

FRANKy

THE FULBRIGHT ALUMNI E.V. NEWSLETTER



Content

Introductions

<i>Greetings from the President</i>	1
<i>The Board</i>	1

Fulbright International

<i>Marrakech – An Impressive Journey to the Orient</i>	6
<i>Global Fulbright Alumni Community</i>	11
<i>Fulbright Diversity Initiative</i>	13
<i>Fulbright Diversity Initiative – The Participant Perspective</i>	14
<i>The Berlin Seminar, a Fulbright Fellowship Fest</i>	15
<i>Fulbright Association of Panama</i>	16
<i>Fulbright Alumni Association of Nigeria</i>	17
<i>Philippine Fulbright Scholars Association</i>	18
<i>Fulbright in Switzerland</i>	19

Membership Application

<i>Intercultural Communication: A Story of Love, Work, and Passion</i>	25
<i>Fulbright International – From Lebanon to the U.S. and on to Germany</i>	26
<i>U.S. State Alumni</i>	27
<i>Atlantic Review Interview</i>	29

National Events

<i>Welcome Meeting</i>	31
<i>Winter Ball</i>	35
<i>Berlin Week</i>	36

Regional Chapters

<i>Ruhrgebiet/Westfalen</i>	39
<i>Frankfurt am Main</i>	40
<i>München</i>	41
<i>Köln/Bonn</i>	42
<i>Franken</i>	43
<i>Berlin</i>	44

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Letter from the Editor



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the 18th issue of the *FRANKly*. When Ursula Mich, the VP Communications for 2006, suggested “Fulbright International” as this year’s theme for the *FRANKly*, I jumped at the idea. Especially in light of my personal experience with the Fulbright Alumni e.V., about which you can find

out more inside, I was keen to further explore how Fulbright and various Fulbright-related initiatives bring together people locally and worldwide.

Thanks to our very cooperative contributing authors, we managed to procure a great variety of articles portraying different Fulbright-related networking and outreach activities. As part of this year’s theme, we bring you (among others) articles about the Fulbright Alumni Association meeting in Marrakech, about the new Diversity Initiative, and about the Berlin Conference as it has evolved over the years. There are also several articles describing the activities of alumni associations across the world, and two personal accounts of how Fulbright alumni associations have affected the authors’ lives. In addition, two articles describe the information portals and communication networks offered by the U.S. State Alumni and the Atlantic Review websites.

As every year, this edition also contains introductions written by board members, and an account of some of the many national and regional events that took place over the past year.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the *FRANKly*!

Yours,
Nadia Manasfi
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Greetings from the President

Dear members and friends of the German Fulbright Alumni e.V.,

It's a pleasure to introduce you to this year's edition of our annual journal, the *FRANKly*. Like the previous two issues, issue No. 18 has a special focus: Networking in the context of Fulbright on an international level. Networking is one of the central thoughts and a key motivation for the existence of the FA e.V. and – of course – a lot of partner associations around the world. Some of these associations have even contributed to this issue. Thank you all very much for this kind support.

A special welcome also goes to all first-time readers!

If you have just returned from your Fulbright year in the U.S., this magazine lets you know that there is a broad community in Germany with similar experiences that you can network with.



A series of articles describes our local and national events and activities of the last months. Current activities

Uwe Koch – President

I was born in 1964 in Reutlingen. After completing a year of civil service, I started studying Physics at the Eberhard-Karls-Universität in Tübingen. Soon after, I started thinking about studying in the U.S. Thanks to the Oregon-Baden-Württemberg-Exchange-Program and a Fulbright travel grant, I was able to spend a year at Oregon State University. That year in Corvallis was surely the one with the heaviest workload, but was also a very enjoyable one, in which I met students from different parts of the world.

After finishing my Ph.D in 1997, I moved to Frankfurt to work at the Unix Data Center of a major German bank. Soon after, I was elected treasurer of the Frankfurt regional chapter and helped in organizing the Winterball of 1999 and the Welcome Meeting of 2000.

In 2001 I joined a small Frankonian internet brokering company in Nürnberg, which is now part of the largest French bank.

are listed in the “Calendar” section of our website at www.fulbright-alumni.de.

If you are an international Fulbrighter and this is the first issue you see – this is our modest attempt to let you participate in our part of the global Fulbright network. We encourage you to contact the board or the nearest local chapter if you visit Germany. We always welcome friends.

On behalf of the board, I thank all contributors to this issue for their effort. Without you, this journal would not be possible. Special thanks go to this year's editor Nadia Manasfi, who did a terrific job in motivating the contributors and compiling articles for this issue.

Enjoy reading this issue – I look forward to seeing you at the association's upcoming events.

Yours,
Uwe Koch, Nuremberg October 2007

Introduction

While in Nürnberg, I helped to organize the Winterball of 2002 in Bamberg – a joint venture of the regional chapters of Frankonia and Southern Bavaria – where I was elected for my first term as treasurer of the Fulbright Alumni e.V. At the General Assembly in Munich this year I was elected president.

A warm welcome to board members Barbara, Désirée and Florian, who serve for the first time in their respective offices; and to Nadia, Adrian, Mario and Steffen as new coordinators. To work with you is a pleasure.

This is also a good place to welcome our new office manager Julia Irsch: Good luck! She plans to stay with us at least for three years while she is on maternity leave. And many thanks again to Nicola and Jessica for the excellent service in the last years.

All this change is both enlightening yet challenging. On the one hand new people mean new ideas and a lot of energy, while on the other hand a lot of knowledge also needs to be transferred. We are working on a detailed analysis and docu-

Introduction

mentation of our assets and processes; this analysis will enable us to improve our services and keep them up as we face personnel change in the future, as well as other challenges which come with a growing member base.

The second major project of this year is the relaunch of our website. Not only will the look and feel change, but also the underlying technology. The latter is even more important for us since the use of a content management system will enable

us to edit the content without deeper technical knowledge. I hope that by the time you read this, the new website will already be online.

The board is always open for comments and suggestions, so please don't hesitate to contact us.

Yours,
Uwe Koch, President

Introduction

Barbara Weiten – Vice President Communications

Born in Saarbrücken, I grew up and went to school in Homburg Saar. I got to know the United States first hand in 1996/97 when I spent a year as a high-school exchange student in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

After finishing school, I moved to Passau to study International Business and Cultural Studies. In the course of my studies, I went to Malaga (Spain) as an Erasmus student for a semester and subsequently spent my Fulbright year at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. At Brown, I completed a Master's degree in American Civilization and greatly enjoyed life in the US as a graduate student, both academically and personally. At the end of the academic year, I worked as an intern for the UN Development Program in New York City for two months, fell in love with the city and spent my free time tirelessly exploring its many different parts. Currently, I am living in Munich and working towards my Ph.D. in Political Science/American Studies.

