pow Wows are a good example of how we deal with topics: we try to invite speakers who cover the full range of aspects of a specific topic. We do not want to give solutions but challenge everyone to be open to see things from a different angle. There is room for improvement to get this out to the public.

FRANKly: Thank you for the interview and good luck plus a lot of success for you and your team!!! ■



INTERVIEW BOARD MEMBERS

FRANKly: Dagmar, congratulations on your election as Vice President International and Returnees. What made you decide to run for the board of the FAeV?

Dagmar: After having enjoyed the activities of the German Fulbright Alumni Association (FAeV) mostly as a "happy consumer" ever since I came back from my Fulbright year, I had a strong feeling that it was about time to give back to the FAeV and its great group of people. Time to get more involved, beyond occasional assistance at specific events or taking on limited functions on a regional level. And time to use organizational skills I didn't have to the same extent before I started working, but learned to appreciate during my term as VP for Events and Regional Chapters in 2000. I wanted to get to know the FAeV more thoroughly and get in contact with new people within the organization that hadn't been on my radar screen before. Being a board member of the FAeV is definitely the right way to do that. Just elected as VP for International Affairs and Returnees for 2001, I look forward to being able to get back on true "Fulbright turf". This will mean to be in contact with Fulbright alumni in other countries on the International Affairs side but at the same time not to get lost in nostalgia over past experiences. I will contribute my share to the present of the Fulbright experience by running the FAeV "services" for the German Fulbright grantees leaving for the U.S. and for the American Fulbright grantees arriving in Germany, for example the host program for the latter group.

FRANKly: What do you want to achieve as Vice President for International Affairs and Returnees/American Grantees?

Dagmar: For the international perspective I would like to strengthen our, the FAeV's, existing ties to Fulbright Alumni Associations in other countries by helping to bring people together to share their past (Fulbright and non-Fulbright) experiences, hopefully by an increasing number of international Fulbright alumni events like for example the European Fulbright Alumni Meeting in Toledo/Spain in September 2000. There is nothing like open-minded interesting people from different countries, cultures, backgrounds coming together and exchanging and discussing ideas, views and wishes. We all experienced that during our Fulbright year, no matter where and when it took place, and my aim would be to have frequent international Fulbright alumni meetings of all kinds - big and small - to repeat and refresh this experience as much as possible, at least for a few days! With regard to the German returnees and American grantees, I would like to build on my predecessors' good work and, just as they did, improve and further develop the services the FAeV tries to provide on a voluntary non-paid basis to both groups of grantees. Hopefully I will find many FAeV volunteers to help me do my job as

well as possible. To volunteer can mean just being a weekend host for an American or German student during our annual Welcome Meeting as well as representing the FAeV and providing helpful advice at the seminars organized by the Fulbright Commission for the German grantees about to leave for the U.S., among many other things. We also need members to take part in our general host program for American grantees, i.e. there is room for all kinds and levels of involvement.

FRANKly: Dagmar, what does Fulbright mean to you personally?

Dagmar: It has a very personal meaning in memory of Senator Fulbright himself. I had the privilege to meet and talk to him in person at a small summer garden party in Washington, D.C. where about twelve Fulbright grantees from all over the world had a chance to spend some intense time with him, more than at the usual big receptions with hundreds of people. I like the fact that he went to the same law school I was a student at as a Fulbright scholar. He even taught there for a short while before becoming a senator. We had a quite funny conversation where he convinced us of the logic link between German cars and the Arkansas poultry business. But far beyond that one afternoon "Fulbright" means all the things to me, Senator Fulbright and his supporters had in mind and laid down in writing when they created the Fulbright program. Big words and aims but nevertheless experienced by many actual and former "Fulbrighters" throughout the world.

FRANKly: What did the Fulbright experience change in your life?

Dagmar: It gave me the chance to see the world from an angle I wouldn't have had otherwise. I made new friends - American and from abroad -, some for life (hopefully, looks good!). I also got a new perspective on my own country and continent, both on the negative and the positive side, and it truly helped me to better understand the U.S. and how it ticks. The Fulbright experience "provided" me with the chance to earn a US degree and thereby somehow to end up working for an American company in Europe. I like to think that my Fulbright Year has made me more open-minded and



VICE PRESIDENT INTERNATIONAL - DAGMAR SCHREIBER

INTERVIEW BOARD MEMBERS



TREASURER - MICHAEL SCHEFZCYK

Inside Out

continued "Interview - Board Members"

tolerant towards different ways of being and doing things, but even if that weren't true it has definitely changed me somehow and my view on the world, especially with regard to people.

FRANKly: "Inside out", where do you think the Fulbright Alumni e.V. should be going?

Dagmar: We should keep going as we are, but we should always remember to once in a while reinvent ourselves in order to avoid stagnation and complacency. I would like for us to be even more actively involved in helping American grantees have a great Fulbright year in Germany. We should make sure to speak up for the Fulbright program itself when necessary in order to give many more the chance to have their own Fulbright experience. I would also want us to have more interaction with other Fulbright Alumni on a European scale. Plus, have fun together while trying to achieve all these goals.

FRANKly: Thank you for this interview and enjoy your time on the board. ■



FRANKly: Michael, congratulations on your election as treasurer of the FAeV. What made you decide to candidate for your position on the board of the FAeV?

Michael: The Fulbright-Program always meant more to me than plain financial aid, as there is such a rich underlying concept plus a lot of history. Since joining the FAeV, I've held various positions requiring less frequent activities (fundraising, auditor) over a number of years. After a while, I was ready to contribute some more time to the association. In addition, I enjoy staying in touch with the fellow board-members.

FRANKly: What do you want to achieve for our members and for yourself in this position?

Michael: My most practical goal as a treasurer is to create a rather "professional" structure that helps us to manage the association efficiently. Thus, all of us can focus more on fulfilling the association's purpose and maybe a little less on administrative

tasks. Steps on this direction include more automated mailings (receipts, notices etc.), an almost mandatory direct debit payment process, improved cash management, online banking, and an update of our internal governance for conformity with the ever changing revenue service requirements. To better allocate financial responsibility within the board, I have also introduced a budgeting process for the first time.

FRANKly: What does "Fulbright" mean to you personally?

Michael: My first thought is about Senator Fulbright as a person. 1991, I met him at his law office in Washington D.C. for an hour or so. Arranging the meeting was surprisingly simple and absolutely worth it. He presented himself as an elderly gentlemen who was able to talk about a fulfilled life in a more genuine manner than anyone else I met. In addition, he was extremely interested in any aspect of a Fulbright scholar's perspective. This was despite the fact that he must have had multiple meetings of this kind.

FRANKly: How, if at all, did your Fulbright-experience influence your life?

Michael: The Fulbright-experience absolutely changed my life-track in many ways. I had been to England, Israel and the US as a non-tourist before. However, these 18 months were more intense than other international experiences. It was an opportunity to complete my studies much more effectively than what can be expected at a typical German university. In addition, it paved my road into consulting as my first professional field. Without some academic roots in the US – and some ability to compare two systems – I would not have decided to focus on an academic career as a second professional step after consulting. In addition, lots of connections still very much influence my life. Connections include academic colleagues in the US, my "host" parents and very much also fellow Fulbright alumni in other countries, such as Italy.

FRANKly: Where do you think the FAeV should be going?

Michael: In my view, our biggest challenge is still to focus more on doing good things for others. We are well on track to form an active network of fellow Fulbright alumni in Germany. This is to the great benefit for all of us. Nevertheless, we ought to do more for non-members in the context of international understanding. Unfortunately, our pool of practical ideas remains somewhat shallow. Some members criticise our contributions to the Fulbright Commission as less creative. However, neither them nor me have been able to present a more convincing idea, yet.

FRANKly: Thank you for the interview. ■

INTERVIEW BOARD MEMBERS

continued "Interview - Board Members"

FRANKly: Anja, you have been elected as Vice President National Events and Regional Chapters, congratulations. Since we don't know you so far, would you be so kind to introduce yourself briefly?

Anja: Born in a small town close to Stuttgart in 1973, I was raised in Kempten, a lovely city in the Southern part of Bavaria. After graduating from high school, I spent one year in the United States to work as an Au Pair for a Chinese family in a suburb of Boston. Coming back from the US, I studied Business Administration in Würzburg. After receiving my Diploma, the Fulbright grant allowed me to do my MBA at Adelphi University, NY. I completed my degree in 2000 and started working at the Human Resources department for a consultancy in Munich.

FRANKly: So you returned from your Fulbright year just last year. How did you get in touch with the FAeV?

Anja: Almost right after my return from the USA, I contacted our Munich regional chapter to learn more about their activities. My first contact with the German Fulbright Alumni Association was at the Welcome-Meeting of the Munich regional chapter, which was a great opportunity to get to know many returnees as well as American grantees. I joined the Fulbright Alumni e.V. and soon got involved in various activities of the regional chapter Munich.

FRANKly: And now you've been elected to the board of the FAeV. What made you decide to candidate for your position on the board of the FAeV?

Anja: "It's not just a year, it's for a whole life" probably describes best my motivation to serve the German Fulbright Alumni Association. My year as a Fulbrighter in the US has given me so much, personally and professionally, that now it is on me to give something back in return. Promoting the Fulbright idea and spreading it within our society is just one aspect of it.

FRANKly: What do you want to achieve as Vice President National Events and Regional Chapters?



Anja: I hope to successfully continue my predecessors' work. However, our members' support is essential to make this happen. Also, our "Orga-Manual" has to be reviewed, focusing on communication via the new media. I look forward to working with people who share the same experiences and enthusiasm, with people who believe in the same ideals.

FRANKly: Thank you for the interview and good luck for your work on the board. ■



FRANKly: Holger, congratulations on your election as Vice President Info-Center. What made you decide to candidate for your position on the board of the FAeV?

Holger: My engagement on the board is basically a continuation of my involvement in the association since I returned from the USA. When I came back from the United States, I was informed about the activities of the Fulbright Alumni e.V. I decided to get in touch with people at the regional group meetings. Later this group decided to organize the Winterball and general assembly 2000 in Berlin. I liked the idea and helped to organize it. When the general assembly 2000 took place, I agreed to take the position as mailing list manager. This got me into contact with many members of the association, and also with the board. The former board member for the Info Center approached me two months before this year's convention to ask me whether I was interested in his position. It took me some time to decide. But now I think the involvement in the association's activities, the fun to work together with other people voluntarily, and the challenges and new experiences working in a nationwide association are really worth the time. The work as mailing list manager, and the insight into the association I got this way, helped me with my decision to candidate for the position.

Frankly: What do you want to achieve for our members and for yourself in this position?

Holger: From the point of view as a member of the association and mailing list manager I think Lothar, my predecessor, did quite a good job managing

INTERVIEW BOARD MEMBERS



VICE PRESIDENT INFOCENTER - HOLGER SCHÖNER

Inside Out

continued "Interview - Board Members"

The association's media; so one of my goals is to continue his good work. Other goals concern challenges which are new this year.

We plan to distribute the internal "newspaper", the FAIN, mainly in an electronic version, as a PDF file. This will allow us to be more up to date and publish it more frequently. The information gathering process has to be reorganized in order to put that into practice. Some members still want to get the FAIN in the established paper format; so we will have to determine, who will get the FAIN electronically, by email, or from the web-site, and who will get it by regular mail.

Another issue arising this year is the preparation for the 50th anniversary of the German-American Fulbright Program next year. This will be an important event, and it should be reflected appropriately in our media.

Last, but not least, for myself, I hope to get in closer contact to people who are active for our association and share my ideas about it.

FRANKly: What does "Fulbright" mean to you personally?

Holger: Certainly, the first things that come to my mind when thinking about "Fulbright", are my own experiences during the one year stay in the United States. This had a large influence on my way of life, even back here in Germany, because of the many activities I was involved in, and the people of many different cultures, ages, and social backgrounds I

met there. Even though I was interested before, I never got to know so many different people in school or studying here in Germany. It is also a very stimulating experience to be thrown into a different culture, having to build up a new life - at least temporarily - without relying on established contacts, friends, etc.

