

FRANK

THE FULBRIGHT ALUMNI E.V. NEWSLETTER



Content

Greetings from the President	1
The Board	2
20th Anniversary	
<i>Jubilee Ball</i>	6
<i>Erlangen – Open by Tradition</i>	7
20th Anniversary Speech	8
Greetings from the U.S. Ambassador	9
Greetings from the Fulbright Association	9
Jürgen Mulert	10
How It All Began – The Founding Phase 1985-1990	12
1991-1997: Going Out – Giving Back	14
1998-2006: The old world – the new world	15
History and Purpose of the Fulbright Alumni e.V.	17
Membership Application	19
National Events	
Welcome Meeting	21
Fulbright Fun and Family Weekend	24
Sail away ... with Fulbright	25
Strategy Meeting	28
Regional Chapters	
Cologne/Bonn	29
Franken	30
Frankfurt	30
Hamburg	31
Munich/Southern Bavaria	32
Niedersachsen	34
Ruhrgebiet/Westfalen	34
Southwest	35
International Project “Best Practices Manual”	36
The Alumni Initiative of the U.S. Department of State	37

Letter from the editor

Dear Readers,

It is my great pleasure to introduce to you the 17th edition of the FRANKly. As always, the contents of this journal reflect the efforts of the authors, but most of all they pay tribute to the work of active members in organizing events.

This edition of the FRANKly focuses on the 20th anniversary of the Fulbright Alumni e.V., which we celebrated in conjunction with our general assembly in January 2006. Much has happened since the association was first founded on 24 January 1986, and this jubilee issue reflects on these developments. In three historic accounts, former presidents of the association reflect on the development of the association: the internal challenges, the external representation and the members and events that made it all come alive.

Moreover, one of the founding members draws up a portrait of the founding father of the Association, Jürgen Mulert.

This edition also highlights many events of the past year: the 2005 welcome meeting in Berlin, the jubilee ball in Erlangen, the family weekend in Königstein, a sailing trip on the Lake Constance, and the activities of our regional chapters. Furthermore, each board member introduces himself and tells of his own personal motivation for working on the board.

A report from the recent Strategy Meeting held in Mosbach gives an outlook into the future of the association. Among the topics discussed were executive management and administration of the Association as well as strengthening the regional chapters. Many important challenges lie ahead for the next 20 years.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the FRANKly!

Yours,
Sidse Kristensen
frankly@fulbright-alumni.de

Impressum

FRANKly No. 17
Oktober 2006
Copyright by
Fulbright Alumni e. V.
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Proofreading by the Board
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Printing and Lettershop by
Liebeskind Druck, Apolda

Greetings from the President

Dear Members and Friends of the German Fulbright Alumni e.V.,

I am very pleased to introduce to you the 17th edition of our association's journal, the FRANKly. Like its predecessors, this edition gives a short overview of the activities in our association in the last months. By reading it you will realize that our association is quite lively, but also depends strongly on the volunteers organizing activities like the Winterball, a sailing trip, the regional meetings and the Strategy Meeting 2006. Here I would like to thank all the volunteers who have done a terrific job.

A highlight of this year was our 20th anniversary event, the Winterball in Erlangen, during which – besides quite a lot of ballroom dancing – a retrospect on the different periods of our association's history was shown. For those who could not attend this event we have included several articles about the historical overview presented. These articles are very interesting to read since they give a nice insight in the maturing of our association.

Since the association cannot stop with what we have reached during the last 20 years, a strategy meeting took place in August in Mosbach near Heilbronn. Although all attendees had to sacrifice one total weekend, it was well-visited. At the

end 8 working groups generated so many new ideas that the board of the association will have to spend much efforts in realizing them in the up-coming months. But we believe that the outcome in the areas of the host program, welcome meeting, recruitment of new members, new tasks for our office, new website and cooperation with other associations are so good that our association will gain more public attention to support the Fulbright exchange program and the mutual understanding between the different cultures.

In the name of the board I would like to thank all the authors and especially the editor, Sidse Kristensen, for their efforts. I know that everybody of them had to sacrifice a lot of their spare time to make this edition possible. But I am sure that they will be delighted when they hold this FRANKly edition in their hands, and if they get feedback from you, the reader. We also hope that this edition motivates each of you to organize Fulbright Alumni events and/or to write an article for the next edition. This will give certainly new impulses to our association and will help it to move on.

At the end I would like to wish you to enjoy the manifold articles.

Yours

Matthias Stecher – Munich, August 2006

The Association in brief

The German Fulbright Alumni Association was founded in Frankfurt in 1986 by former Fulbright scholars. After 20 years, our membership has increased to about 1200. 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 year in the United States with a Fulbright Grant.

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



The Board of Directors, Erlangen January 2006

exchange between Fulbrighters from all around the world; and to 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.

Introduction

Matthias Stecher,
President

Born in Hamburg in 1960, I was brought up in the middle of the state Schleswig-Holstein. After graduating high school and serving my military service, I studied electrical engineering at the RWTH Aachen and at Virginia Tech. in Blacksburg, Virginia. My Fulbright year in Virginia was definitely the most entertaining and challenging of my whole university career. Not only was I immersed in a different culture, I enjoyed my active life in the master dorm making friends with students from all over the world. After completing my PhD in Aachen I have been working for a major semiconductor company in Austria and later in Munich where I am still involved in many activities of the regional chapter. During my time in Aachen I founded the regional chapter of Aachen and became vice president for events for one year in the beginning of the 90's.

After supporting the Welcome Meeting 2004 in Munich, I decided to join the Fulbright Alumni board again in the function of Vice President for Communication. This year I was elected President of our association at our general assembly in Erlangen. Although I had some public obligations, like giving speeches and making small talk with the special guests, during the ballroom event I could still enjoy the evening. Hence, I lost a bit freedom to amuse myself during Fulbright events but it is not really a bad thing.

Compared with my former experience as regional chapter coordinator and board member in the start-up phase of our association I would like to state that nowadays the work of the national and the regional chapter boards and of the extended board has become more professional. For each function we have either a handbook or a task description. Furthermore, everybody who is working actively in our association can rely on the tremendous experiences of her or his predecessors. Nevertheless, the work of the board still depends strongly on the involvement of its members. Since nowadays most of the board members are no longer students they have to find time for the association between their job, family life, and the necessary spare time.

After 20 successful years we should think about upcoming steps. Our association will mature further. But which direction has to be chosen and which steps have to be tackled to solidify the association's in the future? On one hand, due to many



active regional chapters, we are very efficient and effective in organizing our association activities like national or regional events. But over the years some of our regional chapters have switched from

active to passive and vice versa. How can we make sure that the regional chapters stay active and how can we revitalize the passive chapters? Over the years we have grown steadily. Now we have more than 1200 members. The question comes up how we can fulfill the major needs of such a large organization? Furthermore, during the last two decades we have supported the work of the Fulbright Commission by advertising the Fulbright scholarships at the universities, by helping to select the right scholars, by sending representative of our association to the introduction meetings of the new members and scholars, and, in the past few years, we have donated a large sum of money to the Association of Friends and Sponsors of the German-American Fulbright Program to fund further grants. Due to this constant work over such a long period I think that we have reached a solid base for extending our support. This might be in bundling our activities with those of the Fulbright Commission to increase the size of donations for scholarships coming out of the industry. In addition, by strategic alliances with other associations on regional or national level we might be able to push further the Fulbright idea of mutual understanding between the nations. All these questions have been discussed in the board meetings during the last two years and will be discussed much more profoundly at our Strategy Meeting in August.

Nevertheless, we have to keep in mind that our association goals, the independence of our association, our regional chapters and our members have all been and will be the key for our success in the upcoming decades. We should never sacrifice any of these as they are our very strength.

If you have any wishes, concerns or recommendations for improvements, please, do not hesitate to contact me. We will discuss them frankly in our regular board meetings or at the general assembly.

Yours,
Matthias Stecher
President of Fulbright Alumni e.V.

Introduction

Uwe Koch,
Treasurer

Dear Fulbrighters,
my name is Uwe Koch and I am now in my fifth term as treasurer of the Fulbright Alumni e.V. In August of 1964 I was born in Reutlingen. Corvallis, Oregon was my home for my Fulbright year 1988/89 at Oregon State University's Physics Department. In 1997 I left the University of Tuebingen with a PhD in theoretical Astrophysics to join Deutsche Bank's Unix Data Center in Eschborn, close to Frankfurt. During my time in Frankfurt I was treasurer of the Frankfurt Regional Chapter and helped organize the Winterball of 1999 and the Welcome Meeting of 2000. In 2001 I went to Nuremberg and helped organize the Winterball of 2002 in Bamberg where I was elected for the first term as treasurer.

The main job as treasurer is to care for all financial matters of the association: pay the bills, bookkeeping, cash management, long term investment of our funds. In addition to that, the membership dues have to be collected and managed. This is only possible with the help of office staff; therefore I would like to thank Sandra, Jessica and Nicola for their support. Another important issue is to keep the section on money matters up to date in the Organization Manual and the corresponding Regional Coordinators Manual due to ever changing tax laws.



Helping the organization teams of national events in financial matters is a lot of fun – checking and correcting their balance sheets not always ...

The most valuable personal experience as a board member is the wealth of opportunities to meet interesting people. Representing the association at international conferences and helping other Fulbright associations to develop, is a real privilege. From a treasurer's point of view, the FAeV has learned in the last 20 years that a continuously growing membership base needs more and more professionalization in administrative and financial matters. If we continue growing at this speed; soon our office has to be open more than only a couple of hours per week. This also means that a lot of operative work has to be transferred from the board members to our staff. But this is not an issue for the next couple of years – so you can still have fun by doing it yourself. So get involved – it's worthwhile the effort.

Best wishes to all of you.

Yours,
Uwe Koch, Treasurer



Jasmin Asmar,
Vice President Events
(January to September 2006)

Born and grown up in Berlin I studied Biology at the Free University. I specialized in Molecular Biology and soon

decided that I wanted to study one year abroad in the US.

So I left Berlin in 1995 to spend my Fulbright year at the Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. It was in every aspect an exciting and challenging year in a wonderful city which I enjoyed a lot.

When I returned to Berlin I finished my studies and then spend the next years working on my PhD thesis at the Charité in

Berlin. After that I quit research in the lab and am now working in a contract research organization in the management of clinical studies.

I joined the Fulbright Alumni e.V. in 1996 and have since then been involved in the organization of several events in the Berlin regional chapter. This year I decided to support the Alumni also on the national level and have been elected Vice President Events. As such I am in contact with the regional chapters that are interested in organizing a national event, and I am supporting them during the preparations. In addition I am the contact person for any questions regarding events and their organization.

Yours,
Jasmin Asmar,
Vice President Events

Introduction

Introduction

Ursula Mich, Vice President Communications

Born in Bad Homburg v. d. H. in April 1960 I moved to Stuttgart studying Library Science after finishing school successfully. When I finished my diploma I thought myself being much too young to start my professional career. Being fond of the USA because of a visit, I applied for a Fulbright scholarship, which took me to Chapel Hill, North Carolina, in August 1982. UNC and the Carolina became my second home during my two year stay there. Thanks to my excellent professors at the Library Science Department of UNC I became very knowledgeable in children- and juvenile literature.

It was not easy to return to Germany in August 1984. The reverse culture shock lasted a few weeks and it took months to get used to Germany again. This was eased by starting my professional career in getting a job as head of the juvenile department of one of the most known bookstores in Frankfurt am Main. In the mid goies I changed to the Commerzbank AG, where I know work as the assistance to the CIO.

I have known the German Fulbright Alumni Association from its beginning in 1986. Through the association I have gotten to know very interesting people of different ages and professions, some of which even became close friends as time passed



by. Besides, they are the only ones sharing the same experiences we made.

In 1995 members convinced me to become head of the regional chapter Frankfurt am Main and with this I started "my career as Fulbright Alumni e.V. event manager" which finally ended up in being elected Vice President for Events in the previous two years.