I have been attending national Fulbright events since I got back from the States, but I only started to experience the many varied activities of a regional chapter when I moved from



Passau to Munich in 2006: trying out bars all over Munich for the regular

Stammtisch, celebrating Thanksgiving and the 4th of July, dancing, hiking, rafting or attending concerts, I met a lot of interesting people and realized what a crucial and enriching role the local level plays in the FA e.V.

As Vice President for Communications, I coordinate the FA e.V. "media portfolio" – FAIN, FRANKly, our website and our e-mail newsletters – fortunately, not by myself: I am lucky to work with Nadia (FRANKly), Adrian (FAIN), Holger (e-mail newsletters) and Steffen (webmaster) and am more than grateful for all the effort they put into making our publications FAIN and FRANKly a reality, keeping internal e-mail communication going and our website up-to-date. As for the website, that is one of the major projects of this year's board: With any luck, by the end of the year you will be seeing a new more interactive and easy-to-edit website based on a content-management-system which will accompany the FA e.V. and its hopefully growing number of members into the future.

Yours,
Barbara Weiten, Vice President Communications



Introduction

Florian Bitsch – Treasurer

Born 1983 in Gräfelfing close to Munich, I grew up close to the town of Erlangen (Franconia, northern Bavaria). Through various travels and student exchanges, I had the

great opportunity to learn to appreciate encountering foreign countries and languages quite early on. I have been a student with a major in Economics since 2002 and am planning to graduate this year from the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich. During the course of my study, I started with a focus on microeconomics, which has now shifted to finance and financial markets.

I spent my Fulbright year in Madison, WI, in 2005-2006. Being a student from Munich, I was deeply surprised that this college town in the Midwest was so liberal and lively. My positive impressions were partly due to my academic advances at the Economics Department and the Business School, but also due to the many US and international friendships I established while there. Following that academic year, I com-

pleted an academic training in NYC, during which I had the great opportunity to also experience the U.S. work environment, which turned out to be another highlight for me at the end of my stay.

Back in Munich I joined the Fulbright Alumni Association and had the pleasure of meeting many motivated members of the Munich regional chapter. Given that I, unfortunately, could not be present in person at the annual election of the board members in January, I appreciate all the more the trust you had in me by electing me to this office. In particular, I would like to thank the previous treasurer, Uwe Koch, for introducing me to the new office and supporting me whenever necessary.

After having gained a lot of positive experiences during my own Fulbright year, I hope that through my efforts in the association I will be able to give some input back to the idea of Fulbright and am simply looking forward to an exciting time together with you!

Yours,
Florian Bitsch, Treasurer

Introduction

Désirée Doyle – Vice President Events

Dear Fellow Fulbrighters,

First, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Désirée Doyle, and during the last annual meeting, you elected me to be your Vice President Events. Many thanks for the trust shown in me. I will do my utmost to live up to it.

My own academic exchange experience dates back over twenty years, so there is not much of current relevance to report about it. I recall that academically speaking, there was little that I could not have also learned while in Germany, but from a human perspective, it was an invaluable experience, and I matured by many years. The exchange experience turned out to be one of the best decisions I ever made in my life.

I studied English as my major subject and presently work as an interpreter for Siemens in Erlangen. A certain affinity for the English language is thus also an occupational hazard...



I worked for the last six years as an event manager, so I believe I can bring some valuable experience with me to help fill the new role. I enjoy organizational work tremendously and believe that, with your help, I can

learn quickly to fill any remaining knowledge or experience gaps, and am also very motivated to do so, at least!

At the time of writing, I already have a few initial ideas: one idea is for a powwow, and another for a symposium.

Well, the job is starting slowly but surely, and everything else will surely work itself out over the course of the year.

Many greetings from Erlangen!

Désirée Doyle, Vice President Events



**Carina Simmchen,
Vice President Members**

Born and raised in the city of Dresden, I studied landscape architecture at the University of Technology. Besides my studies, I focused on international best practice sharing and developed a student exchange program with American universities. I spent my Fulbright year at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, which had a tremendous impact on my personal and professional development. Therefore, I decided to extend the Fulbright year and spent a summer working (and 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. Afterwards, life took me to Munich, where I worked as a landscape archi-

Introduction

tect on urban (re)development projects in European cities. In 2006 I returned to Dresden.

The active regional chapter of Munich motivated me to get more involved in the Alumni Association and support the German – American dialog on various levels as a board member. Last year’s Strategy Meeting encouraged me to carry on working in the board for a second term. I’d like to go forward with the implementation of promising ideas of the strategy workshop, such as supporting the internal networking among members and regional coordinators with an advanced communication structure. I hope we can strengthen the international network by extending the collaboration with European Fulbright associations and other international organizations.

*Yours truly,
Carina Simmchen, Vice President Members*

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*The board: (top row)
Désirée, Carina and Barbara;
(bottom row) Uwe and Florian*

Unternehmerisches Denken trifft Mut.



Unternehmerisches Denken erfordert Mut. Den Mut, neue Wege zu gehen. Aber auch Weitblick und Flexibilität gehören dazu. Eigenschaften, die nicht zuletzt durch internationales Arbeiten geschult werden. Deshalb setzen wir Sie von Anfang an bei Projekten im Ausland ein. Weil Sie dabei Ihren Horizont erweitern und Fähigkeiten erwerben, die Sie weiterbringen. **Booz Allen Hamilton, die weltweit führende Strategie- und Technologieberatung mit mehr als 19.000 Mitarbeitern, sucht Absolventen und Young Professionals mit exzellenten sozialen und fachlichen Kompetenzen: karriereperspektiven@bah.com**

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Marrakech – An Impressive Journey to the Orient

by Ursula Mich

A few days after the Welcome Meeting 2006 in Frankfurt am Main, the big day arrived: Matthias Stecher, President of the German Fulbright Alumni Association, Joachim Totzke, Dagmar Schreiber, Andrea Möller, Wiltrud Hammelstein, Martin Kruse, Nils Batke and myself, VP Communications, were a bit exhausted; nevertheless we were quite curious as we sat in the plane heading to Marrakech to attend the below-described conferences in Morocco.