Besides the wonderful memories of my time in the United States, I feel that the program is really necessary. Even in our world, half a century after Senator Fulbright established the program, there seems to be a lack of understanding, especially between people of different cultural backgrounds. When learning about some horrible actions in the news (e.g. racism), I wonder, what makes these people act like they do. What experiences must they have had? Or which ones are they missing? I think having been to a different culture yourself, being forced to live there for a while, having contacts and hopefully friends there, is an important experience in that regard; it puts yourself into a similar situation, being alien in an unfamiliar environment. It shows you that there are many people who seem to be different, might have motivations different from yours, but still are very similar to people you know, having the same kind of feelings ... This is but a single example of the valuable experiences one can have living in another country; certainly everybody will make somewhat different observations. But the sum of these collected impressions, and the multiplicative effort these have when returnees deal with others, are what makes the Fulbright idea so valuable.

FRANKly: Where do you think the FAeV should be going?

Holger: For me, the experience "Fulbright Alumni Association" has to consist of two parts. One part is simply fun. Fun for the alumni by meeting, being together, remembering, discussing. This takes place mainly in the regional chapters, but also at events like the Winterball, the Welcome Meeting or the Pow Wows.

The second largest task of the association is to support the Fulbright program and its ideas. By being member of the association "Freunde und Förderer des Deutsch-Amerikanischen Fulbright Programms e.V." we are trying to help the program itself as much as we can. Something I miss in our association is public work. Although our members and other alumni certainly function as multipliers of the Fulbright idea, I had to notice, that the program, and therefore its ideas, are much better known in the USA than in Germany. The 50th anniversary of the program next year seems to me to be a good opportunity to address a larger audience.

FRANKly: Thank you for the interview, Holger. ■



THE FULBRIGHT LEGACY

By The Hon. Joseph Duffey,
Director, United States Information Agency

J. William Fulbright's crowning achievement came in the earliest days of his long and productive Senate career. It was only two weeks after we bombed Hiroshima that he sponsored legislation creating the international educational exchange program which bears his name. The program was his pride and consolation for 50 years.

"The exchange program is the thing that reconciles me to all the difficulties of political life," he once said. "It's the only activity that gives me some hope that the human race won't commit suicide..."

Bill Fulbright continued to actively promote his exchange program well into his ninth decade, even from a wheelchair. He never stopped believing in its purposes and always spoke about them powerfully and eloquently.

Before he died in February 1995, even as he was less prominent on the public stage in his own land, other nations on every continent continued to bestow on him their highest honors. They recognized that his program had helped to educate several generations around the globe. Fulbright's name has become part of world language. Speak in India or Japan or Sweden of a "Fulbrighter" and the reference has widespread instant recognition.

In 1945, the freshman senator from Arkansas looked out on the devastation of World War II and on the new atomic age. He took seriously the admonition of Albert Einstein who said, "We must acquire a substantially new manner of thinking if mankind is to survive." Remembering his own experience as a Rhodes Scholar, Fulbright reasoned that people and nations had to learn to think globally if the world were to avoid annihilation.

He believed that if a large number of people came to know, understand, work and learn beside their counterparts in other cultures, "they might," he said, "develop a capacity for empathy, a distaste for killing other men, and an inclination for peace."

His legislation establishing the Fulbright Program slipped through the Senate without debate on August 1, 1946. At first, the program was funded by war reparations and foreign loan repayments to the United States.

Since then the program has brought more than 120,000 foreign nationals to teach, study or do research in the United States, and sent more than 90,000 Americans overseas to do the same. Robert B. McCallum, an Oxford Don, called this "the largest and most significant movement of scholars across the face of the earth since the fall of Constantinople in 1453."

Many foreign Fulbrighters have returned home to become prime ministers, cabinet members, diplomats, newspaper editors, and academics. Some, like United Nations Secretary-General Boutros

Boutros-Ghali, have gone from national to international prominence.

American Fulbrighters have included university presidents Derek Bok and Hannah Gray; economist Milton Friedman; scientist Joshua Lederberg; historian Henry Steele Commager; authors John Updike and Eudora Welty; musician Aaron Copland; actor Stacy Keach; opera singer Anna Moffo; and politician Daniel Patrick Moynihan, among others. They also have included not-so-well-known Americans -- hundreds of elementary and high school teachers who have exchanged classrooms with foreign counterparts for a year and returned home to broaden the views of their own students.

Inspired by the value and generosity of this U.S.-funded program, some of the 130 countries where the exchange operates now contribute up to half the funds needed to run their individual programs.

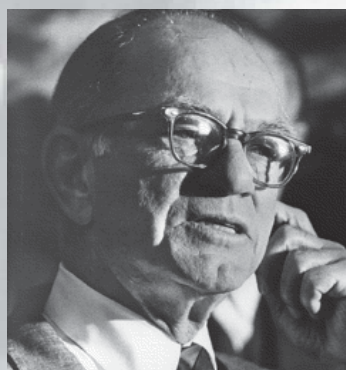
In 1984, more than 100 former Japanese Fulbrighters returned to the United States on what they called a "Sentimental Journey," bearing a gift of \$1.6 million they had raised to bring more American Fulbrighters to Japan. Some in this Japanese delegation had studied in the United States immediately after the War. Said one who went on to become Japan's ambassador to the United States: "In those days, just after the occupation, there were articles in the Japanese press which were very anti-American. After living in the United States for a year, I simply couldn't believe those arguments."

The Fulbright Program continues to live in and reflect the world around it. ...

...For 50 years, he [J.W. Fulbright] remained convinced of his program's value. In his book, *The Price of Empire*, published in 1987, he wrote: "It is a modest program with an immodest aim -- the achievement in international affairs of a regime more civilized, rational and humane...I believed in that possibility when I began. I still do."

Others do, too. The people in Fulbright's hometown in Arkansas endorse the vision of the world he brought them and the importance of the program he sponsored. In a flower garden in the Fayetteville town square is a bust of their favorite son, inscribed with these words:

"In the beauty of these gardens, we honor the beauty of his dream: peace among nations and the free exchange of knowledge and ideas across the earth."



FULBRIGHT ALUMNI PAST TO PRESENT



By Jürgen Mulert and Jürgen Simon

The past - foundation and growth of the Fulbright Alumni e.V. (FA eV)

When 16 Fulbright grantees gathered in Frankfurt in November 1985, they could not anticipate the rapid growth and success of the association they were about to found. They had come together upon invitation of Jürgen Mulert, who at this time worked at the secretary's office of the German Fulbright Commission in Bonn. Jürgen's vision was that Fulbright grantees should maintain contact and support each other after they return from their studies in the USA. They should find a haven not only to overcome the reverse culture shock immediately after re-entering Germany, but also to establish a network to support US-German relations on many levels and, last but not least, establish a network of personal and professional contacts.

Jürgen Mulert remembers:

„It just so happened that I was there at the right place at the right time, Bonn, 1985. Working in Bonn at the secretary of the German Fulbright Commission, I had seen literally hundreds of enterprising members of the German academic community going to the United States with a Fulbright grant and returning to the old country even more enterprising after the end of the grant period - at least most of them, since those who stayed for good in the U.S. belonged to a small minority of less than 4 percent.

As Dr. Ulrich Littmann, the Executive Secretary of the Commission for more than a generation, explained, most returnees in one way or another „pay back“ their Fulbright grant by doing something useful for society after their return. I had the chance to do so by simply being there at the right place at the right moment. Of course, I cannot claim any originality in getting the German Fulbright Alumni Association started. It had been tried before, unfortunately, however, with an unhappy ending due to the exigencies of the Program itself, requiring priority for the grantees rather than the alumni, if that was the only alternative. But why should the Commission pay for its alumni?

My experience at the secretary of the Fulbright Commission in Bonn for more than ten years prompted me to get in touch with a number of former grantees, clustered in the Frankfurt/Main area. While Gabriele Steck-Bromme was working on her LL.M. degree in Florida, her husband, Hans-Burkhardt Steck, a lawyer in his own right, represented her in her absence. He was instrumental in getting the bylaws of the new Alumni Association off the ground. Everybody even vaguely familiar with the German law of private associations knows that there always has to be an institution which would take over the mortal remains in case the Association folds. The German Academic



Exchange Service („DAAD“) was kind enough to assume this role at first.

Then came that fine day in November 1985 permanently stored in our memories when sixteen of us (the founding mothers and fathers: Thomas Giegerich, Sabine Henrich, Antje Hildebrandt, Karin Hirsch, Susanne Kassner, Harald Kubiczak, Heike Lehnert, Jürgen Mulert, Ulrike Plewnia, Petra Schuck, Dr. Jürgen Simon, Oliver Steinmetz, Beate Wießner and Detlev Wolter) got together in Frankfurt at the office of Hans-Burkhardt Steck to our historic meeting in order to read, deliberate and pass the bylaws of the Association. Ulrike Plewnia suggested the name Fulbright Alumni Association, a definite improvement over the working title „Friends of ...“ Yet there was one thing left to do, i.e. to elect the first board members: Oliver Steinmetz, sitting to my right, nominated me for president, but I returned the favor nominating him instead for this office. He accepted the nomination and was elected. On hindsight, the best decision. I contributed as recording secretary for several years.”

Jürgen Mulert had assessed the need for such an organization correctly. Once the Founding Fathers and Mothers had signed the foundation charter, the association grew rapidly. After a few years we had reached the 500 member threshold. Today, membership hovers around 1000 members, depending on how diligently the Treasurer eliminates the „ghost members“ from the database, those without a valid address or without sufficient willingness to pay their annual membership fees.

And the association obviously remains attractive to returning Fulbright grantees as reflected in the 40-60 membership applications presented to the board annually. The annual loss of members is small and mostly due to understandable reasons such as moving abroad or lack of time to attend any FAeV activities due to serious time constraints.

The local Fulbright Commission may have looked upon the foundation of a returnee association with a name similar to theirs suspiciously in the late 1980s. Gradually, the relationship improved to a very cordial co-operation with both partners knowing

FULBRIGHT ALUMNI PAST TO PRESENT

continued "Fulbright Alumni - Past to Present"

very well that either of them have "strenghts" to build on jointly for the benefit of international education and mutual understanding between the USA and Germany.



The present - steadily improved office administration and growing professionalism

In the 15 years after its foundation the association has developed in a fashion comparable to any growing organization. We have become a truly professionally managed association by now:

The rapid growth of membership required adjustments in the administration of the association. While it helped the internal communication and our then very limited funds to meet in the living room of our former President, Antje Hildebrand, the space available became too small to host the active members for meetings or even the files in the long run. Consequently, we moved the office to our first external site in downtown Frankfurt: 1994. The current office in Frankfurt-Bornheim is the third one and, hopefully, will remain our core administration center for many more years.

With the establishment of an external office and the growth of the membership, the board decided to hire a part-time support person for clerical tasks. By that time, several board members resided in other cities than Frankfurt, and those present near the office had to spend too much time on printing address labels and donation receipts or on preparing the collection of membership fees by direct debit. While the first employee of FAeV had been an active member, we now have office support which is linked to the association by work contract and not by personal membership.

Our large number of members soon required the support of IT hardware and software. So far we have been lucky to attract active members for the maintenance of our growing database with which we could produce the office output as required by the regional chapters, the board, and the tax authorities. While the first PC was a donation of a sponsor, the latest version had to be purchased

from membership fees.

The association is well linked to the rest of the world: all members can call the office at fixed office hours, our e-mail address is frequently used as an internal communication link, and our website is sufficiently attractive to serve as key notice board to the outside. Thanks to many members' initiatives we remain up-to-date with the latest communication technology; for example, the need for an attractive



website was discussed with the board already in the mid-1990s.

The future - where do we go from here? An attempt of a vision for the next 5 years

The key objective must remain the acquisition of new members every year. Only by attracting young returnees to the association can we assure the inflow of new ideas and long-lasting continuity of the FAeV history. Many Fulbright Associations in other countries envy us for the even age structure and the low average age of our members. We should invest all efforts in maintaining this key to our longevity!