I hope the board and I will find new ideas and deepen old ones – keeping experiences and finding new concepts in the field of communication e.g. electronic media versus print media, internationalizing our media and perhaps cooperation in media with other associations - just to mention few topics we got to deal with. In the next 20 years we must probably react faster to political, cultural and technical changes which will occur because of growing globalization. With an increasing number of members – I hope – and being asked more often to be partners with other associations or German-American institutions we have to consider more professionalism. The next 20 years will be interesting and pass by as fast as the last, I am pretty sure.

*Yours,
Ursula Mich, Vice President Communication*

Carina Simmchen, Vice President Members

I was born and grew up in the city of Dresden. In 1997 I started my studies in landscape architecture at the University of Technology in Dresden. Beside my studies I focused on international best practice sharing and developed a student exchange program with American Universities. With the Fulbright Scholarship I went to the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, which had a tremendous impact in my personal and professional development. Therefore I decided to extend the Fulbright year and spent a summer working and



Introduction

of course partying with international 'Fullies' in San Francisco and another year at UPENN. In 2003 I received my Master's degree in Landscape Architecture and moved to Munich where I have been working as a landscape architect dealing with urban (re)development projects in European cities.

I very much enjoyed the activities and the motivated regional chapter of Munich which finally encouraged me to get more involved in the Alumni Association and support the German-American dialog on various levels.

As Vice President for Members my main task is to cooperate with the Fulbright Commission and present our association at several events during the year for German scholars and returnees as well as American Fulbrighters in order to recruit new

members. I am assisting the regional chapter coordinators and another responsibility is the production of the membership directory with the great support of Hermes Winands and Reinhard Koch.

As our association is constantly growing it needs more professional structures to achieve our goals and to support the members. But we need to find the right way to do that without losing the fun and passion that made us "Fullies". I hope that some regional chapters can be revitalized and promote more activities. My goal is to integrate the American Ful-

brighters more actively in our regional events to support the cross-cultural exchange. The main focus lies on establishing a host program for American Fulbrighters to strengthen the interaction and give the opportunity of returning the Fulbright spirit. I hope for many more active members and look forward to collaborate with European Fulbright Associations and other international organizations.

*Yours,
Carina Simmchen,
Vice President Members*

Extended Board – Contact Information

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Jubilee Ball – the 20th anniversary of Fulbright Alumni e.V.

by Sidse Kristensen

In the weekend from 20th–22nd January 2006 around 100 Fulbrighters met in Erlangen for the annual winter ball and general assembly of the Fulbright Alumni e.V. This year's Winter Ball also marked the 20th anniversary of Fulbright Alumni e.V. and the Franconian regional group, who organized this special event, created a beautiful framework for the jubilee ball.



The Organization Team



The president reporting to the general assembly



Introducing the new board of directors

Friday the early arrivers joined in Unicum – the former sergeants' mess of the US armed forces – for a taste of the local wine and beer. As always the informal get-together was a great opportunity to greet old friends and to get acquainted with new people before the official event.

The General Assembly

The general assembly on Saturday was well attended. The participants were welcomed to the city of Erlangen by the former Mayor of Erlangen Dr. Hahlweg, who gave an account of Erlangen as an open city and emphasized the ties between Erlangen and the US.

Following this introduction, the members of the board each gave an account on the activities of the association in the past year. The board emphasized the J. William Fulbright Centennial Celebration among the many events of the year. In terms of outreach, the good cooperation with the Fulbright Commission and the Fulbright Alumni's presidency of the Association of Friends and Sponsors were stressed. Important milestones in the internal affairs of the association were the professionalization of communication through a bidding procedure for the FRANKly, and a new handbook for the regional chapter coordinators.

Subsequently, a new board of directors was elected. Joe Kristensen and Petra Steinmetz chose to leave the board of directors. Matthias Stecher was elected President, Uwe Koch was confirmed in his office as Treasurer, and Ursula Mich was elected Vice President for Communication. Two new board members accepted election to the board: Jasmin Asmar took over the position as Vice President for Events, and Carina Simmchen the position of Vice President for Members.

Jubilee Ball

With the formalities of the general assembly behind us, it was time for the annual winter ball. The newly renovated Redoutensaal, which was originally designed to host magnificent balls at the court of the margrave, provided a wonderful setting for our jubilee ball. The evening started with a reception and speeches. Joe Kristensen, as former president, gave a personal speech in honor of the 20th anniversary of the association, which you can read on the following page, and the new board of directors was presented to the guests.

The reception was followed by dinner, which was attended by the Mayor of Erlangen, Mr. Balleis, and member of the



A dancing trio

Foreigners Advisory Council, Mr. Ortega. The dinner was accompanied by a dance show and three interesting accounts from the history of the association, which you will find on the following pages. After dinner, the band Night Express played as the participants danced the night away and admired the stunning

salsa danced by Mr. Ortega and his wife. The party ended late, with the last participants seeking out the salsa club in Erlangen.

Brunch and City Tours

The next morning we met up again for brunch at the Erlanger Teehaus and had time to chat, relax, and recall the events of the weekend. The constituting board meeting took place,

indicating not only the start of a new year of the association, but the beginning of the next 20 years. After brunch, the participants had the possibility to explore both the historic and the modern aspects of Erlangen on city tours of the baroque city centre, the local beer cellars in the Burgberg, and of the university and medical research facilities.



Exploring Erlangen

Erlangen – Open by Tradition

Welcome Address by Dr. Hahlweg

The former Mayor of Erlangen, Dr. Hahlweg, welcomed the participants of the 20th general assembly to Erlangen. A Fulbrighter himself, Dr. Hahlweg was in Pittsburg, PA 1962–63 where he studied City Administration and Urban Renewal. His studies in Pittsburg, and the experiences from living in the heavy industrialized city full of cars, inspired his consequent commitment in his 34 years in local politics to make Erlangen a bike-friendly, clean, and sustainable city with a high quality of life.

The Motto of Erlangen is “Open by Tradition”. Historically, Erlangen has always been open to foreigners and thrived because of impulses from abroad. Erlangen was an insignificant farming town until the Margrave invited the Huguenot refugees to Erlangen and planned a whole new section of town for them. Moreover, Dr. Hahlweg emphasized the bonds between USA and Erlangen; until 1994 3.000 members of the US armed forces

were stationed in Erlangen with their families. When leaving, the Americans were greatly missed, but also provided the city with amazing opportunities for urban development, with the former military areas giving room to new living areas, university campuses, cultural centers, and industry right in the heart of the city.

Dr. Hahlweg feels a political and personal commitment to the motto of Erlangen: “Open by tradition”, because it emphasizes the openness and the optimism, which were the two most important things he learned from his Fulbright year.



Dr. Hahlweg

Fulbright Alumni e.V.

20th Anniversary Speech

by Joe Kristensen

On January 24, 1986, 16 Fulbrighters met in Frankfurt am Main to found an alumni association. Here tonight we look back upon 20 years of association history, rich in content and at times quite dynamic.

In the past 20 years,
we've grown from 16 to 1250 members.

In the past 20 years,
working on a volunteer basis we have organized events on current political, scientific and societal topics on a very professional level.

In the past 20 years,
our most active members could gain valuable experience in leadership and organization, or develop technical skills by volunteer work on the board or extended board.

In the past 20 years,
all of our members could benefit from the hard work of those volunteers.

In the past 20 years,
we have become a well-known and respected partner among the Fulbright Alumni organizations worldwide – after the US Fulbright Association we are the largest and most active association.

In the past 20 years,
our structure, events and communication media have become a benchmark among other volunteer alumni organizations in Germany.

In the past 20 years,
our relationship with the Fulbright Commission has grown in strength and intensity, through open communication and cooperation.



Joe Kristensen

In the past 20 years,
we have further intensified our cooperation with the Fulbright Commission through our membership in the Association of Friends and Sponsors of the German -American Fulbright Program. This year we've reached a milestone – the Fulbright Alumni e.V. nominated the president of that association, Dr. Jürgen Simon; one of our founding members. In doing so, the Association of Friends and Sponsors gains by having a Fulbright Alumnus as president, and the Fulbright Alumni e.V. is given confirmation of its importance to the Fulbright Commission.

In the past 20 years,
we have been able to give something back to society – especially through financing further Fulbright grants through the Association of Friends and Sponsors: since we joined in 1998, we've made it possible for more than 20 further grantees to spend a year in the US.

I feel that we have every reason to be proud of our association, which also means to be proud of ourselves.

On such “even birthdays” it is normal to reflect upon the past and think about the future.

I'm not clairvoyant, but I am convinced that the Fulbright Alumni e.V. has a long and important future ahead of it: especially if the association keeps its various facets – its mixture of professional interests, friendships, volunteerism and the desire to give something back.

**Let us celebrate
our history this evening!**

**Let us celebrate
the moment this evening!**

**And let us toast
to the next 20 years!**

Cheers.

Greetings from the U.S. Ambassador to Germany

William R. Timken, Jr., U.S. Ambassador to Germany

Today's interconnected globalized world demands an international outlook, cross-cultural perspective and foreign-language expertise. Understanding and respecting cultural and linguistic diversities is key to the long-term competitiveness, prosperity, and security of any society today. The best way to achieve this understanding and respect is through exchange programs such as the Fulbright program, which helps increase mutual respect through education and relationship building — replacing misconceptions and stereotypes with understanding and knowledge.

The importance of international networks, and particularly transatlantic networks such as the one you have built through the German Fulbright Alumni Association, cannot be overstated. The primary objective of networking is to find solutions based on common interests, common

values and common goals. As the transatlantic agenda changes, we need educated individuals who understand both cultures in order for America and Europe to work together successfully to face our common challenges.

As alumni of the German-American Fulbright Program, you are part of a truly impressive history. The Fulbright program is one of the U.S. State Department's flagship programs. Fulbright boasts an impressive list of alumni, including 32 Nobel Prize laureates. The German-American Fulbright program is the largest in the world. From the U.S. government's point of view, support for Fulbright is a wise investment, one whose rich dividends can be seen in the long-term relationships that have been maintained over two decades through your association. As alumni, you play an important role as key communicators between the



Ambassador Timken

U.S. and Europe with unique insights as a result of your exchange experience.

I congratulate the German Fulbright Alumni Association on your 20th anniversary and wish you many productive years in the future.

Greetings from the Fulbright Association

Jane L. Anderson, Executive Director



Jane L. Anderson

We in the U.S. Fulbright Association offer our congratulations on your 20th anniversary as an organization. Since its

founding in 1986, Fulbright Alumni e.V. has become one of the most vibrant, active organizations in the global network of Fulbright alumni groups. We salute your membership growth, the development of your regional chapters and, most of all, your focus on mobilizing Fulbright alumni to further global understanding through tolerance, dialogue, and cross-cultural interaction.

We wish we could be with all of you to dance the night away at your Anniversary Ball and to learn from the interesting proceedings of your General Assembly. We value all that you have contributed to promote one of the most profound ideas of the last or any century — that international educational and cultural

exchange can lead to the promotion of mutual understanding among the peoples of the world and the furthering of peaceful, cooperative relationships among nations.

Thank you for the work you have achieved over the last 20 years through creative, dedicated volunteer leadership. We look forward to working with all of you in the future to strengthen the bonds of international understanding and friendship through Fulbright alumni initiatives.

For the U.S. Fulbright Association, with warm regards,

Jane

Jürgen Mulert – Founding Father of the Fulbright Alumni e.V.

by Antje Hildebrandt

Glückwunsch

by Jürgen Mulert

*Zwanzig Jahre gibt es den Verein
am Anfang war ich ganz allein.*

*Jetzt gibt es von uns schon dreizehnhundert,
was mich als Gründer gar nicht wundert,*

*denn was wir tun, macht durchaus Sinn,
und ist für alle ein Gewinn,*

*d.h., nicht ein Null-Summen-Spiel,
denn der Verein setzt sich zum Ziel,*

*dass er sich ändern nicht versagt,
dort wo sein Können ist gefragt,*

*und was wir können, ist doch klar,
bereits nach einem Fulbright-Jahr.*

*Menschliche Kommunikation
Ist Zweck und ist zugleich auch Lohn.*

Jürgen Mulert was born August 16, 1938 in Schmiedeberg by Dresden.