When we arrived we were immediately struck by a different world. On Friday we had some time to get acquainted with the Moroccan way of life, the vivid atmosphere and the impressions of a wonderful reddish city. As we headed to our hotel, the Riads, located in the Medina of Marrakech, we took some time to explore the souks (markets) of Medina, the old town part of Marrakech.



Ursula Mich, Matthias Stecher, Jane Anderson, Joachim Totzke and Jenise Eglund enjoying their dinner

The U.S. Fulbright Association's 29th Annual Conference – Fulbright Alumni: Expressions in Civil Society (November 3-5, 2006)

The Fulbright Alumni Association conference officially started at the Jana Marrakech with the opening reception sponsored by the Moroccan American Commission for Education and Cultural Exchange (MACECE). We were greeted by Daoud Casewit, Executive Secretary of MACECE, and were subsequently addressed by Evelyn A. Early, Counselor for Press and Cultural Affairs of the U. S. Embassy in Rabat. We were then entertained by Elsa Ludwig-Verdehr and Walter Verdehr, founding members of the Verdehr Trio, who gave an excellent concert. While eating, we had the opportunity to greet old

friends, get to know new people, and congratulate the organizers for the wonderful work they had done.

The next day our German colleagues had the possibility of attending a lecture organized by the Fulbright Association's International Education Task Force entitled *The Universal and Unique Expressions of Cultures* or, alternatively, to take part in the seminars of the Arts Task Force program. Some participants, myself included, were very impressed by the different lectures, whereas others headed to the hammamat (public baths) to relax or even intensify their beauty. Still others opted to get to know Marrakech and its cultural sights more closely. What everybody was up to!

Matthias Stecher and I, however, as the official representatives of the German Fulbright Alumni Association, went to the International Fulbright Alumni Development Project Technical Assistance Seminar (the project which will also produce the Best Practices Manual). We had been specially invited to participate in the seminar, which lasted all day, and was an exceptional experience for us. Thanks to our German colleagues, who had agreed to take on some extra luggage before departing from Frankfurt, we were able to distribute samples of issues 16 and 17 of our magazine the *FRANKly*, which were greatly admired and were gone almost immediately. As for the seminar itself, it started when 92 participants from 60 nations were welcomed by Jane Anderson, Executive Director of the U.S. Fulbright Association, and Rick A. Ruth, representative of the U.S. State Department. Mr. Ruth observed that being a Fulbrighter once means to be a Fulbrighter forever. Many Fulbright grantees like to give back what they experienced, and thus stay engaged almost their whole life. In that sense Odysseus can be considered the first Fulbright grantee ever. After this remarkable introduction, our knowledge of Fulbright facts was tested through a quiz composed of 10 questions, which our table answered almost completely correctly.

The first panel on *Preserving & Promoting the Fulbright Program* was opened by Alexandre Agbomie from the Ivory Coast. He described his association's experience in organizing a national Fulbright day, including the planning strategy, developing objectives revolving around spirit and scholarship, creating activities (such as public events, workshops, etc.), and developing financial resources, of which 90% were covered by the U.S. Embassy. Hoyt Purvis of the U.S. Fulbright Association continued this panel with his thoughts on advocating for governmental funding. He emphasized that the alumni are champion advocates and should be in contact with governmental bodies responsible for funding the Fulbright program through close cooperation and in strong support of the govern-



In the Souk

ment representatives on a regular basis. He said that the key words are “personal contact, promotion and preservation”.

Toshio Shono, the general secretary of the Japanese Alumni Association since 2001, then described the fundraising concept of his 20 year-old association, which started with a huge campaign presenting a golf tournament supported by the alumni and the ambassador. The goal is to reach 1.7 million dollars by March 2008 to support 40 Fulbright grants in five years. The association plans to repeat this campaign every five years.

The final lecturer on the first panel was Ridvan Berber from Turkey, who introduced his national alumni survey on the Fulbright program’s impact. The carefully designed survey emphasized three types of questions which inquired about personal background and impacts of the Fulbright experience on private and professional life. A summary of the profiles was presented, in addition to a few hints on how to make such a survey relevant to participants.

While we had coffee to relax a bit and to gain new strength, people got involved in lively discussions about the previous lectures. The second panel on *Serving Grantees, Alumni & the Community* was opened by Muriel Macleod, manager of the British Fulbright Scholars Association, who talked about mentoring and emphasized cultural exchange. New British grantees are accompanied to local and national Fulbright events by mentors. To make this possible, two things are necessary: a website with an up-to-date calendar of events, and a huge database to make close networking possible.

Xenia Garcia, board member of the Panama Fulbright Alumni Association, which was founded in 1987, impressed the audience with her presentation about her association’s efforts to aid children of low income families by collecting money to buy solar cells and distributing electricity to schools. The association also promotes seminars and activities and seeks business

sponsors to support the grantees. There is a yearly evaluation of the grantees, who are supported from kindergarten up to high school. For more about the Panama Alumni Association, see the article on page 16.

Sung Hack Kang, President of the Korean Fulbright Alumni Association, went above and beyond in organizing fundraising events to help those affected by the 2004 tsunami and Hurricane Katrina, asking those who had received Fulbright grants to return the favor and help out.

Evelyn Aguilar Murillo from Costa Rica told us about the Costa Rican association’s various attempts to involve more Alumni in the program through a newsletter about new events, and in organizing educational activities and fundraising events. The discussion that followed in light of the Panama program and the British mentoring program’s initiatives centered around how to finance and establish such programs in other countries. The discussion was brought to a close by providing an overview of which nations have received the most Fulbright grants: 1) USA (approx. 120,000); 2) Germany (approx. 26,000) and 3) United Kingdom (15,000).

During lunch we were seated by continents to get to know the associations of our regions. Matthias and I sat at different tables to get to know the representatives of the European nations more closely and made friends or renewed our friendships with alumni from Belgium, Cyprus, Spain, Great Britain, Estonia and others. This seating arrangement was really a great idea of the organizers. Plans of arranging another pan-European meeting were discussed, as were methods to share ideas using modern communication technologies.