The age structure of our membership will continue to change. While the majority of members up to the early 1990s had been students, today less than 20% of our current members have this status. And slowly but steadily, this percentage is going to decrease further in the years to come. This implies that fewer members will have the time and the flexibility to organize local and national FAeV events and to be active in the administration of FAeV affairs on the regional level and as Board member or Coordinator on the extended Board. However, the character of the association depends on volunteers for the management of its administration as well as for the organization of local and national events. While we will continue to outsource activities such as copying and mailing invitations or providing the catering during our gatherings, we must always maintain an active membership willing to organize the affairs of the association.

Linked to the age-structure is the social structure of

FULBRIGHT ALUMNI PAST TO PRESENT



continued "Fulbright Alumni - Past To Present"

the active membership. To a large extent, the events of the Verein have become a gathering of singles who see the FAeV as their substitute family. Many married members, particularly those with children, became inactive members. Re-integrating them will be an interesting challenge for the future. Another challenge will be to master the generation conflict inherent in the membership with ages between the mid-twenties and the high sixties. Clearly, the original common link of the studies in the USA is not going to be sufficient as uniting band between the members and the memories of great days on a US campus are going to fade away with growing distance from those glorious days. A first visible example of very divergent interests due to the wide range of ages between the young returnees and the established members was the choice of disco music on the party boat on the Rhine river during the Welcome Meeting in Cologne in 1995.

Our sound financials permit us to provide grants, currently distributed via the Fulbright Commission. This way we start returning to society what has greatly benefitted all of us individually in the past. Once successful in their jobs, our members will gain above average income. We should plan how to use the future financial well-being of our members to support others in need, e.g., with a focus on furthering international educational efforts or with support of measures towards mutual cultural understanding. While the first members have reached retirement already, several more will in the next decade. Many of them are active singles; we should consider how the Verein can make good use of their time and expertise. And we should be prepared for receiving trust funds for special designated purposes from the inheritance of members who consider the association in their wills.

Internationally, the worldwide Fulbright family will grow together in the years to come. Europe-wide meetings in Budapest, Strasbourg and Toledo in recent years are clear proof of the fact that we are an interested group of travel-thirsty people keen to meet others. Maybe, someday these contacts will go beyond personal friendship towards political influence and a better understanding between nations.

On the national level, Fulbright grantees will continue to be extremely mobile and move for their jobs easily from one city to the next. The regional FAeV organizations will provide the initial social contacts to back up the professional mobility required today in the job market.

Final comment

All readers are invited to disagree with this outlook to the future of the FAeV. The board welcomes all ideas

which will further the objectives of mutual cultural understanding, particularly between the USA and Germany, by building international social, cultural or professional networks in favor of this objective. Each member is invited to contribute to shaping the association and pass on their ideas at strategy meetings typically held bi-annually upon invitation of the board.

Jürgen Mulert about the secret of success for the Fulbright Alumni e.V.:

....But what is the secret of success for our association? Well, I guess, first and foremost it is the commitment to the ideas and ideals of Senator J. William Fulbright. Secondly it is the fact that the association consists of a very congenial group of former grantees devoting all their imagination and free time promoting, realizing and representing the goals of the association. I think, it was a very wise decision not to compromise the financial independence in any way and not to accept institutional members to full membership (i.e. only without voting rights). The support granted by many individuals (especially our distinguished „Beirat“ members) and institutions in agreement with the goals of the Association makes it flourish.

What is indeed more appealing in a "material world" than to contribute to a private initiative which has no other "raison d'être" than to work for the common good, in our case especially mutual understanding, combined with a rare type of common sense, if not pragmatism, congeniality, good humour, and efficiency."

Jürgen Mulert and Jürgen Simon are two of the Founding Fathers and Mothers of the FAeV. ■



FAEV SUPPORTS FULBRIGHTERS

by Wiltrud Hammelstein
and Michael Tonke (President 1998/99)

FAeV supports Fulbright scholars with financial means

In the middle of the 90s, the discussion arose to open up and get involved in projects that serve the public following our statutes. Our association had matured and learned through growing pains, and through a wise spending of membership fees, we had been able to put financial resources into reserves for unforeseen expenses. We had grown in number and become more professional in budgeting our events and planning the expenses. So a surplus had remained in the accounts. The board at that time agreed that the resources should not be spent for the benefit of members. After 10 years of mainly focusing on the inside development of our association, we were ready to get involved in outside causes and start to align with others who also promote mutual understanding in the true Fulbright sense.

We put an article in our e-mail list in June 1998 to ask for suggestions and to put the discussion on a broader basis. Ideas came in like supporting libraries, other organizations who serve a humane purpose, giving funds for educational projects, creating a scholarship on our own, supporting East European Fulbrighters with travel grants to our meetings.

The discussions went on over the summer in 1998, suggestions were evaluated by the board in terms of their practicability and relevance to our statutes and some of them were realized (sponsoring the Amy Biehl Foundation and supporting East European Fulbrighters to participate in the Strasbourg meeting in 1998).

The idea to found a scholarship-program of our own was very attractive to a lot of members, but we all agreed that the set-up and administration would be too much for a volunteer organization as we are. We discussed the support of other scholarship programs under the premises that our support should be visible within that program and of course to the supported grantees.

The engagement within the "Verein der Freunde und Förderer des Deutsch-Amerikanischen Fulbright Programmes e.V." (Association of the Friends and Sponsors of the German-American Fulbright Program) seemed logical and the perfect fit. This "Verein" had been founded in March 1996 upon an initiative of the Fulbright Commission to get together especially companies and other corporations to donate funds to support the Fulbright exchange program and projects in addition to public funding. We agreed that we did not only want to donate money but also actively support the "Verein", thus we needed to become a member as well. It was the first time that we as an association would become a member in another association.

In the fall of 1998, the board contacted the Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission to discuss a membership of our association in the "Verein". The Commission was highly pleased with the suggestion. Therefore, the board put the membership to the "Verein" to vote at the annual meeting in February 1999 and the vast majority of the members gave their consent. The newly elected board applied for our association to become a member and we were accepted in March 1999.

We immediately started to discuss how we could support the program financially, and it was decided that we would donate DM 20.000 in 1999. The money was used as part of the stipends for 3 German grantees going to the US in 1999/2000. Our sponsorship was mentioned in their contracts and we stayed in touch with them throughout their year in the US. We received their reports which we published in our internal newsletter.

In 2000 the board again decided to give DM 20,000 which was used to support 5 scholars. The grantees are currently in the US. We look forward to welcoming them back -in Germany and listen to and read their stories.

We would like to continue our support for this program because we believe this is money well spent and brings our association closer together with the other two German Fulbright institutions.

We also would like to ask our members to actively promote a membership in the "Verein der Freunde und Förderer des Deutsch-amerikanischen Fulbright Programmes e.V." to their companies and organizations to support the Fulbright program and put it on a financially more solid foundation.

For more information please contact the "Verein der Freunde und Förderer des Deutsch-Amerikanischen Fulbright Programmes e.V.", Oranienburgerstrasse 13-14, 10178 Berlin.



CONFERENCE 2000 WASHINGTON D.C.



by Wiltrud Hammelstein

American Fulbright Association 23. Annual Meeting and Conference, Washington D.C., 12/2000

"International Challenges and New Leadership: A Fulbright Colloquium"

As a member of the American Fulbright Association, I am invited to their annual meetings and conferences which usually take place in Washington D.C. in the beginning of October. The program starts Thursday night and runs until Sunday noon. One highlight surely is the ceremony to award the Fulbright Prize for International Understanding on Friday morning. The conference offers a variety of workshops and panels which cover the topic from different angles. In addition, a banquet is held and the participants are invited to a cultural event which takes place in one of the many embassies.

Participation is about 300 members out of the 6000 of the Association. I always enjoy seeing various Fulbrighters who spent their year in Germany. But I also meet new friends who all have very interesting stories to tell about their Fulbright experience somewhere in the world. (This year I met two female dancers, who both spent their Fulbright in India to learn more about the dancing there.) For me as a German Fulbrighter, the US meeting delivers a unique experience: you meet people who went to so many different places in the world (whereas we in Germany and in any other country all went to the US on our Fulbright) and you learn to see these countries through the eyes of others.

But it is not only the view of different countries, but also of different fields that makes the trip worthwhile for me. On Thursday night, the Arts Task Force, chaired by Hilda Demsky, (Netherlands 1992), had invited all interested participants to get an insight into the activities of the task force members. They also have created a web page called the Fulbright e-Gallery which you can see under <http://fulbrightgallery.com/>. Artists from all fields presented their paintings, sculptures (both on slides), their dancing, compositions, and read out of their books. The plethora of different arts and styles were very enlightening for me, and I could take a view into a world I usually do not see in my daily life as human resources manager with a business background.

On Friday morning, the awards ceremony of the J. William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding traditionally takes place. This year we did not go to the State Department, but to the International Trade Center. The Fulbright Prize has been sponsored by the Coca Cola Foundation for 7 years now and is presented with 50,000 US Dollars. Former laureates are: 1999 Mary Robinson, 1998 Patricio Aylwin Azocar, 1997 Václav Havel, 1996 Corazon C. Aquino, 1995 Franz Vranitzky, 1994 Jimmy Carter, 1993 Nelson R. Mandela. Last year's recipient was Martti Ahtisaari, former President of

Finland. In the following I would like to quote why:

"The Fulbright Prize honors President Ahtisaari for his commitment to strengthening civil society, extending democratic practices, and furthering peaceful cooperation and coexistence. His ongoing involvement in preventing crises, resolving conflicts, and promoting peace has improved life for people in some of the world's most troubled regions. As President of Finland, as a representative of the United Nations, and now as a private citizen, he has dedicated himself to making peace. In doing so, he has made enduring contributions to the betterment of the international community"

The tribute speech was held by Strobe Talbott, Deputy Secretary of State, probably better known as a journalist for "Time" magazine.

For more information about the prize and former laureates, please see the website of the US Fulbright Association: www.fulbright.org.

At the adjacent luncheon reception, I had the opportunity to meet Martti Ahtisaari, congratulate him and give the regards on behalf of the Fulbright Alumni e.V. I also took the chance to give him our new pin as a little gift. He was very pleased and interested in our work and kind enough to speak some German with me.

The conference itself started on Friday afternoon with a panel discussion on "Election 2000: Congressional Outlook on International Affairs." For me as a non-American, the discussion was interesting and sometimes amusing at a time when the USA was still waiting to have its new president determined.

The annual meeting followed, which was scheduled for 30 minutes. The board is elected by mail prior to the meeting and only the results are announced. The question and answer session was rather short and left some questions open.

At the end of the first day, the panel on "Fulbright Program Advocacy" presented the work of some of the board members and the staff of the Fulbright Association.

The Fulbright Association was founded in 1977 and has about 6000 members. The board works on a voluntary basis. The office in Washington D.C. has 4 employees on the staff. The Executive Director is Jane Anderson, whom some of us know from the Fulbright meetings in Budapest 1996 and Toledo 2000.

On Saturday, the conference was continued with two panel discussions on "International Education Policy: What lies ahead?" und "Saving the Earth: Reconciling Economic Development and Environmentalism".

After the plenary luncheon with keynote speaker

MARTTI AHTISAARI FULBRIGHT PRIZE

continued "Conference 2000 - Washington"

Tom Bettag, Fulbrighter (Japan 1976) and now Executive Producer ABS News Nightline, the inaugural "Selma Cohen Fund Lecture" took place for the first time. Dr Leslie Friedman, Artistic Director, The Lively Foundation in San Francisco and Fulbrighter to India in 1983 held a very inspiring slide lecture on "Expression in Dance" followed by a reception in honor of Dr. Selma Cohen.

At the end of the day we were invited to the Mexican Cultural Center. Mr. Derek Bermel, clarinetist and composer, Fulbrighter Netherlands 1995, played some of his pieces which were a variety between ballads and modern jazz. Afterwards the Mexican Cultural Center served us a fabulous buffet dinner and the participants enjoyed a wonderful evening.