In 1948 the family (father, mother, three brothers and an older sister) took refuge with the grandparents in Wiesbaden. Later the family moved to Herrenberg by Stuttgart, where Jürgen earned his high school diploma (Abitur) in Waiblingen in 1958. Afterwards he spent four years in the Marines earning the rank of Ensign in the Reserves (Lt.z.S.d.R.). From 1962 to 1967 he studied economics at the Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität in Bonn. Afterwards he went to Fort Collins with a Fulbright Grant to Colorado State University, and he extended his stay with a teaching assistant position and earned his Ph.D. in Economics in 1972. The same year he married his love, Alice.

She was divorced and brought three young children into the marriage. In 1973 the family moved to Heidelberg where Jürgen taught Business Administration. From 1975 to 1986 he was in charge of the German Program Unit at the Fulbright Commission in Bonn, in 1975/76 and 1980/81 as acting director general (Stellvertretender Geschäftsführender Direktor). In 1976 his wife tragically died of a liver disease. Moreover, the

American ex-husband demanded the children back – easily done according to American law. Thus, Jürgen lost his entire family in very little time.

Maybe therefore he was so active for “his” grantees. He has supported thousands with help and advice, not only in the USA but also in Germany. For every single one he was a personal counselor. He solved many small and large problems for “his” grantees, also in coping with reverse culture shock. The close contact to the grantees made it clear to him that time was ripe for renewed efforts to found an alumni association.

After half a year of planning and preparation, the Association was founded in Frankfurt am Main. Countless Returnees from the years before were contacted. He won 15 alumni for the idea and on January 24 1986 they signed the founding documents.

There were several reasons for Frankfurt. It was the geographical center of Germany, many committed Fulbrighters were gathered there and last but not least there was a (Fulbright-) law office supporting the association in notarial matters. One year later, Jürgen moved to Frankfurt to work at the City University.

After dealing with the formalities of founding the association, he withdrew himself a little. He did not want to be president of the association, but served in the unpopular position of secretary; one reason being that he left the Fulbright Commission in this period and didn't want to cause the association any difficulties through his leadership. In the next four years he supported the association actively and enthusiastically with many new ideas.

In 1990, when the internal German border had just fallen, he packed his belongings and went to the “Wild East”. Back then no one understood why, but he was of the opinion that the future was there, and that was where he was most needed.

In Erfurt he founded the ‘Institut für Internationale Studien’ in 1991 and the ‘Verein zur Förderung von Auslandskontakten’ in 1993. Both were associations aiming at intercultural understanding and international exchange.

Beside the associations he founded, he has held many voluntary positions (Ehrenämter inne haben). He was lay judge at the Administrative Court in Stuttgart from 1975 to 1980, lay judge at the Administrative Court in Weimar from 1997 and in various committees of the Chamber of Commerce. Law, principally the law of the Roman Empire, was his passion.



Jürgen Mulert

He revered the Humanists and wrote these few lines called the THE DIOGENES DECLARATION: Do it out of general esteem for Mankind.

Commemoration of Diogenes of Sinope (410/400 - 323 v.Chr.)

Jürgen Mulert

*Human life (including your own) is of greatest value,
dignity and importance
and deserves the greatest care,
attention and protection.*

*Traditionally and invariably with negative results
identity determined morality, whereas
in a truly human world morality determines identity.*

*Your chances to succeed are directly related to your
moral, emotional and physical strength
in overcoming adversities and dealing with fear and apprehension.*

He spoke fluent English and French, loved Jacques Rousseau and Charles Dickens, Maria Callas and the Beatles, and celebrated his 64th birthday with a big party in Erfurt. Italy was the country which most attracted him. One day he decided to hike from Erfurt to Rome, a couple of weeks every summer. The next year he would continue the hike where he left it the year before. Not to much success, he tried to get other Fulbrighters interested in his idea.

It should not be forgotten that he was also a gifted poet and inventor. Some Fulbrighters were very impressed with his sheep-counting-machine, a machine connected to a monitor on which you could actually count sheep if you had problems sleeping.

He wrote poems for every occasion; for Easter, Birthdays, Christmas and about political occurrences. His Loreley-poems were published. He also integrated the new German history into his poems:

9. November 1989

*Gute, alte, treue Lore,
gute alte Loreley,
offen stehen alle Tore
und der Kummer ist vorbei.*

*Was die Menschen einst ersehnten,
haben sie nun selbst geschafft.
Was nicht möglich in Jahrzehnten,
schaffen sie mit starker Kraft.*

*Frei kann man sich jetzt bewegen,
wie es Zeit und Geld erlaubt.
Ja, es ist ein wahrer Segen,
und wer hätte es geglaubt,*

*dass die Menschen dies vollbringen,
was bisher unmöglich schien.
Freiheit friedlich zu erringen,
wer hat diese Kraft verliehen?*

Unfortunately, Jürgen Mulert can no longer take active part in the events of the Fulbright Alumni e.V. After his second stroke in 2003 he lives in a nursing home in Wiesbaden. Anyone who are interested in contacting him should contact Antje Hildebrandt, whose phone number you can get from the Board.

Fulbright Alumni e.V:

How It All Began – The Founding Phase 1985 - 1990

By the founding members Jürgen Simon and Oliver Steinmetz

Building the Internal Structure

In 1945 Senator J. William Fulbright had the great idea of establishing a bi-lateral scholarship program which turned into the “most successful foreign policy program of the United States”, as Secretary of State Colin Powell once put it.

40 years later Jürgen Mulert, then the German Program Director at the Fulbright Commission in Germany, also had a great idea: Why not establish a German Fulbright alumni association? He knew that an earlier attempt of founding and maintaining such an alumni network had failed in the early 1970s. Nevertheless, in September 1985 he invited Fulbrighters, who had just returned from

their studies in the USA, to meet in Frankfurt on November 11, 1985. In the law office of Hans-Burkhard Steck-Bromme we discussed the first draft of statutes for a Verein which initially was called “Fulbright Gesellschaft zur Förderung des kulturellen Austausches e.V.”, then “Vereinigung Ehemaliger Fulbrighter e.V.”, and finally “Fulbright Alumni e.V.”. On January 24, 1986, 14 founding members signed the final version of the statutes.

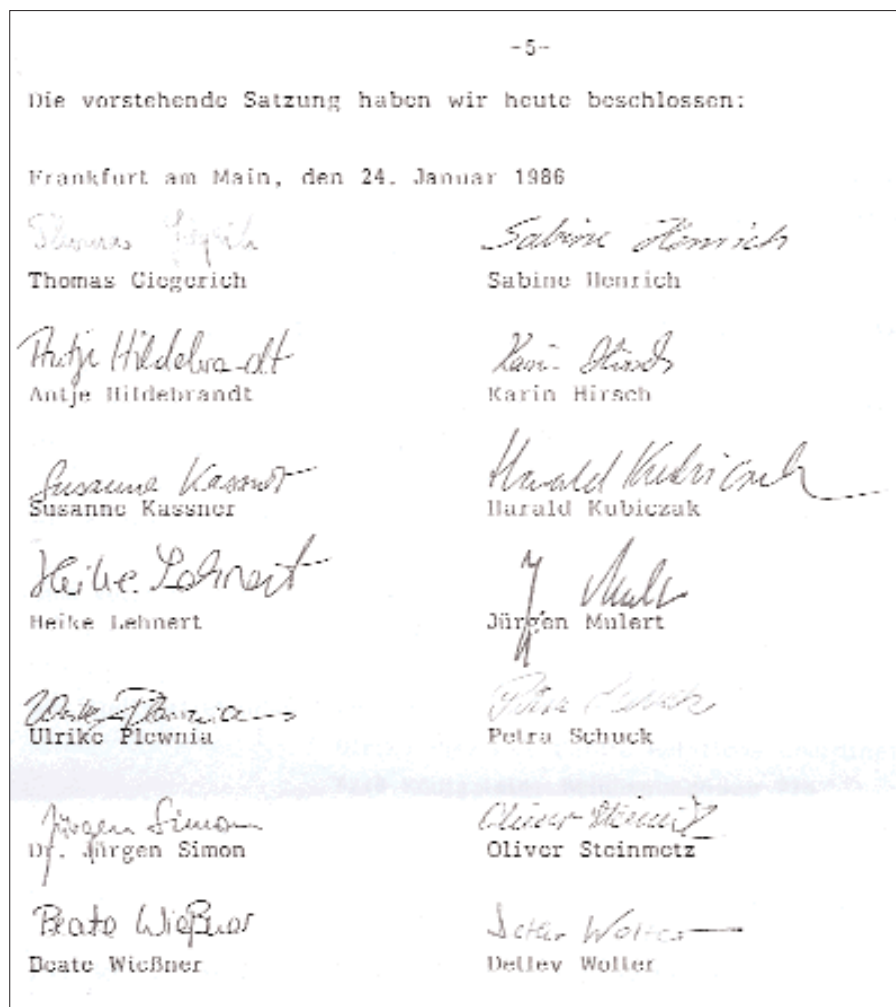
Why did they want such an association? We wanted to give something in return for what the Fulbright program and the United States had so generously provided to us. We were convinced that we could more effectively contribute to Fulbright’s vision of international peace and understanding as a well-organized

group rather than as individuals.

In comments to the initial draft of the Bylaws of the Vereinigung Jürgen Mulert outlined its purposes:

1. ... to support a network of friendships among former Fulbrighters, without which the whole concept of the association would be shallow or meaningless. The common ground on which to build is the positive experience of having lived in the United States as Fulbright scholars for some time, an experience that can become a strong motivating force, if there are opportunities to use it constructively. ...
2. In an association (“Vereinigung”) “dominated” in terms of numbers by students, it stands to reason that primary activities will be directed to the need of students...
3. At least equally important would be to extend friendship to American and other foreign students in Germany who find it quite often bewildering to deal with the kind of “hospitality” the average German native feels comfortable with.
4. Further down the road it would be desirable also to assist current and former grantees with “Druckkosten-Zuschüsse” (printing stipends) for scholarly work growing out of the academic exchange.

When it came to the legal form of such an organization, most of us did not fancy the idea of founding “yet another German Verein”. After all, we had just returned from the USA and were not too much into German traditions. But soon we realized if we wanted to attract interesting speakers on German-American topics, we would have to appear sufficiently serious. And under certain conditions a Verein and its donors can profit from tax advantages.



Signatures of the Founding Members

The members of the first Board (Vorstand) of the Fulbright Alumni e.V. were elected on the founding day January 24, 1986: Oliver Steinmetz (President), Ulrike Plewnia (Vice President), Antje Hildebrandt (Treasurer) and Jürgen Mulert (Secretary).

The final steps of the internal structuring process followed:

- The tax authorities approved the Statutes and confirmed the "Gemeinnützigkeit" of the objectives of the FA e.V. in March 1986.
- On July 4 (!), 1986 the Board met officially for the first time in the house of our lawyers. By that date 20 Fulbrighters had signed up for membership.
- On December 9, 1986 the first annual General Meeting took place in the Café Galerie in Frankfurt. The FA e.V. counted 61 members.

The invitations had been sent from the new Frankfurt seat of the Verein, Antje Hildebrandt's living room. The addresses of the returnees had to be re-typed from those lists of German fellow students which each of us had received during their scholarship year in the USA. The addresses were stored on a donated, brand new IBM PC-XT with its 8 MHz 8086 processor (yes, Megahertz, not Gigahertz!) and a hard disk of 10 Megabytes (no, not Gigabytes, Megabytes!). Its database system called "Paradox" served its purpose well until we replaced it with MS Access in the late 1990s.

FA e.V – Facing the Outside World

The First Official Invitation

The first official acknowledgement by the outside world of the existence of the FA e.V. came from Thomas F. Johnson, the U.S. Consul for Press and Cultural Affairs in Frankfurt. He invited the FA e.V. members to a reception in his Frankfurt residence honoring "40 Years Fulbright". Several joint activities generously supported by Consul Johnson followed in the years to come.



Oliver Steinmetz and Antje Hildebrandt

The First Returnee Meeting

The first Returnee Meeting took place in Frankfurt on October 11, 1986. It is called Welcome Meeting today but still serves the same purpose: to welcome the returning German students plus the new U.S. students and make them familiar with the FA e.V.