After lunch the third panel *Conversations on Best Practices* took place. Belgium and the chapter of Washington, D. C., briefly introduced their associations and then started a discussion, followed by Nigeria and Virginia, Germany and Singapore and finally by Morocco and Russia. Nigeria’s and Morocco’s associations were founded with the support of the local embassies and are trying to establish themselves by fundraising in cooperation with private and public institutions. Belgium, Washington D. C., and Virginia are trying to seek new, younger members and keep older ones involved through various programs and by going back to their roots, that is, focusing on more local activities. Being small, Singapore tries to cooperate more closely with the USA. Russia’s association was founded in 2002 to establish networks among Fulbrighters. The association organizes four conferences a year at the local and national level in addition to offering summer schools in journalism and the humanities. >

Marrakech – An Impressive Journey to the Orient

> Matthias Stecher introduced the German Fulbright Association by showing a presentation on how we are structured and what we emphasize: 1) to involve current grantees as soon as possible, and 2) the good cooperation with the Fulbright Commission, with all the work done on a voluntary basis. Some of Hungary's initiatives that were most appreciated during the discussion were the "Fulbright Junior Club" (Alumni teaching their children in English) and "Fulbright on the road" – a bus hired for three days to drive to eastern Hungary in order to introduce the program there.

Suzanne Moyer, former president of AIESEC, USA, talked about *Communication and Public Relations* using AIESEC as an example. There are four stakeholders of communication: the members, the communities, the private sector, and the government. There are also four steps in effective communication: deciding who to attract, who you need to talk to, developing a targeted strategy and a mission statement.



Representatives of the European Fulbright Associations pose with the US Ambassador to Morocco, Thomas T. Riley

Rick A. Ruth continued the program by discussing the *State Alumni Affairs Office Resources*: there are 30,000 exchanges administered by the U.S. Department of State every year, and there are 800,000 alumni of all these exchange programs. In 2004 State Alumni was founded to support the Alumni Associations directly by offering a website which may be used for online data services, discussion forums, events, contacting other alumni associations, chats, e-library and many additional services.

Alex Counts, President and CEO of the Grameen Foundation, gave an impressive talk entitled *Strategic Planning and Fund Raising*, in which he described work he and his colleagues did for Mr. Yunus and his Grameen bank, which just received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006.

With this, the seminar ended, and after getting a chance to relax for a while, we all met for a dinner at the Kenzi Farah Hotel. During dinner, Martii Ahtisaari (2000 Fulbright Prize Laureate), former president of Finland and special envoy of the Secretary General of the United Nations, vividly told us about the future status process in Kosovo. His speech was a remarkable finish to a very interesting day.

Refreshed, we started the third day of the conference. The first panel dealt with *Women and Civil Society* and comprised three very interesting and impressive lectures. Sangita Rayamajhi, president of the Nepalese Fulbright Association, said that the main aim of their support is educating the country's children, especially those of low income families. Stephanie Willman Bordat, Morocco's Program Director for global rights, and Saloua Zerhouni, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Rabat, described the fight to improve the laws affecting women and family in Morocco from 1993 up to 2004. A man in Moroccan society is permitted to marry four women. Nowadays and with the support of the new king, a man must ask his first wife before marrying a second woman. He must also be able to support the family financially. Since many women are not taught to read and write, the non-profit organizations try to inform and educate women by visiting the local beauty parlors and using posters and pictures to teach women about their rights. The discussion that followed was very intense, because men asked why they were not involved in these various projects. Usually some men are involved, but many others are not interested in joining because such projects go against their traditional thinking. A lot of them also more or less misuse the money given to them to buy alcohol, drugs or similar items.

After a coffee break the panel *How People Engage in Global Conversations* started. Louise Bourgault, a former grantee from Mali, showed a video of a famous Malian singer who had been invited to Northern Michigan University to start an intercultural dialogue. Carol Thompson, Professor of Political Science at Northern Arizona University, spoke about establishing a dialogue between projects dealing with biological diversity versus monocultures and the green revolution in African countries to prevent starvation.

During lunch, Alex Counts told the impressive story of Mr. Yunus, the Grameen bank and its intention, their professional cooperation and their first get-together. While the Fulbright Association's Alumni met for their Annual Business Meeting, we had the opportunity to ask Mr. Counts about his life and business career.



Marrakech, the red city

We were then welcomed by Thomas T. Riley, U. S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco, who focused on the fact that a scholarship changes a person's view of the world and increases mutual understanding as a result of assimilation and overcoming various challenges while abroad. An increase of Moroccan grantees could be perceived as one outcome of closer cooperation of the Alumni Association and of the U.S. Embassy in Morocco becoming more successful in fundraising. Closer cooperation of the Alumni Association and of the U.S. Embassy in Morocco, in addition to increased success in fundraising, led to an increase in the number of Moroccan grantees. The Fulbright Association's 29th Annual Conference was closed with the thoughts of Barbara Browning of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, who delivered the 2006 *Selma Jeanne Cohen Fund Lecture* entitled *Where my Dancing had Saved Me from Disgrace*. She was introduced by Jane Anderson, who told us about her visits and conversations with the fund's donor, Dr. Selma Jeanne Cohen, a Fulbright grantee to Russia, who died on December 22, 2005.

International Fulbright Alumni Conference: Morocco in Western Art – an International Multi-Disciplinary Conference convened by the Moroccan Fulbright Alumni Association (November 5-7, 2006)

The Moroccan Conference *Morocco in Western Art* began with the wonderful exhibition *Bridging Cultures through Art: A Fulbright Alumni Art Exhibition* at the Galerie les Atlassides in Marrakech. The exhibition was organized and mounted by Hassan Mekouar (President of the Moroccan Alumni Association), Jane Anderson, Pat Maloney, Al Zaruba and all members whose work was on display. Our president Matthias Stecher was courageous enough to dance with the Berber musical group before the official opening of the exhibition. After looking at the paintings and watching an impressive dance by one of the participants, which came as a surprise to both the organizers and the attendees, some Americans and Europeans went to the wonderful restaurant Al Faisa to experience an extraordinary Moroccan meal.

The next day we were welcomed by Hassan Mekouar, and with that the official academic part of the Moroccan Art Conference started at the wonderful Palais des Congrès. Leonard Lehrer, Dean of Fine and Performing Arts at Columbia College in Chicago, introduced the topic of homogeneity and diversity of the visual language in his keynote speech. The first session dealt with *Moroccan Mirrors* – the painters Matisse, Majorelle, Goytisolo, and many more were covered. Katherine Hoffmann showed us the Moroccan inspirations of the early 20th century in the works of these painters, Ahmed Radi introduced us to Majorelle's impressive pictures of Marrakech (a visit to Majorelle's wonderful garden was a must), Lucy Stone McNece talked about the *Romantic Reversals*, Taieb Belghazi spoke about the visual translation in *Artistic Orientalism*, and, finally, M'hammad Benaboud reported on *Morocco's influence in Spanish Culture and Art*.