On Sunday I was invited to present the work of the German Fulbright Alumni e.V. on the panel "Global Fulbright Network". Jane Anderson had also asked me to talk about the recent Toledo meeting of the European Fulbright associations and about our future plans for the region. On the panel I was accompanied by Jane Anderson (US-Fulbright Association), Jaakko Laine (Chairman Finnish Fulbright Association), Esad Prohic (President Croatian Fulbright Alumni Association, he also had participated in Brussels in 1993 and also in Budapest in 1996), and Hassan Mekouar (immediate past president of the Moroccan American Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange). Some of us know Hassan from Toledo 2000.

The workshop participants were very enthusiastic about our reports and we discussed ideas how they could take some of them into their work within their regional chapters. We also received spontaneous offers of support for our activities (e.g. to help us organizing festivities for the 50th anniversary of the German-American Fulbright Program in 2002.) Some of them would love to come to our next European meeting which is planned for Ljubljana in 2002 as they spent their Fulbright in Slovenia.

I left Washington D.C. with a suitcase full of memories, my head full of new ideas, a list of new friends within the worldwide Fulbright family and the definite intention to participate in the next Washington conference in 2001. ■



The Fulbright Association awarded the 2000 J. William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding to Martti Ahtisaari. President Ahtisaari, a diplomat for over 30 years and president of Finland from 1994 to 2000, was honored for his work as peacemaker in some of the world's most troubled areas.

Martti Ahtisaari Speaks to Fulbrighters:

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor to be awarded the J. William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding. The list of past recipients of this prize is truly impressive and I feel privileged to be in such company.

I am particularly pleased to receive an award whose first recipient was Nelson Mandela. In accepting the inaugural Fulbright Prize in 1993 President Mandela called Fulbright Program participants men and women who have chosen the world to be the theater of their efforts. He observed that Fulbright and other international educational exchange programs have now produced generations of men and women who are not satisfied with addressing and solving problems only within the borders of their own countries. It is upon the vision, skills and dedication of such people that we must call to solve today's conflicts.

In my office, I have two paintings and a piece of quarry rock from Robben Island given to me by President Mandela. The maximum security prison on Robben Island is where Mandela spent the bulk of his 27 year imprisonment. The piece of rock symbolizes for me the persistence and determination that can overcome even the greatest difficulties. It reminds my visitors and me daily that no problem is too difficult to be solved. This lesson of persistence is one that I would like to carry across to my own continent.

I plan to speak to you today about my experience of conflict resolution in Kosovo and about the future prospects of the Balkan region. The Balkans have been in the spotlight of international attention throughout the past decade. The disintegration of Yugoslavia resulted in four armed conflicts on the territories of Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo and in immeasurable human suffering. We have all witnessed what inciting hatred and intolerance can lead to. More recently, two months ago, we also had the privilege to witness in Serbia the toppling in an election of the man who carries much of the responsibility for the violence and destruction. With the removal of Slobodan Milosevic from power, new possibilities have opened up for stability and prosperity in Yugoslavia and throughout the Balkan region. Elections have also brought moderate forces into power in Croatia and Kosovo. Montenegro has held its reformist course. Bosnia-Herzegovina is recovering slowly. Albania and

MARTTI AHTISAARI FULBRIGHT PRIZE



continued "Martti Ahtisaari - Fulbright Prize"

Macedonia have resisted being destabilized. These gains must now be consolidated. This will require long-term involvement and a joint high intensity strategy in the region by the United States and the European Union countries. I will return to some of the concrete regional challenges towards the end of my speech.

The Kosovo Peace Process

But I will start with my mission in the spring of 1999. My involvement in the Kosovo peace process was fairly short, only about eight weeks. It started with a phone call from Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott on 5 May 1999 and finished with the withdrawal of the Yugoslav Army from Kosovo and the subsequent ending of the NATO bombing campaign. This was an extremely intensive time period with a lot of excitement and great speed. For many of my team, the night we spent in Belgrade after presenting the terms of the peace offer to President Milosevic was the first full night's sleep for weeks.

By the beginning of May the crisis had become more and more problematic for the international community. The air strikes had been in progress for several weeks, but it was increasingly obvious that bombing alone would not lead to a military solution. Although diplomatic efforts had already failed once, it became necessary to step up the search for a political solution. The initiative to involve me in this process emerged from talks between the Americans and the Russians in Washington in early May. They considered it necessary to bring in a third party. Soon after they contacted me, I discussed the matter also with Chancellor Gerhard Schröder. Germany held the EU Presidency at the time and the Chancellor proposed that I represent the Union as a whole in efforts to resolve the crisis. I saw this as the only sensible solution. Naturally, I considered it my duty to agree to the request made to me in early May. However, I did not consider my prospects to be very promising. Already during the first round of contacts, it became evident that there were substantial differences of view on the terms that might form the basis for a solution. That was what made it so important to get American, Russian and EU representatives around the same table to discuss their differences.

My approach in these trilateral talks between the teams of Deputy Secretary Talbott, President Yeltsin's special envoy Viktor Chernomyrdin and myself was simple: rather than becoming wrapped up in questions of prestige, we would concentrate on issues that were both practical and central. How could the conditions in which the refugees could return safely be created? What kind of presence would the international community have? How would the withdrawal of the Serbian forces be

effected? What would be the nature of the interim international administration?

I had been convinced from the outset that an international presence would be credible only if it had a robust mandate and if it was based on contributions from the core NATO countries and also NATO-led. It was necessary to have American, British, French and German troops participating in the Kosovo peacekeeping force. Otherwise the refugees would not dare to return to their homes. Eventually, also the Russians accepted these principles, or at least their core elements.

In these negotiations, Strobe Talbott was indefatigable in his efforts to analyze the ever-changing and complicated situation and to find a solution. His imagination and diplomatic skills were absolutely essential to taking things forward. The Russians suggested to me at one point that Talbott be replaced by either State Secretary Albright or Vice President Gore, but I thrust aside this idea by saying that it was important to have someone who knew the substance and had the full confidence of his President.

The achievement of agreement between NATO and the Russians made it possible for me to go to Belgrade with Viktor Chernomyrdin in the beginning of June. Four weeks of constant hard work yielded fruit: there was not the slightest disagreement between us when we presented the peace offer to President Milosevic.

Mr. Chernomyrdin and I carefully outlined the content of the peace offer to the Yugoslav political and military leaders and, after we had replied to their questions, they withdrew to consider their response. The following day, the offer that we had brought was presented to the Serbian Parliament and the Yugoslav Federal Government, both of which accepted it.

Diplomacy or Bombs?

The question about what made Milosevic accept the term of the peace offer has often been phrased in terms of juxtaposition. Was it diplomacy or bombs that ended the war?

I still think that, irrespective of the actual damage done by the air strikes, the bombing campaign achieved its central aim. It demonstrated that the NATO countries involved were serious. I am certain that Milosevic would not have accepted the offer with which I went to Belgrade, had it not been for the bombings. He may also have been aware of the increased readiness of some of the NATO allies to send in ground troops.

The evidence has also led me to believe that the Russians had their own plan for Kosovo, of which Milosevic was aware. This could have been another factor in the rapid acceptance of the peace

MARTTI AHTISAARI FULBRIGHT PRIZE

continued "Martti Ahtisaari - Fulbright Prize"

settlement by the Yugoslavs. In the negotiations for the composition of the Kosovo Force, the Russians had insisted on having a separate Russian sector in Kosovo. When they were unable to secure agreement for their demand, the Russian military made a dash for the Pristina airport and arrived there before the British and American troops. I have come to believe that the plan by the Russian military was to hold parts of Northern Kosovo and the capital Pristina with the support of Russian troops. This might have led to the eventual division of Kosovo.

The secret plan of the military did not succeed. Its implementation was prevented by the refusal of the neighboring states of Yugoslavia to allow the Russians to use their airspace. They were thus unable to send reinforcements and provide logistics for the troops at Pristina airport. The stand-off between the Russian and British troops at Pristina airport continued over the period of a few days, however, and the Russians tried to use their soldiers as a means of bargaining for a more significant role within the Kosovo Force.

Now that things have settled, the Russians have participated in KFOR in a committed and constructive manner. I have often heard the claim that I saved NATO. But as I told a Russian journalist just two weeks ago in Moscow, we in fact also saved Russia. Had the agreement not been reached, it would have brought even more forcefully forward the doubt that the Russians did not share the same values as the United States and the Europeans. This would have isolated Russia to everyone's detriment.

In the aftermath of my involvement in the Kosovo negotiations, I have given quite a bit of thought to the concept of humanitarian intervention which is what the Kosovo bombings amounted to.

Humanitarian Intervention

I do not count myself among those who hold onto the concept of sovereignty in its old sense. In my view, the highest source of sovereign power rests with the people of a state. I strongly believe that if a government flagrantly violates the human rights of its people, outsiders have the right to intervene on behalf of the people always when possible with the blessing of the UN Security Council. With the genocidal crimes in Bosnia-Herzegovina in fresh memory, there was no need to second-guess the readiness of Milosevic's regime for violence in Kosovo.

The Kosovo crisis showed that the populations in Western democracies no longer tolerate such levels of violence. Everyone was able to witness from their own living rooms the columns of refugees fleeing Kosovo and the cruelty and human suffering caused by Milosevic's tactics. The pressure to act

was enormous. People demanded that something had to be done.

Milosevic's Defeat

I believe that Serbian society has now itself begun reflecting on the crimes committed in its name. There have been some very brave and forthright individuals who have spoken out about the atrocities that members of the Yugoslav special forces committed in Kosovo, in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in Croatia.

I believe that this new mood was also one of the causes for the revolt against Milosevic during the first week of October. Since the beginning of this year, polls in Yugoslavia had been showing that Milosevic's support base had collapsed. Milosevic himself was too isolated from the lives of ordinary citizens to understand the profound change that had occurred in Serbian society. Once the opposition was able to unite around a single candidate, Vojislav Kostunica, the opinion polls consistently predicted an opposition victory. Still, defeat seemed to come as a complete surprise to Milosevic himself, as well as to many Western leaders and the leaders of neighboring countries.

A poll publicized on 5. September this year showed Kostunica in a 2:1 lead over Milosevic. In discussions with members of the democratic forces of Serbia I became convinced beyond a doubt that the poll data was correct. And I was worried about the possibility of violence in the face of the opposition's victory.

On the occasion of handing over the report on Austria's human rights situation to President Jacques Chirac on Friday, 8. September, I told him that the Serbian opposition would win: what would the West do if Milosevic were to open fire on hundreds of thousands of demonstrators? I also called up Prime Minister Tony Blair and handed over a memo on the situation to American policy makers. I saw that it was important to sound a wake-up call to the West to recognize a new situation and to prepare for the change of power in Yugoslavia.

When Milosevic tried to obfuscate the result to get a second round, most political observers in the West believed that he would cling to power with the support of the army and police. At the same time, already during the counting of the votes, it had become clear that even the great majority of the security forces supported Kostunica over Milosevic. The Serbian opposition supporters took heart when seeing that the police refrained from using force against the striking miners in Kolubara. The police stood by again on 5. October in Belgrade when the crowds took over the Federal parliament building.

Post-Election Challenges

After the jubilation in Belgrade over Kostunica's

MARTTI AHTISAARI FULBRIGHT PRIZE



continued "Martti Ahtisaari - Fulbright Prize"

victory, the real challenges for the region of course remain. These include the rebuilding the economies of both Yugoslavia and the other countries of the region, of creating democratic administrative structures and institutions, and bringing a functioning civil society into being. They also include resolving questions on the status of Montenegro and Kosovo in relation to Yugoslavia and creating a functioning state in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The key now is to maintain the level of engagement by the Western countries in supporting the region on its road to stability and prosperity. Milosevic has left the economy of Serbia in ruins. The state reserves had dwindled to a mere 350 million dollars. Serbia's energy debt to Russia alone was some 400-450 million dollars. The other economies in the region have also been hit extremely hard. The job of reforming and building the institutions to enable economic recovery will not be an easy one.

We must be prepared to remain involved for the long term, for ten or twenty years until the job is done. Our joint commitment to the Balkan region must be no less than that of the commitment of the United States in building up Western Europe after the Second World War. A stable, democratic and prosperous Europe, at last united, is a vision shared by all of us.