The First PowWow

The first PowWow became a model for many more to come and was named after the native Indian gatherings in the USA. It took place on June 5, 1987, preceded by a reception by the Lord Mayor of Frankfurt in the Römer, the historic Frankfurt town hall. During this PowWow visionary issues had been raised: Among others, the former secretary of state Berndt von Staden lectured on "Germany and the USA – connected by common values", and Wilhelm Rall, Principal of McKinsey, on "Globalization strategies for the German economy".

PowWows became a prominent part of the annual FA e.V. calendar of events. One of the most outstanding early PowWows was the one held at the architecturally impressive Züblin-Haus in Stuttgart from June 23 - 25, 1989. The organization team had succeeded in inviting as keynote speaker the President of the German Parliament, Prof. Dr. Rita Süßmuth. She gave a politically highly sensitive, off-the-record speech on her assessment of the Chinese massacre which had just happened on the Tien An Men Square in Beijing.

The First "Fachtagung"

The first conference on a selected subject matter focused on "The USA and the Federal Republic of Germany – a comparison of corporate cultures". FA e.V. members had organized this



Rita Süßmuth, 1989

event at Mannheim University on April 23 - 24, 1988.

A year later, to commemorate the 200th anniversary, "The French Revolution from the U.S. and the German perspective" was discussed at Regensburg from April 21 - 23, 1989.

The First Publications

The Board had been aware of the need to communicate to the outside world with a representative publication. The FRANKly should report about speeches given at official FA e.V. events and be a journal to its members. The first issue appeared in December 1987.

But there was a need for a more frequent, less formal internal source of information to its members. Thus, the FAIN (Fulbright Alumni Internal Newsletter) was born in October 1989 as a bi-monthly publication containing Board minutes and the calendar of upcoming events. Note that we were still more than a decade away from wide-spread use of e-mails!

Finally: The Birth of the Logo

At the annual General Meeting in October 1990 an advisor to the Board was designated to help developing a suitable logo for the FA e.V.. It took almost two more years until on July 18, 1992 a panel of four members selected out of 48 competitive submissions the logo which is still used to date.

What did we learn from the first years of the Verein?

Individual enthusiasm and initiative can create a lasting, strong organizational structure – and provide mutual support, enrichment, and plain fun to its members.

1991 - 1997: Going Out – Giving Back

By Wiltrud Hammelstein and
Juliane Kronen

The world outside

The transatlantic relation between Germany and US were at ease in the years after the Berlin wall had come down. The Iraqi invasion in Kuwait and the following gulf war had their impact on the world and also on Germany: several cities cancelled their traditional Rose Monday carnival festivities.

In the USA a former intern of the world famous Senator Fulbright became President of the United States of America: Bill Clinton. Senator Fulbright was highly appreciated in the US. He received the "medal of freedom" out of the hands of his former intern.

In the aftermath of the fall of the Berlin wall and the liberation of the former communist countries in Eastern Europe, Congress reduced the funds for cultural work in the western democracies and focused more on the former Eastern block states. In Germany several Amerika-Houses were closed.

For our association one important date in the 90s was February 9th 1995: Senator Fulbright passed away shortly before his 90th birthday. His disparation made news in the "Tagesschau". The board worked all evening to put together an obituary which was then simultaneously published in German in the FAZ and in English in the Washington Post. A big thank you to Ulrich Hueck for his support in this endeavour.

The FAeV internally

The fall of the Berlin Wall also brought internal changes to the Fulbright Alumni e.V. The Fulbright Program started sending Fulbright scholars from the New Federal States, so the board decided to install an advisor for the new federal states. With more returnees in the New States a regional chapter Saxony was founded; the association was growing east.

The early 90s was a period of growth: from 1991 to 1997 the membership grew from 730 members to 1003. Due to the growth and change in the board we moved the "office" out of the home of our first president Antje Hildebrandt into a subleased room. In the following years the office was moved to our current location in Frankfurt Sandweg 81 and we hired a paid administration person.

In this period we also started documenting our processes to become independent of persons: an organization-manual was written sharing the know-how on how to organize national events, and a printed membership booklet ensured better networking among the members. One heated internal discussion was regarding the "Lastschrifteinzug" (Direct debiting of dues from members' bank accounts) which caused vehement counter reactions in some member groups.

The internal discussions also focused on which topics the Association could give out official statements on. This discussion was a reaction to the participation of members in the anti-gulf war demonstrations. Another intense discussion was caused by our growing surplus funds: How do we spend our funds: supporting existing German-American initiatives or creating a scholarship of our own?

Event types

In 1991 our first sailing trip was organized: Bright People under Full Sail. In the same year we organized the general assembly in connection with a winter ball for the first time to attract more members. The winter ball and general assembly were held in Essen.

In 1997, our "Returnee meeting" was renamed "Welcome-Meeting" to include the incoming American scholars as well as the returning German grantees.

Moreover, we organized special focus conferences together with the Oregon Alumni Association.



Sailing Trip 1991



The Board of Directors 1995



Our Logo

Going out

In terms of outreach, we took several steps to professionalize our communication. Our logo was created to give us a unique identification. We see it still on our communication tools, our banner and on t-shirts.

The FRANKly, our annual newsletter, was relaunched with a layout including more photos and non-text elements. Moreover the use of e-mail facilitated the communication among the board members, with the regional chapters and also with other associations.

German Fulbrighters have always been very international oriented and like to travel. Consequently, we have been networking with other Fulbright Alumni Associations to a great extent.

A group went to Egypt in 1991. Together with the Belgium Fulbright Association a PowWow was organized in Antwerp and Brussels in 1992, which included a session in which members of newly founded East European Fulbright Associations presented themselves.

A first European meeting for Fulbright Associations was held in Paris in 1996. Germany volunteered to organize the next European meeting in Strasbourg which took place in 1998.

The 50th anniversary of the Fulbright Program was celebrated in Budapest at the first Worldwide Fulbright Alumni Conference. We worked closely with the Hungarians to share cost for a US key note speaker who participated in our Decennial PowWow a weekend before

the Budapest conference in August 1996.

We have become role models by working with 100% volunteer activities. Board members were invited to share their experience on panels at the annual conferences of the US Fulbright Association in Washington, D.C.

The Fulbright Alumni e.V. was increasingly recognized by the official Fulbright community. The Fulbright Commission started to invite representatives to present the FAeV at the introduction meeting for the outgoing German grantees and incoming American ones, and our members were invited to participate on selection committees for grantee candidates.

Moreover the FAeV became a member of the Association of Friends and Sponsors of the Fulbright Program.

Giving Back

After some difficult early years in terms of finances, we were able, through con-

servative and professional financial management, to accumulate surplus funds in the 90s. Due to our tax-free status we needed to spend our savings according our statutes. After a strategic discussion we decided to join the "Verein der Freunde und Förderer des Fulbright Programmes" and donate money to support German Fulbright scholars who would otherwise not be able to go to the US.



Paris

1998 - 2006: The old world – the new world

By Michael Tonke and Joe Kristensen

In the most recent era of our Association the membership rose continually: from 1050 members in 1998, we now count 1250 in 2006. This fantastic rise was achieved through consistent presence and assistance at all of the introductory seminars held by the Fulbright Commission, our Welcome Meetings and excellent Pow-Wows, which attracted attention both inside and outside of the Association. A very important step towards further professionalism in the Association and its public presentation was the initiation of our website in 1998.

Internally, the Association underwent many changes in this period. For one, the structure of the Board of Directors was altered to create a Vice President for "Members", to specifically address and acquire new, young members directly after their return from their Fulbright year. Furthermore, the "Returnee Meeting" was given a new name: the "Welcome Meeting". After all, the event is catered not only to returning German grantees, but to American grantees who have just arrived as well.

In addition to the standard events such as the Welcome Meeting and the General Assembly and Winterball, the Pow-Wows held in 1999 and 2001 –

focusing on Genetics held in Frauenchiemsee and Nourishment in Calw respectively – drew large numbers of interested members.

The Strategy Meetings held in this period are proof of the continuing discussions and changes occurring in the Association in the context of external geopolitical and technical changes, often resulting in a new orientation for the Association and its activities. Many heated discussions were held on topics such as the use of the Association's funds, privacy policy, the use of the internet, and the previously mentioned restructuring of the Board of Directors. Strategy Meetings were held in 2000 in

1998 - 2006: The old world – the new world



Pow Wow Nutrition Calw 2001



European Conference Strasbourg 1998



Prof. Dr. Rita Süßmuth Pow Wow Quo Vadis USA



Steffen Schmuck-Soldan, Pow Wow EU Enlargement

Hohnstein Castle, 2002 in Witzenhausen and 2004 in Weilheim. Another Strategy Meeting is planned for 2006.

Externally the Association was active a number of ways, as well. Our Association organized a meeting of the European Fulbright Alumni Organizations in

1998 in Strasbourg, and assisted many of the delegates from Eastern European countries through travel grants.

Another milestone was our joining the Association of Friends and Sponsors of the German-American Fulbright Program in 1999. Since then, we have supported the Fulbright Program through financial donations which have funded up to 5 more grantees each year. In doing so, our association is giving something back to the Program and society – reflecting the very foundation of our Association.

And, in 2005, Dr. Jürgen Simon, a founding and very active member of our Association, was elected president of the Association of Friends and Sponsors.

Close ties were struck with the “Amy Biehl Foundation” in 1998. In addition to financial support for the foundation, the Board of Directors met with Amy Biehl’s parents, who, after the murder of their daughter in a township in South Africa, showed immense grace and mercy through their efforts to improve conditions in the townships.

In 2002, a Pow-Wow entitled “Quo vadis USA?” was held in Berlin, attracting attention and high-profile guests and speakers, such as the former president of the Bundestag, Prof. Dr. Rita Süßmuth.

Two years later, another Pow-Wow was held in Berlin – this time focusing on the forthcoming EU-Enlargement. Held in March of 2004, the event was held as a pre-conference to the annual “Berlin Week” gathering of all American grantees in Germany. The Fulbright spirit ran high among the 350 participating grantees and alumni. This Pow-Wow again attracted well-known speakers and guests, such as Prof. Dr. Gesine Schwan, then running for Federal President of Germany.

Another highlight was the “J.W. Fulbright Centennial Celebration”, held on April 9, 2005, the 100th birthday of the late Senator, in Frankfurt am Main. We were very pleased to welcome



Ulrich Littman and Harriet Mayor Fulbright April 9 2005

representatives from academics and politics, including the acting US ambassador to Germany, Mr. John Cloud. It was our great pleasure and honor to welcome Harriet Mayor Fulbright and Dr. Ulrich Littmann as speakers at the event.

In the same year, our member Klaus Brüning had the opportunity to meet president George W. Bush during his visit to Germany in Mainz.

The Association does not exist in a vacuum – our activities and discussions are always set within the context of the times. The terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11th, 2001 left its marks in many ways. Tragically, we lost one of our members in the attacks. The attacks, the war in Iraq, and the key elections in the US and Germany were all sources of discussion and debate among our members.

Our Association is alive and up to the challenges of the times. The professional-level work of members volunteering their time is evident in our events and our media, which are the basis for both our external presentation and internal communication. At the same time, the professional level of our Association sets rather high demands on those volunteers. In the recent past it has become increasingly more difficult to find members willing to invest their free time in leadership positions or the organization of events. Our goal must be to spread the work among more volunteers or to hire professional help. The discussions on this topic are well underway. We look forward to a continually dynamic and interesting association-life – and are convinced that our Association has the means to carry on for a long time to come.



FULBRIGHT ALUMNI E.V.

History and Purpose

The German Fulbright Alumni e.V. was founded in Frankfurt in 1986 by former Fulbrighters. By 2005, our membership has increased to over 1200. 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 in 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.

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

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

Activities

Based on a young, lively and broad-based membership, our association organizes a diverse range of regional and nationwide events.

General Assembly & Winter Ball

Once each year all members are invited to our General Assembly. At the assembly, each Board member reports on his or her activities during the year, followed by the election of a new Board. The assembly is also the forum for members to make movements for decisions by the attendees, which are then binding for the association.

After the General Assembly, the annual Winter Ball is celebrated.

Welcome Meetings

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

Arranged by the regional groups the Welcome Meeting has taken place each year since 1986 in many different cities in Germany.