After lunch, during which we once again experienced the extraordinary hospitality of the Moroccan participants and organizers, the conference continued with the second session entitled *Moroccan Lights – Moroccan Sights*, which introduced British painters visiting Morocco during the oriental period. Mary Ellen H. Schmitter talked about *The Berber Paradise and the Myth of Marrakech to the Western World* – images that were portrayed by Vogue magazine 25 years ago. Said Graiouid referred to the *Premium Morocco* using the Riads hotel as an example of the construction of post-modern exoticism. The session ended with Amanda Rogers telling us about the *Aesthetics of Pop Orientalism*, citing Madonna and Gwen Stefani.

Moroccan Myths - The Lure of Tangier was the topic of the third session. Thor Kuniholm enthusiastically introduced the Fine Art Collection at the Tangier American Legation Museum, showing us beautiful pictures. Mokhtar Ghambou referred to the incredible *Influence of Tangier on American Authors* such as Mark Twain, Kerouac Burroughs and Paul Bowles, just to name the most important. Diane Skelly Ponasik concluded this session by referring to *Tangier's Appeal to Artists and Writers*.

The last session dealt with *Hollywood's Morocco*. While Daniel Cahill, an independent American filmmaker, gave us an overview of movies made in Hollywood from the 1930's up to the 1960's as well as of recent movies, Abdelmajid Hajji discussed *Rex Ingram's Filmmaking in North Africa*, and Michelle Medina, a Fulbright scholar of filmmaking in Fes and Casablanca, talked about the *Creation of American Identity through Morocco*. Thanks to Hassan Mekouar we were also treated to an extraordinary highlight: Madeleine Mitchell, a quite well-known British violinist, lectured on violin music influenced by Morocco and performed the *Premiere Recital of Violin Music* >

Marrakech – An Impressive Journey to the Orient

> composed by the British composer Stuart Jones just for this event. Participants were thrilled by this extraordinary performance, which ended in standing ovations for the artist and the composer.

While participants joined the Moroccan Fulbrighters for dinner at the famous Jama-el-Fna square, Jane Anderson invited Matthias, Joachim, Jenise Eglund (Co-chair of the Fulbright Association's International Education Task Force), and myself to dine at our hotel's restaurant to deepen our conversation both on the Best Practices Manual and on closer collaboration of our two associations. This was a continuation of meetings we had had in Germany when Jane visited Munich and Frankfurt for a conference.

The final day arrived and was introduced under the motto Morocco – Material for Literature. Barton L. St. Armand spoke about the *The Allure of the "Moor" in the Poetry of Emily Dickinson and Edgar Allan Poe*. Mohammed Jouay continued by talking about the *Moorish Element in Shakespeare's Othello and Joyce's Ulysses*. Hasna Lebbadi spoke about *Moroccan Women's Oral Literature* and Maria-Ana Tupan about *Fragments of a Colonial Discourse*. Mustapha Mamouai's lecture on Wyndham Lewis's *Journey into Barbary* followed. This was followed by two lectures held by Mohammed Dellal and Bouchra Benlemlih on Paul Bowles's *The Secular and Tangier as the Exotic* in his novel *Without Stopping*.

During the Moroccan conference we were told there will be a surprise on Tuesday afternoon. First, though, we were taken to the private university ESIG, where we were welcomed most heartily and shown around as well as served lunch. It was a very interesting experience to visit this university still under construction. Afterwards, we went on a sightseeing tour through Marrakech's most famous sites. In the afternoon we finally found out what our surprise was: we were shown the play *Morocco Through Western Eyes: Impressions of Morocco*, composed and arranged by Jeannie M. Woods, Mohammed Jouay and Kamal el Fouadi and presented by students of the University Cadi Ayyad in Marrakech. It was an incredible performance which received a standing ovation.

The conference ended with two lectures on architecture: *Western Influences of Islamic Art and the Influence of Moroccan Architecture on the Modern Universal Movement of Architecture 1928 - 1956*.

Having learned so much the last few days we finally relaxed while visiting the 1001 Nights Moroccan folklore dinner at Chez Ali. Many of us took the opportunity to experience this



Reception at the Galerie les Atlassides

wonderful spectacle. We had the opportunity to share our impressions of the trip, try the delicious food once more, and appreciate the five very interesting days we had just had. Before we said our farewells, we all thanked the American organization crew for their immense efforts as well as the Moroccan organizational team for their incredible work. As a representative of all participants, I would like to thank Jane Anderson and Hassan Mekouar for their efforts in making these two conferences possible.

The pleasant surprise visit of Joella Gipson, life member of the Fulbright Association, to Frankfurt am Main on January 20th 2007 – Joachim Totzke, Uwe Koch and I met her at my favorite Italian restaurant – proves that excellent international networking continues between these meetings.

Without these two conferences I probably would have never gone to Morocco – but now, in the real Fulbright spirit, I fell in love with this country, and the three weeks of my following vacation there were a real highlight to me. But that is another story.

Ursula Mich,
Vice President Communications 2006

For further information, check out
<http://www.fulbright-alumni.ma/>

Global Fulbright Alumni Community Shows Strength, Diversity

by Jane L. Anderson, CAE

Fulbright Alumni e.V. and the U.S. Fulbright Association belong to a network of more than 70 national Fulbright alumni organizations. This global community of Fulbright alumni and their national organizations promote the Fulbright Program and its principles of excellence, opportunity, and international cooperation.

In an interview I conducted with Senator Fulbright in 1991, he remarked that only 200,000 Fulbright grants had been awarded since 1946. He wondered aloud what it would mean to the world if there were a million or more Fulbrighters.

That is our challenge. The Fulbright Program, whose dramatic expansion would benefit so many people around the world, merits an informed, committed global alumni constituency able and willing to act on its behalf.

To serve that end, the U.S. Fulbright Association, with support from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, created the International Fulbright Alumni Development (IFAD) project. IFAD exists to support the formation of new Fulbright alumni organizations and to help developing and mature associations improve

their operations. IFAD strengthens Fulbright alumni organizations' capacity to support Fulbright Program goals; to serve Fulbright alumni and current grantees; and to increase knowledge sharing and relationship building among Fulbright alumni organizations internationally.