The Future of the Balkans

Rebuilding key public institutions is the most urgent need of both Serbia and all of its neighbors. Without a solid institutional framework for the exercise of public power, free and fair elections will not lead to representative or accountable government. Without effective institutions to implement the rule of law, states will not be able to provide protection of human rights and minority rights. Without stable economic regulatory structures to establish a climate favorable to business enterprise, neither privatization nor trade liberalization will generate sustainable economic growth.

The countries of the region face major difficulties in reforming themselves, and may become trapped in a cycle of unsuccessful reforms. Weak public administrations are called on to carry out reforms that are beyond their human and budgetary resources. The countries of the region are unlikely to be able to emerge from this cycle without significant external assistance.

Reforming Core Institutions

It is important to set clear priorities and to concentrate resources on reforming the core state institutions, among which are reliable law enforcement structures, a functioning central bank with stable fiscal and monetary policy, and tax and customs administrations capable of collecting

revenue for the state budget.

The traditional democratization approach stresses the development of the NGO and independent media sectors. These are important as a healthy counterbalance to state power, but as long as the state itself is unable even to deliver basic public goods and services, such as providing for the rule of law, the role of civil society remains limited.

The challenge for all of us is to find more high-intensity ways to help strengthen public institutions in South Eastern Europe. This is the most direct way of addressing a range of international objectives, from economic development to promoting responsible governance. It is also the only path to long-term political stability in the region.

Senator Fulbright's Vision

In the beginning of this speech I spoke of the rewards of persistence. After the Second World War, the political leaders had a vision, which brought stability, prosperity and democracy to war-torn societies of Europe. Among those leaders was Senator J. William Fulbright. Last year the U.S.-Finnish Fulbright exchange marked its 50th anniversary. I would like to salute this exceptional program for the educational and cultural opportunities it has given to my compatriots and to the Americans who have come to Finland under its auspices. Throughout the world more than 200,000 individuals have participated in Fulbright exchanges. I share Ambassador Eric Edelman's view that the Fulbright Program is one of the United States' 'premier vehicles for intellectual engagement with the rest of the world and one of its wisest investments in the international arena.'

What is needed now is a similar vision and commitment, because the task still ahead of us in stabilizing the Balkans is even more complicated and demanding. We have no alternative but to persist.

Thank you.

Presented Dec. 1, 2000 at a ceremony at the International Trade Center, Washington, D.C.



BY THE SKIN OF MY TEETH

by Marianna Yahilevich



Just in Time and By the Skin of My Teeth - How I got to Germany with Fulbright

Unlike most Fulbrighters who knew about their grant at least several months before they had to leave, I only found out about my award at the very last minute. I had received a letter at some point telling me that I was a finalist in the selection process, but after not hearing another word from the Fulbright Commission by the end of June I simply assumed that I was not chosen as a grantee. I decided it probably wasn't meant to be, and though I was somewhat disappointed I told myself to look forward to the trip to Thailand that I would be taking in July and to my job at a PR agency that I would be starting full-time when I returned to New York.

In early August I was getting ready to leave for California to work at a music festival for 10 days with my PR agency. Just as I was about to walk out the door to the airport, the telephone rang. An official sounding voice asked to speak with Marianna Yahilevich. I impatiently said that it was me, I had a plane to catch and I was in a hurry. Then the voice told me he was from the IIE (no, not the Institute of Industrial Engineers, but the Institute of International Education!) and had been trying to get in touch with me throughout the entire month of July while I was in Thailand. Then he asked if I was still interested in going to Germany as a Fulbright Teaching Assistant - one of the recipients had changed her mind suddenly late in the summer and there was a spot open for me. Of course, as I stood there by the door with my suitcase, a wave of excitement passed through me and for a moment I didn't know what to say. And then the practical side of me took over and I asked, "Well, what about my cat? How can I leave my cat behind?" to which the very nice Mr. Small

from the IIE said, "Oh, don't worry, you can probably take the cat with you. We had a Fulbright grantee one year who took his cat with him to Bulgaria. If he managed it to Bulgaria, Germany should be no problem at all,". My mind raced. More practical questions: "And where in Germany is the grant for?" I asked. Mr. Small hesitated. "Um, we know it's somewhere in Thüringen, but we still don't have the name of the town." Well, I couldn't make my decision without knowing in which town I would be placed! (read: good excuse for stalling) Did I have to make my decision right away? Could they find out the name of the town for me before I decided? It seemed like a reasonable condition. Mr. Small promised to look into it. I promised to call from the music festival in California.

After a delay of several days, it was finally revealed that the grant was for a town called Dingelstädt. Dingel what?! Was this a joke? No, no joke, it was apparently a small town in the north of Thüringen. I quickly got myself a map. Dingelstädt wasn't on it. I got myself a more detailed map. Dingelstädt still wasn't on it. My heart sank. Mr. Small assured me that the town existed, and there was a Gymnasium there where I would be teaching; that is, *if* I decided to go. The days were racing ahead, I had to make my decision quickly because the program would close. I thought about my job, my friends, my boyfriend, my apartment, my city, and Dingelstädt, a great unknown with a ridiculous name that no one had ever heard of. I knew that leaving behind my life in New York and accepting a ten-month long teaching position in a place that didn't seem to appear in any maps was a huge risk. What if it was a disaster? After agonizing for a couple of days, suddenly the decision was clear: I would go for it, maps or no maps! A Fulbright grant is not something you get every day, even if it is at the very last minute.

When I returned from the music festival it was already the middle of August. The very last possible flight I could take so that I would be in time for the Fulbright T.A. orientation was on September 7th. I had three weeks to get all the paperwork done, get my medical exam and forms filled out, get my cat's medical exam and forms filled out (!), move out of my apartment, quit my job, pack my bags for the year, say goodbye to my friends and family, and break up with my boyfriend (not necessarily in that order). It was quite a hefty list of to-do's, but somehow I managed to get all of it done (in a sort of frantic and dazed stupor). I think I only exhaled once I was sitting in the Lufthansa plane with my cat quietly yowling in the carrying case I had on my lap.

And was Dingelstädt worth it? Happily, I did eventually manage to find a map with Dingelstädt on it, and when I arrived it was like a dream come true: a lovely small town with a beautiful old Gymnasium, lots of flowers, ducks, sheep, and very

FULBRIGHT TO TRIP BRAZIL

by Steffen Meusel

continued "By The Skin Of My Teeth"

friendly people. The fact that Dingelstädt had no train station, no night life and not even a movie theatre did not faze me in the slightest. It was the perfect antidote to my earlier crazed existence in New York City and I was deeply grateful for this unexpected and very last minute chance to experience small-town German life, teach kids, and learn an enormous amount. At the risk of sounding sentimental, the time I spent in Dingelstädt was perhaps the most intensely enriching period of my life so far.

I often think of the story a good friend told me about her experience living in Paris and the Frenchman who tried to seduce her; after using all sorts of sweet-talk to convince her that she should go out with him and slipping her his telephone number she retorted, "And what makes you think I have any intention of calling you?" to which the Frenchman replied (in his very heavy French accent) "Ahh, ma cheri...why don't you take a risk?" This incredibly simple suggestion of taking a risk in order to possibly experience something wonderful made such an impression on my friend that she did end up going out with the guy (and now has even more stories to tell about that!), and in turn her story made a very deep impression on me. It seems that most things that are worthwhile usually involve some sort of risk, and sometimes you just have to take a leap into the dark (or into Dingelstädt!). I know I'm extremely glad that I did.

(Marianna Yahilevich and her cat Curtis left New York City in September 1999 and moved to Dingelstädt, Thüringen, where Marianna was an American Fulbright Teaching Assistant until June 2000. After her grant, Marianna was hired by an international Public Relations agency in Munich where she is currently working.) ■



A Fulbright trip to Brazil

In September 1998, a small group of our alumni had the chance to visit Brazil; guided by Siglinde Kaiser, who had worked there before. Her knowledge about and experience with Brazil was a huge benefit while travelling through the gorgeous country with all its contrasts. She knew where to find the most beautiful places, and how to get in touch with local people, and – if not, how to avoid getting in touch. Thus we were prepared for everything including the seemingly unavoidable petty crime in Brazil. Still, I can absolutely recommend going there!

Our trip started in Sao Paulo, the industrial heart of Brazil, where we visited "Festo Automação" (with quite good working conditions), the Brazilian subsidiary of Ralf Medow's employer. Afterwards we met Dr. Antônio Benjamin, the president of the Brazilian Fulbright Alumni. He is the highest public prosecutor for environmental law in the State of São Paulo and we were impressed by his enthusiasm to protect the environment in Brazil, especially the Atlantic Forest close to São Paulo.

From there we continued to Rio de Janeiro, enjoying the famous Copacabana beach, and to Brasília, the artificial capital constructed in the late fifties by Oscar Niemeyer. Here we had the chance to meet the Brazilian Fulbright Commission and to discuss parallels of moving their capital to Brasília and ours to Berlin (always a waste of money).

After Salvador de Bahia, shaped by the former African slaves, the last official stop was Belo Horizonte, where we had a "guided tour" through a favela, a local squatter area. Normally, it is unthinkable to go there – however, since Siglinde had worked there in infrastructure and urban development projects and still had her contacts, it was possible for us.

Here the official program ended, many thanks to Siglinde, who showed us a wonderful country. Even though the average income is far below ours in Europe – the people almost always enjoy life and transfer that to their visitors. There is a lot we can learn from them. One thing we all have to learn is, even though we studied in "America", America does not stop at the Rio Grande, it is a far larger, diverse continent. ■



CONFERENCE TOLEDO 2000

by Katrin Krechel



European Fulbright Alumni Conference, Toledo 2000 – My Fulbright Experience in Spain

Toledo 2000 was not my first Fulbright Alumni experience, and hopefully it won't be my last, but it has certainly been my best so far. Around 80 Fulbright Alumni from 17 different -mostly European- countries gathered in Toledo, Spain, for a long weekend at the beginning of September 2000.

I felt somewhat embarrassed that I had hardly ever heard about this very very beautiful place before. Having spent a year in the Midwest, I was more familiar with Toledo, Ohio, than Toledo, Spain.

Toledo is a small city located in the middle of Spain, 70 km south of Madrid. Known as the City of the Three Cultures - with reference to its history of peaceful coexistence between the Christian, Islamic and Jewish faiths -, Toledo lies on a small hill surrounded by the Tajo River.

The Spanish Fulbright Alumni Association had chosen this picturesque location to organize the Third European Fulbright Alumni Workshop (after Paris 1996 and Strasbourg 1998). The main purpose of these European workshops is to exchange experience and to build up networks between the different alumni associations. I hope that the new connections will further the greater goal of extending the Fulbright idea from a binational to a real multinational level.

The program started off with a welcome reception hosted by the Vice President of the *Universidad*

Castilla La Mancha in the beautiful Law Faculty building. After the official welcome by the Spanish delegation, a representative of each national association took the microphone and gave a small speech to thank the organizers and to present their national association. I learned that while some associations are very well established already and have regular activities, others are just in the process of being built up. Many associations were represented by just one or two delegates, while others - the German FAeV in particular - were represented by dozens.

The evening ended with a more informal welcome to Spain: we danced in a bar until four in the morning. I decided to skip breakfast and rather sleep another 30 precious minutes.

The next day started off in one of the most prominent buildings of Toledo: the *Biblioteca del Alcázar*. Two conference sessions dealt with the subject of the external relations of the European Union. First, Pierre Rousselin, Chief Editor of International Affairs for *Le Figaro*, and José Ignacio Torreblanca, Professor of Political Science at the *UNED*, discussed the relations between the EU and the Eastern European countries. Both speeches brought up the important question of solidarity between the current and the prospective member states of the EU, and the consequences for a sustainable integration policy.

After a small coffee break in the cafeteria with a beautiful overlook of the city, we proceeded to the second session. Two members of the European Parliament, José M. Gil Robles (former President of the EP) and Manuel Medina, gave an overview of the relations between the European Union and the Mediterranean World. They exposed the problems Mediterranean members of the EU - Spain, France, Greece, Portugal, and Italy - are confronted with in getting the necessary support for Mediterranean policy when Northern EU members are more interested in promoting relations with Eastern countries.