Strategy Meeting

At the Strategy Meeting, the most devoted core of the members come together to discuss the present and future of the association we all hold so dear.

Strategy Meetings have so far been held in 1997, 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2006.

Regional Chapter Activities

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

Pow Wows/ Focus Conferences

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

1988	Minorities, Conservatism and Design, Frankfurt
1988	The United States and Germany Corporate Cultures in Comparison, Mannheim
1989	Playground Future, Stuttgart
1989	The French Revolution in American and German Perspectives, Regensburg
1990	The Future of the Information Society - Personal Communication in a Crisis? Hamburg
1990	Signs for Tomorrow's Architecture, Landscape and Urban Development, Darmstadt
1991	Traffic Concepts for the Future - How Mobile will our Society be in the Year 2000? München
1991	German Reunification and the Future of German-American Relations, Berlin
1991	Living and Working in Changing Structures, Todtmoos
1992	Health, Köln
1993	Market Leadership and Brand Names, Böblingen
1993	Ecology and Structural Change, Essen
1994	Where is our New Frontier? Stuttgart
1994	Organizational Development and International Competitiveness, Frankfurt
1995	First Fulbright Fun & Future Camp, Lenggries
1995	Environmental Strategy, Heidenheim
1996	A Chance for Global Understanding, Berlin
1996	Multimedia, Stuttgart
1997	Managing Public Organizations, Frankfurt
1998	Intercultural Communications, Frankfurt
1999	Biotechnology, Frauenchiemsee
1999	Educational Systems, Frankfurt
2001	Nutrition, Calw
2002	Quo Vadis USA, Berlin
2004	EU Enlargement, Berlin
2005	J. William Fulbright Centennial, Frankfurt am Main

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International Activities

Our association has put an emphasis on strengthening personal contacts among Fulbright Alumni all around the world. Some core activities have been:

- 1993 European Fulbright Alumni Convention, Brussels.
- 1996 World Fulbright Alumni Conference, The Spirit of Global Understanding, Budapest
- 1998 European Fulbright Alumni Workshop, Strasbourg
- 2000 3rd European Fulbright Alumni workshop in Toledo
- 2004 The International Interdisciplinary Fulbright Conference, Olympism and the Fulbright Spirit: Humanism in Action, Athens

Other Activities

"Bright People under Full Sail". International sailing trips on the Baltic Sea, every two years since 1991.

Family Weekend, yearly event for singles, couples and families, since 2000.

Our Services

The association publishes a national journal "FRANKly", an internal newsletter "FAIN", and an Alumni Membership Directory.

As a 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.

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

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Fulbright Alumni e.V.

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!

PLZ, Ort:

Name:

Telefon privat:

Geburtsdatum:

Telefon geschäftlich*:

Straße/Postfach:

E-Mail:

Ich möchte folgender Regionalgruppe angehören:

- ☐ Aachen ☐ Berlin ☐ Franken (Nürnberg/Erlangen) ☐ Frankfurt/Main ☐ Köln/Bonn
☐ München/Südbayern ☐ Nord (Bremen/Hamburg/Schleswig Holstein) ☐ Niedersachsen ☐ Ruhrgebiet/Westfalen ☐ Südost (Sachsen/Thüringen) ☐ Südwest (Stuttgart)

Ich möchte regelmäßig Regional-Informationen erhalten:

☐ Ja ☐ Nein

In den USA war ich als:

☐ Student ☐ T.A. ☐ Dozent ☐ anderer Status

US-Universität:

US-Studienabschluss:

US-Studienfach:

US-Jahrgang:

Finanzierung:

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

*Studienfach/Uni in Deutschland:

*Tätigkeit zur Zeit (Beruf/Arbeitgeber):

*Ideen und Wünsche für den Verein:

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An den
Fulbright Alumni e.V.
Postfach 100 865
60008 Frankfurt

National Events

2005-2006

by Philipp Hövel, Sidse Kristensen, Dorothea Müller and Donna Stoltz

Welcome Meeting 2005

In November 2005 the Berlin regional chapter invited new and old Fulbrighters to the annual Welcome Meeting. The Welcome Meeting is a chance to introduce the recently returned German stipends as well as the current American stipends in Germany to the Fulbright Alumni e.V., but more than that, it is a welcome opportunity for the longtime members of the association to meet up with old friends and to meet and greet new people.

The event started Friday evening with a get-together at the restaurant "Die Zwölf Apostel", a chance to get to know each other over a glass of wine and some extremely large pizzas.

Saturday started with an introduction to the Association, followed by a keynote speech by Daniel S. Mattern, who gave a historic account of Berlin as a cultural metropolis in the 1920's. After



The organization team



Party

lunch the program continued with workshops ranging from the role of strategic business consulting, exemplified through the case of a windmill maintenance business, to tips on how to survive Germany as an American. You can read accounts of the key note speech and some of the workshops on the following pages.

Saturday ended with a party at the Tanzschule Traumtänzer at the Tempelhof Airport. Strengthened by a delicious buffet the participants partied half the night, showing a multitude of dance styles ranging from wiener waltz to robot dance moves.

We concluded the weekend with a brunch on Sunday morning before we in smaller groups went on city tours through the Airport Tempelhof, Staatsoper unter den Linden, and the Government District.

"Something in the Air" – A brief history of Berliner Luft

In his knowledgeable and entertaining keynote speech "Something in the Air" – A brief history of Berliner Luft, Daniel S. Mattern, who has recently taken office as Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer at the US embassy in Berlin, highlighted three major aspects of the proverbial "Berlin air".

As a first aspect he dealt with the changing quality of Berlin air in its literal sense. The originally crisp and clean Berlin air, influenced by sandy soils, ponds, lakes, canals, the Spree river and the breezes of the Northern European Plane, became more and more polluted during the era of industrialization. But at the end of the 19th century, a movement themed "Licht und Luft" as well as various protagonists of Bauhaus architecture tried to improve the quality of Berlin's air and the living conditions of those who breathed it. In 1909, Berlin's sewage

water system was completed and from that point on contributed a great deal to the clarity of the air. When in 1920 Greater Berlin was created, the city luckily did not give up its many green spaces which is why until today one third of Berlin's expanse is green. Trabbi exhaust and Ofenheizung gave the city's air a very special and rather unpleasant flavour in the GDR era, but today the air in Germany's capital is a lot cleaner than it used to be in nearly a century and a half.

Part two of Daniel S. Mattern's lecture discussed the fact that in Berlin there seems to be always "something in the air" since the city is constantly changing and becoming something new. While from an American perspective Berlin is an old city, it looks rather like a parvenu, an upstart compared to other European capitals. The many political changes from the Napoleonic Wars of Liberation



Daniel S. Mattern

to the fall of the Berlin Wall led and lead to a sense of expectation among the city's citizens and according to Mattern the one constant in Berlin's modern history has been change.

In the third and most vivid part of his lecture, Daniel S. Mattern dealt with Paul Lincke's famous song "Das ist die Berliner Luft" – the motto of this year's Welcome Meeting. Lincke who was born in 1866 worked both as a musician and as a conductor for instance at the Apollo-Theatre and eventually become



"Das ist die Berliner Luft, Luft, Luft"

one of the most popular Kings of the Berlin-operetta. While the Viennese operetta took its characters mainly from the aristocracy, the staff of the Berlin operetta belonged to the petty Bourgeoisie and was therefore rather easy to identify with from the perspective of the audience. In "Frau Luna", one of Lincke's best known operettas, the protagonist floats over Berlin in a balloon and, finding the air up there hardly bearable and yearning for the better "Berlin air", intones the snappy song "Das ist die Berliner Luft".

Much to the surprise of all, this was exactly what Mattern also expected his audience to do: handing out sheets with the song's words he encouraged everybody so sing along with him – what a nice way of ending a lecture on a happy note.

Welcome Meeting 2005

"Music in the Air" – Berlin as a Metropolis of Music

Maike Charlotte Fuchs, Xenia Hu and Elisabeth Hilsdorf took the participants of their workshop on a breathtaking and incredibly entertaining tour de force through the history of music in Berlin, stuffed with fun anecdotes, remarkable stories and beautiful pieces of music.

Starting of with music and musicians at the Hohenzollern dynasty's court, for instance Frederic the Great's famous harpsichordist Johann Friedrich Fasch, the tour passed Giacomo Meyerbeer, Albert Lortzing and Felix Mendelssohn-Bartoldy on its way to the Roaring Twenties. By this time, Berlin had become one of the leading centers of musical development in Europe; Schönberg and Busoni, Kurt Weill and Bertold Brecht lived and worked here. However, during the Nazi era many composers and musicians had to emigrate – many of them never to return.

After World War II and during the Cold War the city's Eastern and Western part saw different developments in their musical life until the German reunification. Today, Berliners can enjoy the work of 9 professional orchestras and 3 operas. Thanks to a special DAAD-program for

musicians that started in 1963, Berlin has become one of the most important cities in Europe with regard to contemporary music, hosting for example Ligeti, Penderecki and Nono. In the 1980s, the city also became the starting point for the music of the so-called Neue Deutsche Welle, and in 1992 the first Love-Parade took place in Berlin. (Its hard to believe, that at that time Dr. Motte only saw a crowd of about 120 people accompanying his one wagon...)



Maike Fuchs

"The Marketing of Good Air"

The workshop "The Marketing of Good Air" highlighted the theme of the Welcome Meeting from an economic perspective. Led by Steffen Schmuck-Soldan and Sebastian von Schweinitz, the workshop provided much information and soon developed into a lively discussion on the possible barriers for the practical implementation of climate protection measures.

The first half of the workshop focused on global emission trading schemes. We had all heard about emission certificates, emission rights and the like, but what

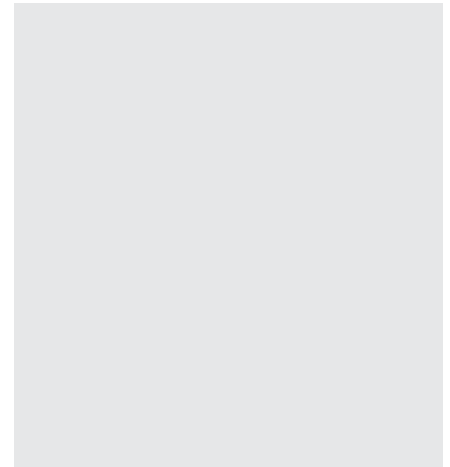
does such a certificate look like? How does emission trading proceed step by step? To better understand how to develop a system to help reach the Kyoto Protocol commitments we discussed a fictive case, presented by Sebastian von Schweinitz, in which a factory gets assigned a certain number of certificates at the beginning of an allocation period. These certificates entitle the factory to emit a certain amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from production. The factory must economize with the certificates. If the factory wishes to expand the pro-

duction – which will result in higher CO₂ emissions – it will either have to make the production more efficient or buy emission certificates from someone else. In the last case the selling company reduces its allowed CO₂ level. In this way the climate protection will take place where it costs less. Moreover, the scheme awards companies who develop low-emission production methods, by enabling them to sell the resulting surplus certificates. In this way ecological action will be implemented economically.

True to the motto “Think globally, act locally” the second half of the workshop focused on Climate Protection on a local level. After all we are not all factory owners with the ability to play a role in the global emission trading scheme. But achievements can also be made on a smaller scale, and the idea behind it is very similar: When you can feel it at your wallet at the end of the month that it is worthwhile to be protecting the climate, most people are willing to rethink their actions. To trigger this change of mind is the goal of the climate campaign “cozonline”, which was presented by Steffen Schmuck-Soldan. This non-profit consulting firm has committed itself to Climate Protection through energy efficiency, and is providing extensive online

information material and tools to calculate e.g. the potential energy savings and emission reduction in heating. This service is directed at private home owners as well as craftspeople and companies. On the website of cozonline the user can also find references to public subsidies and craftspeople in the local area. This free service has been very well accepted; during the two years since the campaign started more than one million private households have used the service. In two thirds of these cases the information led to a modernization of existing equipment.

At the end of the workshop we left the room with many new ideas and with the conviction that climate protection pays off in a lot of different respects.



Klima Workshop

Ideas and instructions for the practical implementation also exist – now they just need to be utilized.