The technical assistance seminar held in Marrakech, Morocco (please see related article on page 5 by Ursula Mich) is an inspiring example of alumni sharing knowledge and forging mutually beneficial relationships. Representatives from 60 countries learned from each other about board development, strategic planning, fund raising, and communications. Matthias Stecher presented information on Fulbright Alumni e.V. and its working relationships with the Fulbright Commission in Germany and the U.S. Embassy.

About the IFAD seminar, Young Choi, Vice President of the Korea Fulbright Alumni Association, said, "This conference especially made me feel proud to be one of the Fulbright community worldwide."

From Armenia to Uruguay, the U.S. Association has provided resources on



Jane L. Anderson

the development of alumni organizations to further the Fulbright Program purpose of increasing mutual understanding among the peoples of the world. Through IFAD, the U.S. Fulbright Association pairs experienced association volunteer leaders with Fulbright organizations abroad. For example, Merryl Kravitz, the secretary of our New Mexico chapter, is working with the Lithuanian Fulbright Alumni Association. Marilyn Berg Callander, President of the U.S. national Fulbright Association, is supporting the development of a Southeast Asian Fulbright alumni conference planned in Nepal for January 2008.

Fulbright Alumni e.V.'s own Joe Kristensen served on the International Advisory Committee for the IFAD Best Practices Manual, which debuted at the Fulbright Association's 30th Anniversary Conference in November 2007. Other members of the committee were Romanus Ezeokonkwo, Vice President of the Fulbright Alumni Association of Nigeria; Toshio Shono, Secretary General of the Tokyo Fulbright Association; Sunil Sondhi, Secretary General of the Fulbright Alumni Association (Delhi chapter); and Yassir Touhami, Secretary General of the Moroccan Fulbright Alumni Association. The manual and >



Matthias Stecher, Ursula Mich, Joachim Totzke, who represented Fulbright Alumni e.V. in Morocco, and Hassan Mekouar, President of the Moroccan Fulbright Alumni Association, enjoy a moment together at the international Fulbright alumni conference in Morocco.

> other resources for Fulbright alumni organizations are available on the Fulbright Association's web site at www.fulbright.org.

To mark its 30th anniversary, the Fulbright Association held a gala dinner in March 2007 when Fulbright alumni Craig R. Barrett, chairman of Intel Corporation, historian John Hope Franklin, and Shirley Strum Kenny, President of Stony Brook University, received the 2007 Fulbright Lifetime Achievement Medal. The Fulbright Association 30th Anniversary Conference also celebrated interaction among Fulbright alumni from diverse regions and Fulbright grantees currently in the United States.

The U.S. Fulbright Association has now served the Fulbright Program for 30 years. The Philippine Fulbright Scholars Association, which was established in the early 1950s shortly after Fulbright exchanges between the Philippines and the United States began, has served the program for more than 50 years. We are also inspired by the Fulbright associations in Japan, whose membership as a proportion of Japan's universe of former Fulbright grantees is the largest in the world.

Let us also take special note of the newer and revitalizing Fulbright alumni organizations. With only three years of experience as an organization, the Moroccan Fulbright Alumni Association convened the fascinating international conference *Morocco in Western Art* in November 2006. The U.S. Fulbright Association salutes the Moroccan association and its visionary president Hassan Mekouar, who was so instrumental to the U.S. Fulbright Association's decision to hold the IFAD seminar and its 29th annual conference in Marrakech.



Yassir Touhami, Secretary General of the Moroccan Fulbright Alumni Association, and Hassan Mekouar, President of the Moroccan Fulbright Alumni Association, with Martti Ahtisaari, former President of Finland and UN special envoy for the future status process for Kosovo, who served as the keynote speaker of the Fulbright Association's 29th annual conference

The Kenya Fulbright-Humphrey Alumni Association conducted a national conference in July that was the culmination of an essay competition for Kenyan secondary school students who wrote about *My Ideal Leader in the Era of Democracy*. The Panama Fulbright Alumni Association organized the first Central American and Caribbean Fulbright Alumni meeting in August and focused on "Fulbright Alumni Working for Regional Wellness."

We look forward to helping Fulbright alumni in every region make the world's most respected international educational exchange program even stronger. Through our collective efforts, we build the Fulbright alumni constituency to support the Fulbright Program and make a difference in the world.

Jane L. Anderson is Executive Director of the U.S. Fulbright Association. Her writing has been published in the *Miami Herald*, the *Chicago Sun Times*, *Associations Now*, and in *Knight-Ridder* newspapers. She studied in Aix-en-Provence, France. Ms. Anderson holds the Certified Association Executive designation from the American Society of Association Executives.

Fulbright Diversity Initiative by Rolf Hoffmann

The Diversity Initiative is one of the new German scholarship programs in which the Fulbright Commission supports ambitious and qualified high-school graduates and young college students from Germany with an immigrant background to attend summer schools in the United States. The program offers the participation in five- or six-week long summer schools in Alaska, Nebraska, Philadelphia or California, with the aim of improving the knowledge of the English language and enhancing academic and intercultural competence. In addition, the participants are supposed to learn more about the “American Way of Life” by joining cultural activities and sport events, as well as getting to know academia and the American work environment.

An additional initiative supports the teaching of 20 American teaching assistants at German schools with a high percentage of students of immigrant backgrounds. The realization of those projects is co-financed by the US government, German public funds and donations from the Association of Friends and Sponsors of the Fulbright Program.

In the summer of 2006 the first group of students traveled to the U.S. The six-week Summer School of the University of Alaska at Anchorage offered 10 participants – German future teachers – the possibility to work on questions of the American school system. The multinational Summer Institutes of the Uni-

versity of Nebraska at Omaha and of the Drexel University in Philadelphia were host institutions for five students from Germany, joined by another 40 students with immigrant background from five European countries. Five other students participated in a five-week summer school at the California State University in East Bay where they gained their first international experiences. These young leaders reported very positively on the new perspectives that the program offered concerning the English language as well as cultural and academic topics. As highlights of their stay, the students named the hospitality of the American host families, the active integration into social projects by the host communities, and the many friendships that were built in this international environment. This program in East Bay was entirely financed by donation of Fulbright alumni for which the participants expressed their gratitude on the occasion of the annual alumni meeting in Munich. Diali Zhou, one of the participating students, noted:

“San Francisco is one of the most beautiful cities I have ever seen. Unfortunately, I had only a day to enjoy the beauty of Yosemite National Park, and to visit Berkeley University I also had just one day. These are places that I will definitely come back to.”