The discussions following the respective speeches turned out to be another "Fulbright experience". Delegates from Eastern European (Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Russia and Slovenia) and Mediterranean non-EU members (Morocco, Turkey) as well as from most EU member countries were present. Consequently, the discussion opportunities opened by the wide scope of interests and the different points of view were unique. For example, the views of Greek and Turkish delegates on the Cyprus question were discussed; although the differences in opinions were very remarkable, the discussions never became offensive - maybe that's part of the "Fulbright spirit!" In any case, I enjoyed the discussions very much.

From my point of view, it is part of our "job" as former

CONFERENCE TOLEDO 2000



continued "Conference - Toledo 2000"

international exchange students to get involved in questions that concern international relations and politics. International get-togethers with Fulbright alumni provide an excellent opportunity to have discussions with people from different countries and backgrounds - yet with common experiences - and to learn about the different views that shape the relations in the world in which we live.

The afternoon was devoted to the "Associational Life". The group split up for three parallel workshops, all of which discussed the different ways of promoting the networks between the different Fulbright associations and their members. The discussions generated many good ideas: personal exchanges between families and academics, regular information networks using the Internet, and plans for future reunions. Jane L. Anderson, Executive Director of the U.S. Fulbright Association in Washington D.C., who had come from the U.S. to join us in Toledo, gave an overview of the alumni activities in the States and worldwide. I was amazed to learn that there are no less than 67 Fulbright alumni Associations worldwide!

The day ended with a formal banquet dinner at the *Cigarral de las Mercedes*, a magnificent mansion on a hill outside the city with a beautiful view of Toledo. We had a delicious multi-course dinner accompanied by some formal speeches held by the representatives of the delegations as well as an address made by a representative of the American

embassy in Madrid. After the elegant part of the evening, we went out again to experience Spanish nightlife - this time until 5 in the morning! We were so impressed with our Spanish friends' energy (and a little embarrassed by how bad our stamina was compared to theirs, particularly since we were a lot younger!).

The next morning we went on a guided tour of Toledo before having the "Farewell Lunch". The tour was called "The Three Cultures in Toledo: Jews, Muslims and Christians". Among other things we saw the Cathedral, the remains of a mosque, and the El Tránsito Synagogue and Museum.

The Farewell Lunch was very sad - despite the last treat of the Spanish Association: "Fulbright Cava" (sparkling wine) - since we had to say good-bye to everybody. The weekend had gone by so quickly and we had so much fun together. We promised to keep in touch and I hope we will see each other again, possibly in Budapest/Hungary and/or Ljubijana/Slovenia, where the next European Fulbright alumni events are scheduled for 2001 and 2002.

I'd like to thank the Spanish Fulbright Alumni Association for this wonderful and perfectly organized event, which I will certainly never forget. It is very hard to describe which factors make these events so special - the perfectly organized program, the international atmosphere, certainly the extraordinary people... some kind of a Fulbright spirit! ■



FULBRIGHT TRIP TO BUDAPEST

by Christina Thurn

Fulbright Alumni, Regional Chapter Southwest, Budapest, November 1st to 5th, 2000.

Our visit to Hungary took its origin in February 2000. That's when we first discussed how we could expand "our local horizon" and somehow live up to the association's goal of mutual international understanding and friendship. The idea came up to contact another European Fulbright alumni group. Eastern European countries were the most unknown to us and we found ourselves curious about Hungary. We looked up the Alumni Organizations on our FAeV homepage and contacted the Hungarian Fulbright Alumni Association's president, Akos Mathe. A lively e-mail conversation finally led to invitations on both sides. Since neither of our groups was clear about the other's structure and expectations, we agreed to arrange an informal meeting first.

In summer, the visit of a Hungarian group was unfortunately cancelled for organizational reasons. So we were to take the first step and arranged a visit to Budapest for November 1st to 5th. Originally meant to be a group of seven (aged between 24 and 37), we shrunk down to 5 because somebody got sick. Mr. Mathe had helped to find a hotel, met us at the station and took it upon himself to arrange interesting events for us.

It turned out that the Fulbright Alumni Association there, a group of around 140 members, are mainly high-ranking academics such as professors and politicians. So their engagement for the association in general is limited to special occasions (e.g. to a reception at the US embassy). There are 4 meetings a year, but no regular "Stammtisch". The membership fee is low (5DM per year) in order to attract as many members as possible. The majority of the members, being public employees, have meager wages in comparison to their colleagues in

the private sector. The Fulbright alumni are currently planning for an event in 2001 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of their association.

We had the chance to meet three members in person – and basically encountered three different opinions regarding our contacts. Mr. Mathe, as the official representative, is idealistic and interested in further contacts yet does not have a precise idea how to go forward from here. Mr. Kisfaludi, on the contrary, expressed pragmatically that further collaboration would work better between equivalent partners and suggested collaboration with a student group. Finally, Prof. Redij envisions formal, longterm contacts on a regular basis, preferably on an academic level.

Our ideas and expectations were not any more precise, however we had the idea(l) of a European Fulbright alumni network, rather than a one-dimensional orientation within Germany and with the US. We see that exchange needs suitable partners. The goal of our visit – to get to know and learn about the Hungarian Fulbright alumni – was reached, although it is not clear how to proceed. We learned a lot, and -thanks to Mr. Mathe and other Hungarians- got a deeper insight into the country. A student of Prof. Redij gave us a tour of the University and showed us some of the ins and outs – including the cafeteria. At a very generous and delicious dinner, we exchanged opinions, explained the structure of our association and emphasized our thankfulness with a little basket of presents.

Mr. Mathe expressed his intentions to arrange for a visit of a Hungarian group to Germany next year. We certainly will try to provide a program and support and very much look forward to welcome them here! We will further discuss how to continue to stay in contact in a sensible way! ■



REGIONAL CHAPTERS



Regional Chapter Southwest

The year 2000 was characterized by many rather small events:

In March we saw the exhibition about Erich Mendelsohn - Realized visions of a cosmopolitan architect - at the Kunsthalle, Tübingen. He was a well known architect in Europe around 1930.

In May we went for a visit of the castle Lichtenstein (near Reutlingen) and, after a rather slow paced hike through the Swabian Alb - the buggies had a hard time uphill - explored the Nebelhöhle.

In July we had to earn the barbecue with a 50km bike tour through the Schönbuch from Leinfelden to Herrenberg and started practicing how to light a fire in the rain. Luckily an American outdoor-specialist was with us (who also carried 10 pounds of bike-repair tools).

We further practiced surviving in August on a camping weekend near Freiburg.

We spent the first 5 days in November visiting the Fulbright Alumni Association of Hungary in Budapest. We started establishing this contact in January in order to expand beyond our "local horizon", learn about another country beside the US through Fulbright and maybe develop a long term collaboration. See also the report in this FRANKly.

For December we scheduled two 2 events. We celebrated Thanksgiving, practiced carving a turkey, and brought up good old memories, and on December 12th, we attended a theatre play of Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol given at the Kelly Barracks by the Theatre Center Stuttgart.

We are currently organizing a larger event for the year 2001, a PowWow. The topic is "Nutrition".

If you would like to get to know more about our group, look in the internet: <http://www.fulbright-alumni.de/suedwest>, or join us at our Stammtisch. It is held on every first Wednesday of the month at the Café PUNKTUM, Rotebühlbau Volkshochschule, Rotebühlplatz Stuttgart, right at the S-Bahn stop Stadtmitte (check back with Christina for short term changes: mailbox@cthum.de). You can subscribe to our local mailing-list (fa-suedwest@bawue.de) by mailing to mabauer@crispus.de. ■



Regional Chapter Munich

An eventful year 2000 in Munich/Southern Bavaria

The start into the year 2000 set the stage for a very active year in Munich and Southern Bavaria: a crowd of over 30 lively friends & families of all ages spending a wonderful week secluded high up in the Alps near Berchtesgaden, far away from any Y2K-computer problems. Of course self-catered, which turned the evenings first into logistically challenging cooking events, then into a dish-washing happening, and finally into big time partying. Definitely the highlight: the ultimate New Year's slide down a snowy hill on plastic bags (literally "ein guter Rutsch!") - leading to a snow bar with lots of champagne to celebrate the New Year.

This year the Alps and beyond were being used all-year-round, for day-skiing trips in winter (Spitzingsee, Scheffau beim Wilden Kaiser) and hiking weekends in summer. One of this year's hiking trips lead us to St.Poeltner Huetten, a mountain cabin in the Hohe Tauern national park. The cabin served as a base camp for many marvelous peaks up to 2989 m above sea level. Another trip lead us up to the most famous mountain in Bavaria, the Watzmann, where we stayed in the local landmark Watzmannhaus.

On its way to becoming an annual tradition: a weekend trip across the Alps to Lago di Garda with a visit of the Arena di Verona, an open-air opera festival in Northern Italy. After last year's "Carmen", we enjoyed this year a unique tens-of-thousands candle-light atmosphere during a wonderful performance of "La Traviata".

This was just one of several cultural events: we organized a trip to the World Fair "Expo" in Hannover and a visit of "Munich's Night of the Museums". In addition, we celebrated our beloved American-heritage events like the 4th of July BBQ (including marsh-mallows grilled with German engineering wits), a Thanksgiving feast with turkey and a Jul-Klapp-Xmas party.

New this year and definitely a keeper: a regional Welcome Party for those who have just arrived from the States, both returning German grantees and new American grantees. The mixing with us "old" Alumni only took a few minutes - thanks to a great pot-luck in Petra's large kitchen.

The ideas for all these activities usually come about during our monthly informal Stammtisch at the Villa Flora (Hansastr. 44, U/S-Bahn Heimeranplatz), starting around 7.30 pm on every last Tuesday of the month. We are looking forward to meeting all of you at our Stammtisch or at our events.

In order to speed up communication, we now also offer a regional e-mailing list for announcing events more spontaneously (to subscribe, please email Andreas: GOTOBUTTON BM_1_a@schoberth.de).

Jürgen, Petra, Andreas, Ralf and Olaf ■

WELCOME MEETING FRANKFURT 2000

by Stephanie Kriesel

Welcome Meeting 2000

Being both a returnee of 1999 and a member of the Regional Chapter Frankfurt (thus, also a last minute member of the Orga-Team), this year's Welcome Meeting was a fantastic experience for me.

The first get-together took place in the favorite place of every Fulbrighter in the Frankfurt area: The "Künstlerkeller" usually hosts our monthly "Stammtisch", but didn't have any problem to cope with the surprisingly big crowd that gathered there on Friday, Nov. 4. It was really easy and great fun to get in touch with new people due to the packed but cozy atmosphere.

Everyone seemed to have felt like sleeping in the next day, as the majority arrived in the university only close to the start of the program. Thus, the check-in of the 120 participants took a little longer than planned. Wiltrud Hammelstein, president of the Fulbright Alumni e.V., prevented the delay from affecting the whole day by giving a very short and effective note about the organization.

In the opening speech, David Farrar, Consul and Director of the Amerikahaus in Frankfurt, reflected on the German-American relationships since the early Fifties. In times of decreasing federal support of public exchange institutions like, e.g., the Amerikahäuser and the Goethe-Institute, private commitment is necessary to tackle the challenge of a fruitful future of the German-American relationships.

The following two speeches dealt with the main theme of this year's Welcome Meeting: Johannes Gutenberg, inventor of the process of printing with movable letters and so-called "Man of the Millennium". Prof. Dr. Stefan Füssel, Director of the "Institut für Buchwissenschaft" at the Universität Mainz delivered a detailed view on the technological, social and intellectual effects of the invention, while Dr. Jürgen Schönhut from the "Fraunhofer-Institut für Graphische Datenverarbeitung" focused on the outcome of the second media revolution through digital means of communication in our very own daily lives.

After a short lunch break, the participants had the choice between six different workshops. The two

traditional offerings of survival tips for American students in Germany and the opportunity for returnees to find a forum to weep collectively about the reverse culture shock were supplemented by external excursions. One group went to nearby Mainz to visit the newly renovated Gutenberg-Museum, another party got a guided tour through the fossil collections in the Senckenberg-Museum, while a third group listened to a symposium about the "medium" book in the Literaturhaus Frankfurt. Last but not least, our generous sponsor Boston Consulting Group offered an info session about the application process in the consulting industry.