Reverse culture shock – between arrival and running away

“Reverse culture shock – between arrival and running away” was the promising title our group gathered under. Starting off with the basics of what exactly is a culture shock, respectively a reverse culture shock and what methods are there to cope with new circumstances we find ourselves in, we soon got into a casual conversation about our experiences in the USA and now back “home” in Germany.

Even though all of us came from different backgrounds, we had one thing in common: integrating ourselves into the American way of life wasn’t very hard for us, so our experiences of culture shock were limited. True, one exchanged all of his German clothes for a jogging suit and flip flops to blend into the American university scene, whereas the others tried to eliminate even the smallest vestige of German accent, so not to stick out – but we all soon felt at home in our new environments. Maybe being “the other” in the world we entered presented us with a new freedom to



Christine Tröger

reinvent ourselves and most of us were surprised of what things or attitudes of our home country we started to identify with, things we had taken for granted before.

Returning to Germany, though, was another story. Not only did everything look dwarfed and the people grumpy as we stepped off the airplane, most of us came back with books to fill with all our

new impressions and experiences and sometimes found that others’ interest in this year abroad reduced itself to a polite half an hour. We also found it hard to be confronted with preset German attitudes towards the USA and long-kindled prejudices that no one seemed to want to alter – even after our contrasting experiences there.

In conclusion, we agreed that the culture shock we experienced in America was definitely preferable to the reverse culture shock that awaited us in dear old Germany. Some of us are longing for and making plans to return to the USA others are happy to be home again, but all of us cherish this one extraordinary year we have been given and will always think back to that time with a smile.

Königstein here we come – Fulbright Fun and Family Weekend by Ulrich Paar

May 24th - Krefeld NRW

Off we go to the Fulbright family weekend in Königstein.

Once again we have let our good intentions to close our Tante Emma Shop punctually fall. Just in time for rush hour traffic, we make it to the great traffic jam fun of the Ruhrgebiet.

We also have a new navigator – a wonderful invention! With “Navi” you can find everything you could see on the map before – but now you can hear it as well. And because it is so great, we drive – thanks to our new friend “Navi” – an extra 30 kilometer loop.

The traffic jam delight continues, thanks to foresighted routing. From the back seat the first inquiry: “Are we there yet?” We ask ourselves if we will make it in time for the end of the weekend. We really need to hang in there!

May 25th/26th/27th - Königstein

Somehow we made it here in the middle of the night. We were warmly welcomed and there was even some food left.

Breakfast – a time to get to know people. Hello, my name is..., Where are you from? etc.

Afternoon came early and with it the afternoon program: getting to know the surroundings – and the surroundings here are plentiful.

Lanes along the Elbe river, in the background the sandstone mountains. The less sporty and Fullis with baby strollers enjoy the landscape from below, the more ambitious scramble upwards to enjoy the spectacular view of the meandering river.

Neat historic paddle-steamers wheeze up the river towards the border to the Czech Republic, or move elegantly down river towards Dresden. A day hike takes us through the rough land-



The beautiful Saxon Switzerland

scape of the Saxon Switzerland. Over rough and smooth, down to the rafters footbridge. A boat trip through the ravines of the dammed-up Kirnitzsch. Onward through untouched valleys and river meadows. In this manner the days fly by and the calendar loses its relevance. Alba – our ten-year-old princess – is so occupied playing with her new-found friends that she forgets all about meal times. Children’s laughter resound

through the house, time for conversation about all the world and his brother and other important subjects.

May 28th, Sunday

Today we pack up all our stuff. After breakfast a farewell gathering is called: hand shakes, photo shootings and good-byes, and then we’re off again. Outside the maps are on the hood, experts chat about how to best avoid traffic jams on the way home. The faces of children pressed against the car windows let us know – they can’t wait to get out of the car again. So off we go. Through the car windows the arms of young and old wave goodbye.

We’re content, only our friend “Navi” sulks under the dashboard, forbidden to speak. We are definitely going to be there for the next family weekend. And next time we will leave home earlier. Promised! Maybe we’ll see you there?

Until then, greetings from the lower Rhine region,
Gema, Uli and Alba



Young participants at the Family Weekend

Sail away... with Fulbright by Aneka Flamm

A sunny Friday afternoon, on the parking lot in front of the main train station in Heidelberg: „Hi, are you Robert?“ – „Yea, are you Aneka?“ – Great! It's really working! After a few weeks of constant emailing back and forth between the different crew members of our weekend-trip to Lake Constance, we had actually managed to meet. It's my first experience with the Fulbright Alumni Association, and I'm prepared accordingly: Not only had I brought all of my cocktail supplies that I could find at home, no, I actually went shopping in the morning and bought a couple more things to be prepared for the task at hand: My job was to be the barkeeper on board of our yacht, which (on top of all things...) had the brilliantly chosen name "Caipirinha". Well, I guess that says it all!

After having stowed everything into the trunk of Roberts car, we're on the road – with the Lake Constance and three boats waiting for us 300 km further south. The group, that is our three skip-pers (Robert, Dirk and Matthias), and a crew of 4-6 people per boat, making us roughly a group of 20 Fulbrighters, had been starting to plan this trip back in January and kept in touch over email over the past few months. And now it had come: the 9th of June was our big day, taking over three yachts from a local Sailing Club for an entire weekend...

Well, it wasn't only "our" big day in that it was the Fulbright Alumni Associations sailing crews big day, no, it was also our big day as most of us were German and the world-cup started with the opening game Germany – Costa



Serving Caipirinha

Rica that night. So we had to manage keeping our fingers crossed while carrying all of our bags and boxes on board our yachts. It must have worked pretty well, as by the time the boats were loaded with all of our things, the German team had won 4-2 and all of the soccer fans among us could sit down in relief and had their first cocktail on board of their yacht, which also was going to be their home for the following two nights and days.

After Roger, our chef de cuisine for the night, had prepared the most fabulous Swabian dinner for us ("Gebratene Maultaschen" and potato salad), our crew sat down together and enjoyed the delicious meal with a nice glass of local wine. Sitting on a boat, watching the sunset over the treetops and just leaning back and enjoying the scenery – Dirk rightfully mentioned that this is the kind of vacation which gives you the deserved instant reward for deciding to even go on a sailing trip for only two days. It starts with the moment you step on board the yacht. As a newcomer on the boat, I could only agree.

The first night, we stayed in the harbour of Gohren, a small town towards the Northeast end of the lake. The plan was to sleep on the boats, get up and "hit the lake" (more or less) early the next morning. We divided up the three



Full speed ahead

Sail away... with Fulbright

smallish cabins so that always two people shared one for the night, while our skipper insisted on the couch of the main cabin. That way, the seven of us found space on our Bavaria 37 – I personally found it to be very cosy and enjoyed sharing the cabin and spending time with my “roomy” Catherine a lot.

Saturday morning, two of us went running by the lake (I know, to some, that might not necessarily sound like vacation – but the reason was obvious: we wanted breakfast rolls!!! :) while the others set up the breakfast table with all kinds of goodies imaginable. For me, this was the first sailing trip, and as a newbie, I obviously lacked the experience, but I was told that it's the rule that trips of this kind **always** end in way too much food and treats of the kind you would never find at your own breakfast table at home. Well indeed, I must say, the breakfast (and the food in general) was delicious throughout the weekend, and we did in fact have way too much so that everybody got to take home leftovers at the end of the trip. Nice!

After the nice boost of our five star breakfast, we decided to clear the ship and left the harbour to enjoy a nice day on the lake. Apparently, a lot of people must have had the same thought that day, so the lake looked like a white dotted horizon with lots and lots of smiling skippers passing by. After Robert had safely steered the yacht out of the port entrance, all of us got to play captain for a little while, with a lot of fun. He taught us some about the trimming of the sail, the right of way (and yielding right of way), and showed us quite convincingly that the “sailing virus” is extremely contagious.

So we sailed for a few hours before we decided that it was a must to go swimming in the lake – the water looked beautiful and since we had found a nice



Karl as Captain

spot in front of the Swiss border that allowed us to anchor for a while, we decided to dip into the water. Well, “we”, that is only two of us, because the rest of the crew decided that the water was too cold (...which it was, but shhhh...). After that and a little bit of snacking here

and there, we cleared the ship again and sailed towards our final destination for the day: Bregenz. The unmistakable bright red water-stage of the Bregenz Summerfestival led our way so that we arrived early in the evening with enough time to use the harbour facilities to take a shower and get ready for our nice dinner. After the nice, traditional Austrian food in the wonderful harbour atmosphere of Bregenz, we finally enjoyed a nice evening on our boats. After begging the barkeeper of the harbour restaurants for some ice (he was very nice and gave us a whole bag full...), we prepared some Caipirinhas and had a little party on the boats, chatting the night away – all of which was very relaxing, and very fun. And for the second time, we finally said goodnight and went to sleep in our by now quite familiar cabins.



Sunset at Gohren

Sail away... with Fulbright



The Caipirinha Crew

The next day basically started just as our first morning on board – the joggers got the breakfast rolls, the table was still full of yummy food, and the excitement about another day of sailing was amazing. So we left Bregenz full of enthusiasm and great expectations, all of which should be fulfilled soon. Not long after we had exited the harbour gates, the wind picked up and we actually got to sail quite fast, up to 8 knots. Every one of us got to be the captain again for some time, and every boat we passed was distinctively marked by the bright grin of the respective skipper on board. Since we were actually able to cover the distance from Bregenz to Gohren (which is where we had to be in the evening) quite fast, we decided to continue sailing further west for another little while, which got us to Friedrichshafen. At that point, we turned around and sailed back to Gohren and brought

the ships back into their harbour safely.

Obviously, everyone helped cleaning out the three yachts and stowing everything into the different cars, so that we finally had taken care of everything early in the evening and sat down together for a drink or two in the harbour cafe, enjoying the shade after a whole day of beautiful sunshine on the lake.

Well, all in all, I can only say that it was one of the most fabulous events I've experienced with Fulbright so far, and that I hope that there are many more to follow. If you feel like you could hang out with a bunch of really nice people for a weekend and that you might enjoy sailing on Lake Constance, give it a try and join next year – I promise it'll be worth it!! I for once will definitely join again as soon as I can... hope to see you there!

Cheers and Ahoy, Aneka

Strategy Meeting 2006, Mosbach/Odenwald by Ursula Mich

19 German Fulbright Alumni members met on the evening of August 04th, 2006 in Mosbach/ Odenwald, an idyllic village located near the Neckar river, having had in mind to discuss the association's future strategies up to August 6th, 2006. But as it always turns out to be: The beginning was a bit difficult because for some members the good experiences are at the same time so close and so far away; The village of Mosbach itself was easy to find but the hidden youth hostel was for some a pain in the neck. Those of us not being spoiled by the navigation system found their way by the quite famous fulli flair. Nevertheless we started our traditional strategy meeting get together with a noisy hello quite late.

Saturday morning work followed pleasure. Having had breakfast, our new secretary, Nicola Nowak, arrived to get to know the members, the FAeV feeling and to give her input to some topics being discussed. The board introduced the nine prepared workshops, which had also been distributed to the participants by e-mail beforehand. After an introduction the participants were physically distributed among the moderated workshops, which covered topics like host program, executive management and administration, the cooperation with the German Fulbright Commission and the improving of the regional chapters' strength. Happily enough and due to modern times it was possible to type discussed ideas and results right away by using laptops.

After lunch and some relaxation work was continued by an emotional plenum discussion of the introduced results. The time schedule almost collapsed, but coffee and wonderful cake made it possible to go on with the afternoon workshops covering themes as cooperation with other associations, the get along with new members, the future direction of our Welcome Meeting event and the association's website being based on a CMS platform in the future. Emotions

were high with the topic of the board's decision on using this year's grant of € 10.000 to the new project of the German Fulbright Commission in supporting German migrant juveniles with a three month summer school in the USA. Also the construction of the Website was heavily discussed while the board's suggestion to establish the Welcome Meeting event in Frankfurt am Main each year – to ease the regional chapters work in having a central logistic administration support by the secretary and insofar leave them more strength in concentrating on questions of content – was approved positively by the audience. Humor, good food and drinks eased the discussions. And the older the evening grew, the more the fun increased. Wonderful arias were sung by Claudia Detje and Steffen Schmuck-Soldan. The audience's chorus "Griechischer Wein" on the other hand, hurt everybody's ears but caused a lot of laughter nonetheless. Unfortunately there was no FAeV hymn composed for the upcoming conference in Morocco.