A joint meeting after the return to Germany in November 2006 and the Fulbright-Thanksgiving – celebrated by 400 German and American guests –

offered all students the possibility of a lively exchange of experiences. The Diversity Student Leaders will definitely stay in touch, in fact, some of them met for a reunion in Copenhagen in December 2006, and they have developed close ties with the Fulbright Alumni Association.



One of the most moving statements of the participants after their return addressed their identity; many said that only abroad had they experienced a common national identity for the first time.

*Dr. Rolf Hoffmann
Executive Director
German-American Fulbright Commission*

The Fulbright Diversity Initiative – The Participant Perspective: *Our stay at the California State University of East Bay*

A first-hand experience of German Diversity Initiative participants Ali Mosfer and Rachid Madmar

We can still remember as if it were yesterday how we sat together with other applicants of the Diversity Initiative as well as the selection committee of the Fulbright Commission, and the question arose, “What do you expect from your stay in the U.S.?” The main statements of our answers were to improve our English language skills.

In retrospect, even though we had no clear idea of what to expect, our expectations were decisively exceeded.

Of course, five weeks are not long in relation to time periods we spent in other countries before, or in which we attended English lessons at school. However, we have probably learned more in these five weeks than ever before.

We arrived at the CSUEB (California State University of East Bay) along with the co-scholarship holders of the Hertie-Stiftung in July 2006, and the instruction and the integration into the ALP (American Language Program) began the next day. We were divided up into different classes according to the results of our English placement tests, and we started with classes immediately afterwards. We

could select courses like “Business and Critical Thinking”, “Oral Communication”, “Current Events”, “TOEFL Preparation”, “Structure”, and “TV-Interview”.

The individual instruction units were held in small groups, and it crystallized quite fast that the teaching methodology differed immensely from the one at German schools. In all subjects, much emphasis was placed on teamwork, presentation technology and independent work outside of school.

However, the stay at the university did not revolve only around English classes. On the weekends, the so-called “fun trips” were organized, in which we did some sightseeing in San Francisco, visited Berkeley University, went to a baseball stadium, or visited an amusement park. This gave us the opportunities to have fun, enjoy the surroundings and to monitor the progress we were making in English.

A positive side effect of these trips was also that we met other fellow students and became friends. The Diversity Initiative brought us closer not only to a country, its language and culture, but also helped us form transatlantic relations and friendships. We became acquainted with young students from Saudi Arabia, Italy, Japan, China, Korea,



Ali receiving his certificate at the end of the five-week language program

Vietnam, and (of course) the United States, with whom we are still in contact today. As a result, these five weeks brought not only the States closer, but nearly the whole world!

In conclusion, we want to thank once again all of you who made it possible for us to take part in this program. It is no secret that entering the U.S. is not that easy. Besides, we had never imagined that we could be able to take a journey to the States at this age. But with the support of the Fulbright Commission and their association of friends and sponsors it was realizable. Furthermore, our stay in California had such a deep impact on some of us that we are now even considering completing a part of our studies in the U.S.!



Rachid (far left), and Ali (second from the right) with some of their fellow students and Sarah McGregor, the assistant director of the American Language Program



The group posing in front of the buses ready for one their “fun trips”

The Berlin Seminar, a Fulbright Fellowship Fest

by Gil Carbajal

Since I have had the privilege of attending four Berlin Seminars, the editors of the *FRANKly* kindly invited me to share my enthusiasm for that magnificent event, whose program each year celebrates the high ideals of the Fulbright Fellowship Program.

Someone had a brilliant idea some 54 years ago, shortly after the German Fulbright Program was founded. It was to gather together in Berlin all the American Fulbright fellows in Germany for a massive seminar in which they could share experiences and deepen their knowledge of the major issues facing the U.S., Europe, and the world, and examine them through the prism of mutual understanding as a means for establishing peace in the world. Afterwards, they could return to wherever they were teaching, studying or researching and more effectively carry out their roles as personal ambassadors for the best values of American society.

An outstanding aspect of the Berlin Seminar is that it not only brings together American Fulbrighters in Germany, but also a selection of fellows from other countries of Europe. That is why I was able to attend my first Berlin Seminar at the end of my fellowship in Spain. The wall had been standing for some time, and there was a glaring contrast between the sullen and austere eastern sector, and the prosperous and flashy western sector. We needed to pass through Checkpoint Charlie to visit East Berlin; and a U.S. Air Force Academy graduate studying history in Freiburg was required to wear his uniform making him an instant attraction for East Berliners who rather enjoyed staring at visitors from the West. My first Berlin Seminar afforded me several days of high-level, thought-provoking conferences, a lavish reception at the American Embassy (or at least it seemed so to me at the time), and the opportunity to meet engaging, multifaceted fellow Fulbrighters. Returning to the seminar several years later, I saw that, although the format had evolved, an underlying spirit of intellectual enquiry and dynamic person-to-person interaction was flourishing as vigorously as ever.

My second Berlin Seminar was five years ago on the occasion of a powwow organized by the German Fulbright Alumni Association. I was invited thanks to the growing network of Fulbright alumni associations launched at an international conference organized by Spanish alumni in Toledo in 2000. The Germans made up the largest delegation to that conference, and I began to develop friendships among them that have been maintained in succeeding Fulbright meetings in Washington, Athens and Marrakech. (So friendly have these relations been that a certain German alumna claims that I proposed marriage

to her in Athens. If so, it was under the influence of Greek wine and hence there was no *veritas in the vino!*) Sent by the Spanish Alumni Association as a delegate to the Powwow of 2002, I was not disappointed by the high quality of presentations and discussions focusing on American foreign policy in the wake of 9/11. The Berlin Seminar started as the German alumni conference ended. And I was delighted to see two important additions to the program of activities since my first experience: a concert given by Fulbright musicians and a disco night!

The Powwow in Berlin was special because it was held in conjunction with the Berlin Seminar on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the German Fulbright Program. And for the first time, a large number of German alumni were able to meet and mingle with American Fulbright fellows at the conferences, the common meals and, finally, on the dance floor.

Three years later the Fulbright Academy of Sciences and Technology similarly organized a conference in conjunction with the Berlin Seminar and so I had yet another opportunity to attend. This time not only German alumni attended but alumni from the many other countries of the world as well. And I noticed that the participation of German alumni, an innovation in 2002, had now become part of the program. The trend of alumni participation continued this year even though there was no other accompanying conference, and this combination of current fellows and alumni makes for a veritable experience of Fulbright fellowship.