Starved after such an extraordinary day, the delicious Italian buffet in the "Festsaal" was the perfect way to lead the participants into the informal part of the meeting. Everyone enjoyed to catch up with old friends or chat with new acquaintances and time flew by until the dance was opened around ten o'clock by a more or less voluntary "Kaiserwalzer" by members of the Orga-Team.

The party lasted late into the night, but still there was an astonishingly large group of early birds who made it to next morning's brunch at "Kangaroo's" before eleven. Everyone enjoyed meeting once again and was sad to leave. A few stayed for a guided tour through Frankfurt to round up this weekend full of information, pleasure and fun. ■



Welcome to the Regional Chapter Frankfurt/Main!

With approximately 200 members, we are the largest Regional Chapter of the German Fulbright Alumni Association, and also one of the most active ones. Each year we are being reinforced by German Returnees and American Fulbrighters who study in the area. Geographically, we primarily embrace the Rhine-Main area, Central and South Hesse, and the Rhine-Neckar area. Of course Fulbrighters and guests from other regions are also heartily welcome to join us.

In March 2001, a new regional board was elected. Reinhard Koch was again elected as chairman and



REGIONAL CHAPTERS



Regional Chapter Frankfurt

continued "Regional Chapter - Frankfurt"

Maret Bottler as vice-chairwoman. Klaus Brüning took over the responsibility as treasurer from Uwe Koch, who moved to Nürnberg.

We are your contact persons for all issues concerning the Regional Chapter (Phone: Reinhard 06151/851762, Maret 06151/76949).

Communication

Our regional newsletter is published quarterly and mailed to members, returnees, and American Fulbrighters of our area. The latest newsletter at a time is also available for download in PDF format at www.igd.fhg.de/~rkoch/newsletter.pdf

"Stammtische" and Events

On the first Thursday of each month at 8 p.m., we meet at our "Stammtisch" in the restaurant "Künstlerkeller" in downtown Frankfurt where we exchange news, plan events or just socialize and chat. Typically, the "Stammtisch" is the first place to get into contact with our Regional Chapter for new members, American Fulbrighters, and Returnees.

*Künstlerkeller, Seckbacher Gasse, Frankfurt/M
Subway Station: Willy-Brandt-Platz, Lines 1 - 5*

We celebrate the most important American holidays each year, namely Independence Day, Halloween and Thanksgiving. Moreover, we organize various events like museum and theater visits, hiking tours, culture trips, or just parties.

This year we've had guided tours in Institut Mathildenhöhe Darmstadt, Deutsche Bibliothek, Museum für Moderne Kunst and Deutsches Filmmuseum. Our visits to the English Theater (comedies and musical performances in English) have become a good tradition. The same holds true for our day trips to Thuringia (most recently sightseeing in Weimar and Erfurt). As to sports, this year's program has included ice-skating, a hiking-tour along the Bergstraße, and a bowling evening. A biking tour is coming up in June.

The biggest challenge of the Regional Chapter in 2000 was to organize the Welcome Meeting which took place in Frankfurt from November 3 to November 5. The Welcome Meeting is the most important annual national event of the Fulbright Alumni Association and we managed to have an interesting and entertaining program particularly for American grantees and German "returnees". This success was made possible through the commitment and enthusiasm of a group of Fulbrighters who dedicated a large part of their leisure time to organize the event.

You see, there are a lot of things going on in our Regional Chapter. If you want to join us, please contact us or come to our "Stammtisch"!

Regional Chapter Hamburg

The Fulbright Alumni Hamburg Regional Chapter changed slightly when I took over the lead in 1999 from Britta Sweers. Britta represented the group of former Fulbright students from 1996 to 1999. And she did it with success. Hereby, she was emphasizing on the development of contacts and exchange of information with the *Amerika-Verein of Hamburg*, (which is the successor of the *Amerika-Haus* here in Hamburg, which unfortunately closed), the *Amerika-Zentrum* and the *USIS* (United States Information Service) in the American Consulate.

Like in other regional groups, our monthly get-to-gether was attended by a different number of people. Sometimes quite a few, sometimes only two people found the way to our "Gasthaus" in the middle of the city. However, we decided to change the monthly get-to-gether into a monthly cinema event, taking the advantage of having an English cinema in Hamburg. This event is well accepted and four to seven people on average take the opportunity of meeting other former Fulbrighters every month. Since 1999 we have again a local treasurer, Dr. Christian Jarling, who was a Fulbright student in 1975, and today is working as a consultant, firm in handling finances.

Another event which has been established successfully during the last three years is the annual Thanksgiving Dinner. With 12, 15 or even 30 people (in 1999), we had very nice evenings in private locations with homemade food only. And we really attest: it is not easy to have three turkeys done in a row, when you plan fine cooking for so many people.

This year the Hamburg Regional Chapter was responsible for organizing the Winterball, our annual national get-to-gether, which was held on Feb 9th to 11th, opening in a quite typical Hamburg location, a boat on the water. We invited other American organizations from Hamburg's business world, politics and society.

Considering that the northern German area is quite large, I'd like to stress the engagement of former Fulbrighters who come from Bremen and Lübeck to our meetings. However, we are looking forward to also having more American students and teachers integrated in our group as well as enhancing the exchange among former Fulbrighters. ■



PUSCH-ING THROUGH FOREST

Regional Chapter Berlin
by Stephen Rice

The Spreewald, located approximately 70 kilometers to the southeast of Berlin, is called *Pusch* by the native Sorbs who live there, and that is an altogether fitting name, since to navigate it, *Pusch*-ing is exactly what you must do. Like in Venice, only here in a rural surrounding, the boats that guide tourists through the Spreewald, deliver supplies to the houses located there and even bring the mail to little riverside mailboxes, are pushed - or more accurately poled - from the rear. And who does the poling? In some cases, Fulbrighters.

On May 25th, eleven members of the FAeV Berlin regional chapter set out to test the theory that there is, indeed, life outside of Berlin. They chose the Spreewald, since rumor had it that should life not be found, they could at least get a good pickle. Aside from the over 300 square kilometers of tiny streams that transverse the forest in the Oberspreewald alone, the area is famous for its pickles.

And its culture. The Sorbian minority that inhabits the region is one of the smallest Slavic ethnic groups, but still speaks two mutually exclusive languages. Pulling into the train station in Lübbenau, the city akin to the Spreewald's Disneyland (minus Mickey, but including a gazillion tourist buses), one immediately notices the Sorbian language on the signs next to their German translations (Lubnjow = Lübbenau). Convinced that something of interest must be lurking beyond the Bahnhof, our group ventured in through the city and then on into the forest.

Our plan included picknicking on one of the meadows that are interspersed between the paths, waterways, fields and houses, and then proceeding to the *Kleiner Hafen* where Frank, our boatsman, would pick us up and take us on a three hour tour of the labyrinthine Spree. Having purchased the first juicy pickles, we settled down to a midday lunch and some lazy frisbee tossing.

After lunch and arriving punctually at the *Kleiner Hafen*, Frank showed up 20 minutes later. Perhaps he was stuck in a Spreewald-Stau? Oh, who really cared? The group was in good spirits, the mosquitoes were as-yet negligible and Frank's boat, when it arrived, contained more (good) spirits - specifically, Spreewald Bitter, another specialty of

the region. In little baskets set on the tables, around which four people could comfortably sit facing each other in the water-level flatboat, was all the alcohol one would need should the Spreewald turn out to be too boring. Fortunately this was not to be the case.

Frank told us the story of the Spreewald in the good humored fashion common among the *Fährmänner* in the region. Almost all of the side arms, rivulets and main waterways are natural. The Spreewald is purportedly the only area on earth where a uniform river divides itself into over one hundred little sub-streams, only to join up again at a point beyond the Spreewald. It is therefore on the UNESCO list of protected biosphere reserves. It was formed during the three Ice Ages occurring between 400,000-20,000 years ago.

Today, the people living in the Spreewald profit from the beauty and uniqueness of the area, which brings in busloads of tourists. Before the *Wende*, two nearby coal power plants provided the region its economic stability. The tourists today are mostly older folks, since the area is tranquil and the attendant natural surroundings and the subtle flow of the Spree itself do not much lend themselves to the modern attention span of younger folk. Whereas even the trees in Berlin are sprayed with graffiti, the Spreewald is as close to a virgin landscape as you can find in Germany.

One highlight of our trip through the waterways was that Frank actually let us take the helm. This was particularly surprising since he had told us right from the start that there are Spreewald police that boat around and check to make sure everyone is properly licensed and, presumably, paying their boat and GEZ-Gebühren. Apparently this didn't scare Frank, however (he did joke that *Spreewaldpolizist* must be the easiest job in Germany, and visions of Rosco P. Coltrane and the Dukes of Hazzard flashed through my head), and he let all who wanted to try their hand at the rudder have a go. Aside from one small bump around one corner, the boat never risked turning into the Titanic (which would have been difficult since the average depth of the Spree in the Spreewald is 1.5 meters).

At the end of our boat ride, having partaken in a sing-along thanks to the guitar I brought, the books Joe Straight provided and the Pavarotti-voices of the other participants, we arrived back at *Kleiner Hafen* a bit water weary and very hungry. As a capstone to our Spreewald experience, many of us indulged in the regional fare prized by the axiom: *Was macht den Spreewälder stark? Kartoffeln, Leinöl und Quark!* It was a day we all enjoyed, and for all of those who think that the Spreewald is simply too far East to merit a trip, we can only encourage you to think again. If you're lucky, you'll get to drive a boat yourself. If nothing else, you'll eat a great pickle! ■



REGIONAL CHAPTERS

*Regional Chapter South-East
FAeV - Strategy Meeting 2000*

Regional Chapter Ruhrgebiet

The Regional Chapter Southeast represented by Steffen Meusel, Elke Brosin and Susanne Böhm, organized the strategy-meeting 2000 in an exclusive location in July. Most of the 27 participants from all over Germany arrived on Friday, July 21st in the „Sächsische Schweiz“ on Castle Hohnstein. Warm pullovers and waterproof jackets were necessary to see the well performed and directed „Ring der Nibelungen“ on the unique outdoor scene closeby. The rest of the crew awaited the frozen friends of culture in the castle's bar afterwards. It was almost too much for the landlord, so everybody continued to party in some of the dormitory rooms.

Saturday morning we came together in 6 workshops to ask and discuss the questions about our association's future: „Quo vadis FAeV?“ Intensive and oftentimes controversial discussions were only interrupted by short breaks with delicious snacks. After all this brainwork Susanne Böhm invited us to a wonderful and relaxing hike through the woods and along the cliffs of the „Sächsische Schweiz“. While the board members held their meeting the rest prepared the large campfire for the evening. The informal get-together around the campfire under a blue sky with steaks grilled on open fire was cause and good reason for another late night experience and only a few hours of sleep.

Sunday was the day to bring together all the ideas and the results of our discussions about the associations' future potential. The workshop leaders presented the different aspects that were discussed in their respective groups the day before. The results were put together in a resolution which was published in the following issue of our internal Newsletter FAIN.

The final event of the weekend was an organized tour of the Castle Hohnstein. At this point again: thank you to the organizers for your outstanding work and organization. Quite sad not to see Fulbright families at this kind of location, since it would have been perfect for it. But there will be another chance, since one of the greater achievements of the strategy meeting is the proposal for a new yearly event to address the needs of members who have a family: The Fulbright Family Weekend. The first weekend of this kind will take place this summer on castle Königstein, also in the „Sächsische Schweiz“. ■



The year 2000 in the Regional Chapter Ruhrgebiet was marked by constant and regular attendance at the „Stammtisch“ and some minor activities focusing on the wishes of the active members in the chapter.

Nevertheless, there were quite a few activities taking place, e.g. visiting movies, plays, and concerts together. One of the highlights was a dancing course just before the annual „Winterball“ taking place in Berlin to be well prepared to dance the night away. We are still thinking about repeating that course.