Sunday morning the audience met to recall the results. While the board gathered for its meeting, the rest of the participants went for a sightseeing tour in Mosbach, and after having had a wonderful lunch we departed for all corners



Matthias Stecher, Birgit Hiller and Jürgen Simon



Wiltrud Hammelstein and Steffen Schmuck-Soldan

of the country leaving the board with the task to examine fast and efficiently the ideas and results of this meeting. Everybody left with a promise to join the next strategy meeting in two years, remembering a wonderful gathering and keeping in mind delicious cakes and sautéed eggplants.



Participants at the Strategy Meeting 2006

Regional Chapters

The Regional Chapters

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Cologne/Bonn Regional Chapter

The easiest way to find the regional-chapter Cologne-Bonn is to come to the Brauhaus Pütz (Engelbertstr. 76, 50674 Cologne) on the first Tuesday of each month from 8pm on. As the regional-chapter is split in two cities, the Fulbright-Alumni located close to Bonn were rather lazy to drive to Cologne and thereby reducing the number of active Fullis. To overcome this disadvantage (there are no problems, just challenges), we have

started a spin-off Stammtisch in Bonn. Join in on the third Wednesday of every odd month (Jan, Mar, May, July, Sep, Nov) starting at 8pm. We meet at the Pathos (Weberstr. 43, 53113 Bonn).

Beside the Stammtisch, a must-be event for the regional Fullis is the annual Thanksgiving Dinner celebrated in conjunction with the German-American Society of Cologne. Furthermore, we plan to cheer up the Cologne Falcons

during their American Football games – weather permitting.

If you are interested to (re)join our regional chapter and to be kept informed about upcoming events (or suggest some of your own) just drop a line to Thomas Dickmann (dickmann-koeln@t-online.de) or Ulrich Schlecht (u.schlecht@gmx.net) to join our mailing list or come to one of our Stammtische.

Ulrich Schlecht

Regional Chapters

Most Wanted and Finally Found: New Regional Chapter Coordinator in Franken

May I introduce myself? Since November 2005 I am the new regional coordinator in Franken.

First I like to thank everybody for electing me. Thus providing your confidence does not only mean a warm welcome to me being a newcomer within your organization, but is also a great challenge. And I love challenges!

I wish and hope to bring our regional chapter into a vivid action again. One of my ideas is to plan a Halloween Party this fall. Saturday Oct 21st, 2006 sounds quite suitable for me. And – of course – for Thanksgiving our traditional turkey is scheduled for weekend Nov 25th/26th. These are our local highlights for the rest of this year. Some invitations for movies



Bildunterzeile

at the Roxy's will also be sent by e-mail, just to shorten the time until Halloween.

Don't ask what your regional coordinator can do for you but ask what you can do for your coordinator! I know that our chapter is quite large, extensive and diverse. But at our last 4th of July Celebration at Stefan's place only five Franken



Bildunterzeile

Fullis showed up. Where have you been? It was a great day for a BBQ! I must admit, I was somehow disappointed!

Well, I am looking forward to seeing you in October!

Yours,
Désirée Doyle

Frankfurt Regional Chapter

The city of Frankfurt/Main hosts the FAeV office, but also one of the largest regional chapters. The area we cover includes most of the state Hesse as well as parts of Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland, Baden-Wuerttemberg, and Bavaria. Of our approximately 200 members 10 to 15 meet every first Thursday of each month at our "Stammtisch" in the Künstlerkeller. In a relaxed atmosphere, people of different ages, backgrounds (not only bankers or economists) and interests meet to eat drink talk and for a friendly debate. Furthermore it is the first place to get into contact with our regional chapter for new members, American Fulbrighters, and Returnees. Once a year we cast our ballot for the regional team chiefs. This year Vivian Herrmann and I were chosen, information expert Reinhard Koch and Treasurer Klaus Brüning continue to support the chapter. Our "Stammtisch" is also the place to decide on the activities of the Frankfurt chapter. Sometimes we go for a cinema movie, but also the opera or

theaters around aren't safe from a bunch of fullies.

We started the American football season of our "Men in Purple" to beat down the "Hamburg Blue Devils". We had organized the event together with a class of French pupils, so we were about 60 internationals trying for intercultural understanding. The Frankfurt Galaxy went from that straight to their fourth world bowl championship. In April we went to Clooney's brilliant piece "good night & good luck". We all must have the courage to stand up for what is right and not necessarily popular. Roman Köller, a future alumnus, made the June "Stammtisch" to a special one. He presented his new illustration of "Utopia" by Thomas Moore.

June was also the month of our weekend tour to the neighbor state Thuringia organized by Reinhard Koch. We went to Rudolstadt and Saalfeld – two quite old cities in the heart of Germany with several more preserved historical buildings than Frankfurt has. We have seen

"the most colorful show caves in the world" (Guinness Book of Records) – the fairy grottoes (Feengrotten), a former medieval alum shale mine that was left to nature back in 1800's but then rediscovered 1914. In the picture we are just ready to start the tour with "Glück auf" into the fascinating world inside the mountain. The Shakespeare comedy Midsummer Night's Dream was the evening highlight at the Heidecksburg open air theater in Rudolstadt. The next morning we met for a guided tour through this old city.

The soccer World Cup brought us together for a summer BBQ in the Amerika Haus Frankfurt, we cheered for the US team vs. that of the Czech Republic but it didn't help. The very last event at the Amerika Haus was a special farewell concert of "check six", the United States Air Force Europe jazz ensemble, performing some of the best American jazz classics.

In addition to our monthly events there are also annual events such as



Handwerkerhof Rudolstadt



Entrance to the Feengrotten

the celebration of the traditional US holidays Independence Day and Thanksgiving.

Nowadays we're preparing this year's Welcome Meeting in October in Frankfurt,

and we're working hard to make it a beautiful entrance for the latest returnees into the association and a highlight for Americans being here in Germany this year. In the same context we had

the chance to present our helping hand to newly arrived students with a Fulbright grant in Germany at an introduction meeting in August and have some good time with them at a farewell BBQ.

Hamburg – in retrospect and future



Stammtisch in Hamburg

Even though most of you got to know our regional group in Hamburg at the 2005 we would like to introduce ourselves here as well. Uta Heyen, who was then regional coordinator, invested much time and effort in the organization for which we thank her once again! After a pleasant Get-Together in the "Ständige Vertretung" the ball took place at the cargo ship Cap San Diego with its typical Hamburg flair. We were happy to be able to welcome so many participants to the north.

The events of the Hamburg regional chapter is not just the organization of large regional events, but for the most

part regular local events. The first Tuesday of each month we meet up for our Stammtisch to spend a nice evening in each others company. At these events we often nurture the idea of other events, e.g. watching the game Italy versus USA during the world cup together. As inveterate USA supporters we had sought out an American Diner for the occasion and regretted the defeat.

Besides the monthly meetings the two highlights of the year are the 4th of July and Thanksgiving. In 2005 we celebrated 4th of July with a traditional BBQ at the Elbe river. For the Thanksgiving dinner Uta had organized a room with a

large Kitchen where we could prepare the obligatory turkey dinner. This was the last official act by Uta as regional coordinator, since she handed over the responsibility to Joachim Drenckhan.

This year the Hamburg Regional Chapter for the first time celebrated the 4th of July party with the Amerikazentrum. A large party was arranged in a beach club and members of different American organizations were invited to the event, where the American consular general of Hamburg, Duane Butcher, gave a welcome address.

The 4th of July Party was part of a string of events with the goal to strengthen the cooperation and exchange of the America-Friendly-Organizations in Hamburg. In this effort, the regional chapter in Hamburg is the main contact for all American exchange students as well as for students, who wish to study in the USA

As you can see, we have quite a lot going on in our regional chapter. We look forward to what the coming years will bring, and hope to welcome new people to our activities.

Yours,
Marion Rauch and Joachim Drenckhan

Regional Chapters

Regional Chapter Munich / Southern Bavaria 2006

From its very inception, the Regional Chapter Munich aimed big. Aware of the manifold tasks and challenges the Fulbright Alumni would face following their recent foundation as an “eingetragener Verein”, Joachim Wahlich instituted the Stammtisch in Munich on 27 September 1988 wearing a highly recognizable (think hilarious JJ) Mickey Mouse mask for the first meeting at the Hofbräukeller in Haidhausen. He still convinced Christine Tröger and Elisabeth Karner, then later on Dorothea Begemann, Walter Schumann and Gabi Lohmann, to join him in managing the prospering regional chapter Munich.

During the first couple of years, the regional chapter organized various local events such as evening lectures mostly taking place at the Evangelische Jugend München (EJM). EJM served well as meeting venue for many occasions in the years to come. Unforgettable Thanksgiving dinner parties were arranged, first at private homes then at the EJM. Unforgettable also the hours spent of stuffing the beasts before they could be roasted and eaten. Today the dinners had gone down well in local restaurants with less work and more social amenities for local members,



The regional board

returnees and American grantees. Far more than 30 Fullis usually find their way to the place where the chef calls, “Dinner is served!”.

In January 1990 the first “officially elected” regional steering board was formed. Suddenly confronted with organisation and discipline – it changed nothing. On with the show we went! Mountains were flooded with sporty exercisers. Challenging bike tours, stage performances, BBQs, 4th of July and haunting Halloween house parties, the “somewear” fashion show and the traditional Christmas Juleklap were

happily announced and more and more Fullis had a whale of a time.

It was not before November 1993 that a second Bavarian Stammtisch was founded in Nuernberg locally splitting the “Southerners” from the North to bring each at a closer range to their different destinations.

Within the years until 2004 the Stammtisch was relocated to other places usually for about 2 or 3 years each to keep it rust-resistant.

All these activities inevitably led us to organizing some national events that took place in Munich:

- 1991: PowWow “Traffic Concepts for the Future”
- 1994: General Assembly and Winter Ball
- 1995: PowWow “First Fulbright Fun & Future Camp” Lenggries – sleeping in real tipis!
- 1998: General Assembly and Winter Ball
- 1999: PowWow Biotechnology at Fraueninsel / Chiemsee
- 2002: General Assembly and Winter Ball in Bamberg, by remote organization
- 2004: Welcome Meeting



On the roof of the Munich Olympic Stadium

Besides holding these nationwide events, we are equally proud to look back

on nearly 20 years of a permanently active and lively regional chapter in Munich. Our Stammtisch is regularly visited by around 20 Fullies – not least due to our well proven concept to move to a new “watering hole” every month, which draws old and new Fullies alike. To handle that efficiently, we rely heavily on the use of our mailing list, addressing our 180 strong local membership as well as returnees and American grantees.

Our regional chapter successfully managed handing down annual traditions to every new alumni generation in our chapter, spanning about 3 to 4 years each and keeping the spirit of 4th of July potluck, Thanksgiving Dinner, and Christmas-“Wichteln” alive.

Today, our regional board consists of Maren Stein (outdoor events), Melanie Siebert (returnees/grantees), Birgit Hiller (speaker), and Andreas Schoberth (treasurer).

The year 2005 saw us rafting down Ötztaler Ache in Tyrol, rollerblading on

the brand-new A99 highway, climbing the tent-roof of the Munich Olympic Stadium, and marveling at the floral and ecological concepts of BUGA. Of course, two staples of Munich lifestyle were covered as well: hiking trips led us to the renowned Schachenschloss of Ludwig II. as well as on a mountain tour with our Zurich Fulbright Alumni and on a moon-lit walk on snow shoes. We didn’t miss out on the fine arts either, visiting various performances from professional and amateur theater alike, and dancing at the annual Magnolienball of the German-American Women’s Club.

Our outlook to the near future is exciting as well. We are already in the initial stages to organizing the General Assembly and Winter Ball in 2007.

So stay tuned, and see ya all in Munich in January!

Birgit, Melanie, Maren, Andreas



Snow shoe walking

Regional Chapters

Regional Chapter Niedersachsen

The Regional Chapter Lower Saxony/ North-Hessen meets at a regular “Stammtisch” every second Wednesday of the month in Hannover. Our “Stammtisch” is open to everyone as a place to make new acquaintances, meet old friends, chat, have fun, seek information and help out in various ways as a current or future Fulbrighter. Since our Regional Chapter covers a big area, it is not possible for everyone to attend on a regular basis. It used to be, that between two and six people came on a regular basis. We were very happy that a bunch of American Teaching Assistants attended and enriched our “Stammtisch”.

Since not everyone can attend the “Stammtisch” in the middle of the week, we had some other events which took place on the weekends. The most frequented is of course the Thanksgiving

dinner, which takes place at someone’s home – naturally with a home-prepared turkey and pumpkin pie!

Since Kassel is part of our regional chapter, our member Petra Schuck organized a visit to the documenta 11 in 2002 and we plan to visit the documenta 12 in 2007! With the help of our member Susanne Kugland, we had the opportunity to attend a special tour at the “Volkswagen Werk” in Wolfsburg.

We welcome new suggestions for outings and get-togethers, so feel free to contribute your ideas! We also hope to be able to welcome a larger group to our “Stammtisch” and other events in Lower Saxony/North Hessen in the forthcoming year – it would be nice if more Fulbrighters would take part.

Gabriele Launhardt



At the Volkswagen Factory



Thanksgiving Dinner

Regional Chapter Ruhrgebiet/Westfalen

After a period with less activity a small but active group of people reanimated the Regional Chapter Ruhrgebiet/Westfalen in the summer of 2005. Since then we have met regularly at our monthly Stammtisch every last Wednesday of the month at Cafe Ferdinand in Bochum, where we spent the autumn and winter making plans for 2006.

Ulrich organized an excursion to the Hagen open-air museum and Klaus organized the 4th of July BBQ- Burger-Party with a bike trip to Kemnader

Reservoir. With sunny weather and after a large effort at the telephone to personally invite all members in the region, we were happy to see many new faces at the event and not just the “usual suspects”. At the end of August we will elect a new regional coordinator since Stephanie, our regional coordinator, will move on to support the small Fulbright group of the permanent representatives in Bussels.

For 2006 we have further planned to challenge our senses and our fine motor

skills at a Japanese restaurant, where we will try our luck with the food and the correct eating techniques under professional guidance. After this fishy finger-exercise Klaus has invited us to his cottage in Bochum, where the big bird will be cut for Thanksgiving dinner.

And 2007? Maybe we will try our luck with organizing a national event: Winterball-leg-shaking in the blast furnace, PowWow discussions in the coal mine or a Welcome Hike over the stockpiles. We’ll see! Stephanie Bodenbach



Open Air Museum Hagen



4th of July

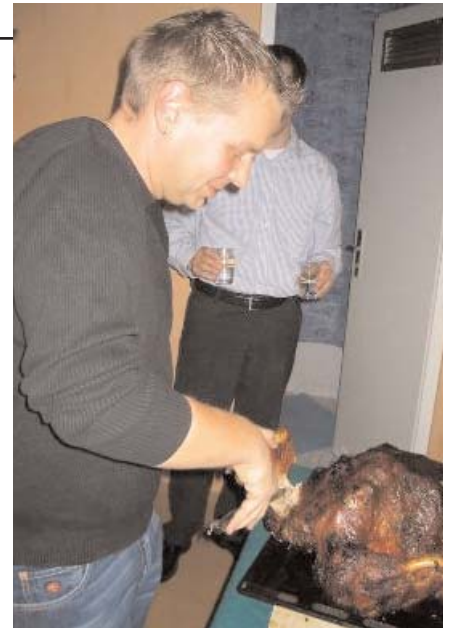
Regional Chapter Southwest

While area of the regional-chapter is sizable, most of the active members live in or close to Stuttgart. Not all of them have studied there, but rather came to Baden-Wuerttemberg for their first jobs.

Every first Wednesday of the month, we meet for our Stammtisch at the Café Punktum close to the Rotebuehlplatz. The highlights of the year are the 4th of July-BBQ and the Thanksgiving-Dinner. The Thanksgiving dinner takes place in alternating apartments of the members. The Americans are heartily invited to join these festivities.

Our group goes to national and international events together. In 2000 we joined the conference on East-European issues in Toledo. In 2005 we celebrated the 100th birthday of Senator Fulbright in Frankfurt. Apart from a visit of the Fulbright-Alumni in Hungary in 2000, a trip to Iran was organized on a private basis.

Other events are organized depending on the interest of the group. As in previous years, we go to the black forest for a weekend full of hiking and BBQ. Wine tasting, a trip on a "Kanu", several visits of museums and exhibitions in Stuttgart and Tübingen are part of these "irregular" events. Stuttgart offers other recreational opportunities, such as cinemas and a theater that shows plays in



Thanksgiving Dinner



Sailing Lake Constance



"Kanu" trip

Since last year, we have a new "tradition". We take advantage of the nearby Lake Constance, also known as "swabian sea" for a sailing trip. Last year we rented two boats for twelve people coming from Switzerland, and the regional-chapters Munich and southwest. The trip went from Langenargen to Konstanz and back. This year the numbers increased to 19 people and three boats. Our destination this time was Bregenz. Each time we were lucky, enjoying both wind and sunshine, a condition which is rather rare. Details on this year's trip can be found in the article by Aneka Flamm.

The group relies on the commitment of the members, as well as on having a great time together. Many friendships have been formed within the group. If you're interested, just contact us or come to one of our events.

Dirk Lindenau and Natalie Fritz

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International Project “Best Practices Manual”

by Joe Kristensen

In December of 2005 Jane Anderson, the Executive Director of the US Fulbright Association, called for volunteers to collaborate on a project to produce a “Best Practices Manual.” This undertaking of the Fulbright Association in cooperation with the US State Department’s Office of Academic Programs aims to collect and document the successful practices of Fulbright Alumni Associations from various regions, so that smaller, younger – and maybe even older, more established – Fulbright Alumni Associations might learn from these experiences.

Fulbright Alumni organizations from seven countries were invited to join the project committee: Chile, Germany, Japan, Morocco, India, Nigeria and of course the United States of America as the committee leader. Work began with the compilation of topics which should serve as the outline and structure of the handbook. Among these are topics such as: rallying of political support for the Fulbright Programs, structure and administration of the alumni organization, programs and events of the organization, members and member motivation, activities in society, finances and fundraising, informational activities conducted by alumni associations to help recruit applicants for Fulbright Programs, communication and media in the alumni organization and the documentation of the alumni organization’s processes.

According to the plan, in the spring and summer of 2006, the committee member organizations will work toge-

ther to define and collect detailed information according to the above-mentioned outline. The Fulbright Association will coordinate this effort, and compile the final manual, for introduction and distribution on or around the General Assembly of the Fulbright Association in Morocco, November 3-5.

As the elected coordinator of the Fulbright Alumni e.V.’s participation in this project, I am especially happy to work with Jane Anderson and the other members of the committee. During a personal vacation to the US in March 2006, I was able to meet with Jane and Dr. Sunil Sondhi, the committee member from India, in Washington D.C. on March 28. During a three-hour meeting we broke down the top-level outline into second and third level details, and phrased these into questions. For example, in the section on membership and member motivation, the following questions arise: “How are new members recruited?”, “How does your organization get the names and contact details of returning Fulbrighters?”, “Does your organization have institutional members?”, and so on. The meeting was fruitful and motivating, but also enough work to build up a healthy appetite – so we concluded our session with a nice lunch in a nearby restaurant.

All in all, I am hopeful that this project will produce valuable documentation of the status quo of Fulbright Alumni associations worldwide, as well as helping all of our associations to grow and improve.

Introducing:

The Alumni Initiative of the U.S. Department of State is designed to create a world-wide network among alumni of U.S.-government-sponsored exchange programs. The U.S. Embassy started its initiative last year to build a network amongst its more than 150,000 alumni. We are seeking to (re-)establish contact with our alumni to learn about their experiences, share their successes, invite them to Embassy events, draw on them as expert speakers – in short: to explore the opportunities of possible cooperation.

The initiative aims at mutually beneficial cooperation with a host of independent alumni associations such as the Fulbright Alumni Association, e.V., the PPP Alumni, e.V. and others – some of which are in the process of being established. We hope to strengthen our existing partnerships while helping to bring together people and organizations with similar goals and interests.

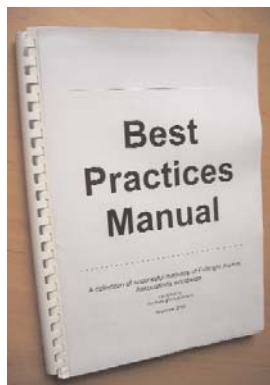


The State Alumni Website

One of the tools we are using to help build Germany’s alumni network is the State Alumni Website. The website – www.alumni.state.gov – is an online community of alumni of all U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs world-wide. It provides opportunities for alumni to network with each other, develop their careers, provide information resources, and stay in touch with the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State and the various Embassies around the world, thus helping to extend their exchange experience.



Dr. Sunil Sondhi, Jane Anderson and Joseph Kristensen



Best Practice Manual

The Alumni Initiative of the U.S. Department of State



Bildunterzeile

Short History

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State launched State Alumni in April 2001 as a pilot program for alumni in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. In December 2003, the State Alumni website expanded to include alumni from the East Asia/Pacific region. In June 2004, the website opened to the South Asia region. The website opened to alumni in Western Europe and the Western Hemisphere in fall 2004.

The U.S. Embassy Berlin created the position of a full-time Alumni Coordinator in the summer of 2005. In November 2005, the Embassy launched a subcommunity to the State Alumni website tailored especially to the needs of the German-speaking alumni of Austria, Germany and Switzerland – the AGS Community.

Ambassador Timken launches the AGS Community on November 22, 2005. Participating live via Digital Video Conference are the U.S. Embassies in Vienna and Bern and the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs in Washington.

The Online Community

The website serves as an information pool to alumni world-wide. It is a place to meet, discuss, inform, exchange and stay in touch. It is designed to support

alumni in their endeavors by providing them with interesting news, backgrounds, resources and meetings. Features of the site include:

CAREER

- **Career Development** – Find and/or post job announcements from all around the world.
- **Alumni Resumes** – Looking for an employee from a particular country in the world? Here you can find their resumes or post your own.
- **Grant Opportunities** – Find excellent grant opportunities in your field and/or specific project grants, including grant description, contact information and deadlines from all over the world.

RESOURCES

- **Free Journal Database** – Access to a database containing numerous journals, usually only available with a fee.
- **Free eLibrary** – Books, News, Maps, Video/Audio, Transcripts, Pictures

COMMUNITY

- **Alumni News** – Upload news you find worthy of sharing with your fellow alumni or read the news others have posted.
- **Q & A Live** – Renown experts from a variety of fields can answer your questions live and online (e.g. with Astro-

nauts aboard the ISS)

- **Calendar of Events** – Check the calendar for alumni events worldwide and/or announce your own event.
- **Photo Gallery** – Look at photos from past events or upload some to share with others.
- **Discussion Forum** – Join or start a discussion group on a variety of different topics.
- **Find Fellow Alumni** – Search tool to find friends or expand your contacts network. Register with alumni.state.gov and others may find you...
- **Alumni articles** – Post an article you want to publish or search for articles by author, topic or keyword.

Alumni Participation

The website is exclusively for alumni of U.S. Department of State sponsored exchange programs – you will need to register before entering the site for the first time.

After the initial registration, you can freely access all sections. If you wish to conceal your identity, you can choose to hide your profile and you will appear as ‘anonymous’.

We encourage all alumni to create content and upload it to the website. It is possible to post resumes, articles, news or even publish your work in the recently created “Alumni Literature Community”.

If we’ve peaked your interest, please go to <https://alumni.state.gov/> and click the Join Now! button in the upper left-hand corner and register as Fulbright alumnus/a. Or you can contact the Embassy’s Alumni Coordinator:

Daniela Schilling-Muehl
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Email: schilling-muehld@state.gov

We are looking forward to your feedback and your participation!