To our „Stammtisch“ in June, we had invited Prof. Dr. Erin Crawley who spent her Fulbright year at the University of Dortmund. Prof. Crawley is usually teaching at St.Louis University, St.Louis. She does research in Literature. Two of her major fields of research are "Concepts of Race and Ethnicity and National Identity in Germany" and "Feminism in the US and Germany". We had a lively participation and a very interesting discussion. We will try to make this kind of meeting a regular event.

Another regular activity is the 4th-of-July-Barbecue. It's usually a combination of an activity (a biking tour) and sightseeing (the old town of Hattingen). Some of us also brought their inliners and skated for a while. This event always attracts quite a few members.

The host-program offers the chance to support the arriving American Fulbrighters. We get in contact, at least with some of them, and they are taking part in the different regional activities. Of course, they attend 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“.

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

A DARING LAST RESCUE

by Peter Parshall

Things were not looking good. Our stay in Dresden had been going well up to this point. I was enjoying my teaching in the American Studies department at TU-Dresden. The students were working hard and writing good papers, even if they were a little reluctant to use their English in class. And Carol and I were both enjoying the wonderful sights and the music in Dresden, not to mention our side trips to surrounding areas--the Sächsische Schweiz, Spreewald, Meissen, and Leipzig.

But now it was the end of November--Wednesday the 24th to be exact--and we were starting to get depressed. The next day was Thanksgiving and it wasn't going to be the usual day for us. We could do the food part pretty well. We had managed to locate some turkey drumsticks in the basement of Hertie. There was no ready-made dressing in nice Pepperidge Farm packages, but Carol had been cooking for enough years that she could remember how you cut the bread up and made dressing "from scratch." There wouldn't be any giblets to go in the gravy, but hers could be counted on to be delicious anyway. And there were good Sächsische potatoes available, and green beans and carrots. So we'd have plenty of food to eat. The problem was company.

For all the thirty-seven years of our marriage we'd spent Thanksgiving day with our families, but now our mothers, our children, and our grandchildren were back in the States. (One year our daughter had driven her car all the way from Oregon to Minnesota to surprise us on Thanksgiving, but it was unlikely we'd get any such surprises this year. From Minneapolis to Dresden is a really grueling drive.) We'd probably call them, of course, but that would only reinforce how far away we felt. We had invited the other American Fulbrighters in town to join us, but they were already scheduled to attend a conference in Berlin. So it was looking pretty lonely. And then, at 9 o'clock at night, the phone rang.

The woman at the other end of the line introduced herself as Elke Brosin and said she was a former German Fulbrighter. She had tracked down a number of other ex-Fulbrighters and had invited them to have an American Thanksgiving dinner with her and her husband Falk the next evening. She knew it was quite short notice, but could we possibly come? I hesitated for an instant. This could possibly be some nefarious plot to lure us poor unsuspecting foreigners to a seedy district in the city and rob us of our Western wrist-watches. Given that mine is an old Casio with a plastic strap worth \$5 at most, I decided to risk it. So I said yes.

The next night we gathered up our two gift bottles of white wine, took the #5 trolley to Hauptbahnhof Nord, the #11 to Postplatz, and then the #1 to Gottfried Keller Strasse. It was next-to-last stop on the line, way out at the western edge of the city in the

district of Cotta. But it didn't look too seedy when we got off the tram, so we decided to try to find the house, no easy task when it's already pitch dark at 7:30 at night and the streets--as they always do in German cities--go every which way. But we found the street and found the house and found the rear entrance and climbed the stairs to the Handschug's cozy apartment.

The first thing we saw, besides the smiling faces of Elke and Falk and the guests, was their lovely white living room carpet. Since we are staying in Dresden for only the fall semester, we had the university arrange accommodations for us and it ended up being in student housing. That meant DDR concrete slab construction, with terrazzo stairs, faded wallpaper, a teeny kitchen, and linoleum floors. After three months of walking on (and mopping) linoleum floors, the Handschug's carpeting looked so good I wanted to lie down and roll around like a puppy. But I was anxious to make a good impression on my fellow Fulbrighters, so I restrained myself.

I went around the room, shaking hands with everyone and promising them that I wouldn't be able to remember their names because of my early-onset Alzheimers. Since we were the oldest ones there, we were given the seats of honor on the couch. (Being an old guy can be nice at dinner parties in the evening, even if not when getting out of bed in the morning.) Unable to stop being a teacher even for a moment, I promptly began to "call on" the various former students sitting around the room to find out who they were, what their American experiences had been like, and what they were doing now.



A DARING LAST RESCUE



continued "A Daring Last Rescue"

It was a really interesting group. It turned out that only one or two of them knew one another. Elke and Falk were trying to get the Dresden alumni group activated again, having just resettled in the area themselves. So she had just sent out announcements via email when she got possible names and most of the people in the group were all as much strangers as we were. Two were electrical engineers (Stefan Schmidt), one just starting his Ph.D. at TU-Dresden (Oliver Woywode). There was an older man who was also an electrical engineer (Harald Böhmer), a lighting designer who had worked at the Staatsoper at Dresden but was currently looking for something new. One was a pharmacist (Uwe Geiß) and one was a junior doctor (Felix Oberender). One young woman was in the final term of work in economics and engineering (Susanne Böhm). Another one, whose field I don't remember, was working in Leipzig in Information Technology and happened to be in Dresden at a trade show (Marion Schmidt). They had studied all over the U.S.: Miami, Gainesville, New Orleans, Troy NY (Rensselaer), Flagstaff, Michigan State, Grand Forks.

With such interesting people, the conversation was equally interesting all evening. We discussed the changes that had happened since the Wende, since many of them were native to this area and had lived through it all. We also talked about what was currently going on in politics, the changes needed in the social benefit system, and where to buy cranberries. (Carol hadn't been able to find any for our Thanksgiving.) No problem; you can get them at Kaiser's.

And they were interested in the changes we saw in Dresden. In honor of the 300th birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach, we'd visited the city back in 1985 in the DDR period while making a pilgrimage to the places where he had lived and worked. We felt conspicuous in our Western clothes and when we were lost and wanted to ask directions, people seemed to avoid talking to us. (Of course, if they had answered our questions they might well find themselves shortly thereafter answering questions from their friendly neighborhood Stasi.) Now, by contrast we felt conspicuously less stylish than many of the people we saw on the street and people were very friendly. This is good, because with our Kinder Deutsch, we need a lot of help getting around.

On top of everything else, the food was terrific. This was the first turkey Elke had ever done, but she had emailed friends all over--including some in America--to get recipes, and it turned out splendidly, tender and moist. There were mashed potatoes and dressing and green beans and Brussels sprouts and brownies for dessert. And the gravy was nearly as good as Carol's, although you understand nobody in the world makes gravy as

good as Carol does. (And you also understand that my life isn't worth a plugged nickel if I don't say that.) I normally try not to stuff myself at Thanksgiving, but I ended up having three helpings of turkey. Everyone else seemed to enjoy the meal as much as I did, as indicated by how quiet the room got with everyone busily chewing.

The only bad thing about the evening was that it was over all too soon. In no time at all, it was 11 p.m., and Falk was kind enough to give us a ride back to our Plattenbau, since the trollies were running pretty infrequently. We probably should have walked to burn off some of those delicious calories, but we let ourselves be spoiled. And even though we had our Thanksgiving dinner by ourselves the next day, it wasn't nearly as lonely as we'd thought it would be. That's because, thanks to that last-minute phone call, we now felt as though we had lots of good friends around us.



Mr. Peter Parshall and his dear wife Carol came as Fulbrighters to Germany and spent half a year in Dresden teaching at the Technische Universität. The Dresden Fulbright Alumni group was sad to see them both go so soon after we had met them but they have truly enriched our lives. It was one of those brief encounters in life that you never forget because it fills you with an abundance of joy and energy. We'd like to thank the Fulbright idea for bringing us together under such wonderful circumstances.

*On behalf of the Fulbright Alumni group Dresden,
Elke Brosin*

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Aufnahmeantrag

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

Ich möchte Mitglied werden!

Name:..... *Geburtsdatum:.....
Straße/Postfach:..... PLZ, Ort:.....
Telefon privat:..... *geschäftlich:.....
Elektronische Post:.....

Ich möchte regelmäßig Informationen folgender Regionalgruppen erhalten:

☐ Berlin, ☐ Hamburg, ☐ Niedersachsen(Hannover), ☐ Ruhrgebiet/Westfalen, ☐ Köln/Bonn, ☐ Aachen,
☐ Frankfurt/Main, ☐ Südwest(Stuttgart), ☐ Franken(Nürnberg), ☐ Südbayern(München), ☐ Südost(Dresden)

In den USA war ich als:

☐ Student, ☐ T.A., ☐ Dozent, ☐ anderer Status:.....
US-Universität:..... US-Studienabschluß:.....
US-Studienfach:..... US-Jahrgang:.....

Finanzierung meines Auslandsaufenthalts:

☐ Fulbright-Vollstipendium, ☐ Fulbright-Teilstipendium, ☐ DAAD,
☐ Fulbright-Reisestipendium, ☐ Direktaustausch, ☐ selbst, ☐ andere:.....

*Studienfach/Uni in der Bundesrepublik:.....

*Tätigkeit (Beruf):..... *Arbeitgeber:.....

Ideen und Wünsche für den Verein:.....

Alle meine in diesem Antrag angegebenen Daten sowie später angegebene Änderungen und Ergänzungen werden vom Verein oder im Auftrag des Vereins elektronisch gespeichert und verarbeitet. Sie können im Rahmen der Vereinszwecke an Mitglieder des Vereins weitergegeben werden. Für die Kontaktaufnahme nötige Angaben wie Anschrift oder Telefonnummer, Angaben zum Auslandsstudium sowie Angaben zur Regionalgruppenzugehörigkeit können im Rahmen der Vereinszwecke auch an Nichtmitglieder weitergegeben werden, z.B. an einen am Auslandsstudium Interessierten, der Fragen zu meinem Fach oder meiner Uni hat. Alle anderen hier angegebenen Daten gibt der Verein nur mit meiner Zustimmung an Nichtmitglieder weiter.

Der Jahresbeitrag (mindestens DM 45,- für Studenten und Erwerbslose/Bescheinigung beifügen; mindestens DM 75,- für Berufstätige) soll alljährlich per Lastschrift von meinem Konto auf das Fulbright Alumni e.V. Vereinskonto (Nr. 5478 85-600, Postbank Frankfurt, BLZ 500 100 60) eingezogen werden. Die von mir unten erteilte und unterschriebene Ermächtigung gilt bis auf Widerruf. (Hinweis: Andere Zahlungsverfahren sind nur im begründeten Ausnahmefall möglich.)

Der Fulbright Alumni e.V. ist berechtigt, Spendenbescheinigungen auszustellen.

Ort, Datum:..... Unterschrift:.....

Hiermit ermächtige ich den Fulbright Alumni e.V., 60008 Frankfurt/Main, die von mir zu entrichtenden Zahlungen bei Fälligkeit zu Lasten meines Girokontos durch Lastschrift einzuziehen.

Name:.....

Anschrift des Kontoinhabers:.....

Betrag:.....(Mind. DM 45,-/75,- Mitgliedsbeitrag, falls gewünscht plus DM 35,- FAIN-Abo)

Konto-Nr.:..... BLZ:.....

bei (Bank/Sparkasse):.....

Wenn mein Girokonto die erforderliche Deckung nicht aufweist, besteht seitens des kontoführenden Geldinstituts keine Verpflichtung zur Einlösung. Teileinlösungen werden im Lastschriftverfahren nicht vorgenommen.

Ort, Datum:..... Unterschrift:.....

FULBRIGHT ALUMNI CONTACT



General Contact - Office

Besides the FRANKly, the association publishes an internal newsletter to members with current information; it also has an e-maillist that is used as an inexpensive and easy information tool, which is also used as a discussion forum for members. The list was set up thanks to our Spanish Fulbright friends. You can get information about the association and its media on our web-page under www.fulbright-alumni.de, or by contacting our office in Frankfurt:

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