By now I need no ulterior motive to attend the Berlin Seminar because, speaking frankly to my *FRANKly* readers, I've become hooked on the experience and intend to return as often as possible. But I am not the only addict. There is a Fulbrighter even more addicted than I am. It was announced at the inaugural dinner that there was a woman present who had attended every Berlin Seminar since 1978! I didn't get a chance to meet her. But I will be sure to look her up next year. We have a great addiction in common.

Gil Carbajal is a free-lance journalist based in Madrid. He currently serves on the board of the Spanish Fulbright Alumni Association of which he is a founding member. He is chairman of the association's Committee for Relations with Other Associations. As such he has been active in promoting a world-wide network of Fulbright alumni associations.



Fulbrighters in Panama Fight Poverty with a Message

by Hugo Salazar

Panama City's skyline reflects the saying: "The economy in Panama is flying", a saying that is accepted by many who see the urban development, the increase in tourism and the growth of activities in sectors like the Canal, ports, the free trade zone and construction. Economic figures show three consecutive years of economic growth above 6%, a figure that is higher than average for the region, with good prospects of staying at this level and of increasing further through new investments in the expansion of the Canal, and also in new industries, multi-billion dollar projects that secure actual economic growth.

Historically, the Panamanian economy has been a service-oriented one, sometimes defined as a "transit" economy, due to the importance of the transit of humans and goods through the country, a direct result of its geographical position. The first trade fairs, organized by the Spanish colonists during the 17th and 18th centuries, gathered in Panama merchants from Europe and South America. From then on, human migrations, such as the California gold fever of 1849, the construction of the Canal by France and later by the United States, and world events such as the world wars contributed to shaping the Panamanian economy as it is today. With an actual increase of transportation and trade all over the world, Panama presents itself as a convenient place to transit and to do business, taking advantage of its open, U.S. Dollar based economy and a multi-cultural population.

Despite this impressive economic record and good prospects for the future, poverty remains one of the most difficult problems for the country. A recent research project by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) about poverty in Panama presents a case of increasing poverty, where 47% of the population is excluded from the benefits of economic growth. This report is disputed by the government of Panama, which has embarked itself on many different programs to alleviate poverty, including one of direct support to the extreme poor in rural areas. In addition to the government programs to mitigate poverty in Panama, there is a growing and impressive participation of private organizations and NGOs in campaigns of donation and cooperation in both rural and urban areas, a show of social responsibility that brings hope to many.

However, according to the local NGO Apronad, the country is still in arrears with regard to its social responsibility obligations as per the global pact signed at the United Nations. "What it's done in Panama is charity, not social responsibility", says Apronad's president.

The Fulbrighters in Panama do not escape this debate. For over a decade now, the Fulbright Association of Panama has implemented a program of scholarship donations to children in elementary schools located in extreme poverty areas. The



A view of the high rise of modern Panamá City, across the Bahía de Panamá, from the old harbour near the Mercado Público in San Felipe (Photo Dirk van der Made)

areas chosen for the project vary on a yearly basis, and donations are granted to the children that excel in their grades. The scholarships consist of a donation of food certificates redeemable at local stores. This way we prevent cash from being used for other purposes by the children's tutors. Funds used in this activity come from the Fulbrighters themselves, and also from donations received from private companies.

Recently, our debate centered on making sure our program does not fall under the classification of charity, and we started evaluating the convenience of expanding it to a continuous one in a specific area, creating something we could define as a "Fulbright Nursery", an ambitious project that has proven to require more time and resources than the ones available at this moment.

Therefore, as a short-term improvement, we decided to first make sure that the children understand the purpose of our activity. Our reasoning is that politicians make donations to gain political support; private companies to increase sales; and NGOs to apply funds received by them as donations. We, the Fulbrighters, feel the need to recognize the hard work and dedication of those children for whom economic limitations are not an impediment to their excellent performance in school. Our message is: through good grades and dedication, students can acquire a solid education that has the power to transform children – regardless of their economic status – into respected professionals and technicians. We grant the scholarships making sure the children know it is a small recognition of their work, and that if they continue their good performance, they will be able to compete for more scholarships in the future, from many different programs, including the Fulbright Scholarship Program.

We, the beneficiaries of the Fulbright Program, are good examples of how far they can reach by getting good grades in school. We are proud of this small scholarship program that carries with it a great message to motivate the young towards great educational goals.

Hugo Salazar is the president of the Fulbright Alumni Association of Panama.

The Fulbright Alumni Association of Nigeria

by Abubakar Sokoto Mohammed

Inauguration

The Fulbright Alumni Association of Nigeria was inaugurated in 2000 at the University of Ibadan in the southwestern Nigeria. The University of Ibadan is the oldest university in Nigeria, which started as a university college of the University of London in 1948. It is believed that around 50 of the approximately 900 Fulbright alumni scholars in Nigeria are from the University of Ibadan, even though many of them might have retired or have moved on to other locations both within the country and abroad. Prior to the inauguration of the association in August 2000, some prominent Fulbright alumni scholars at the University of Ibadan established a steering committee with two sub-committees, namely a conference organizing committee and a constitution drafting committee. The two sub-committees carried out their mandates by organizing an inaugural conference that brought together about 50 Fulbright alumni scholars from all over Nigerian universities and research institutes. After the conference, at which papers were presented on the theme *The Role of Higher Education in National Development: The Fulbright Experience*, a business meeting was held, in which a draft constitution was presented to the members, which was debated and subsequently adopted. The first National Executive Council of the association was also elected at that meeting on August 8, 2000, where Prof. GM Babatunde of the University of Ibadan emerged as the pioneer national president of the association.

The Structure of the Association

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is the highest decision-making body of the association and brings together all the registered members of the association once a year. It provides an opportunity to share reports from the elected officials and committees, and to take decisions on the affairs of the association as it deems appropriate.

The National Executive Council (NEC) consists of eight elected members, one ex-officio and the six zonal coordinators, who run the affairs of the association. The NEC meets in between AGMs to implement decisions and prepare activities of the association, e.g. annual conferences and publications.

In the absence of a permanent headquarters for the association, the constitution stipulated that a national secretariat shall be wherever the national president is located. The secretariat implements the decisions of the NEC and runs the affairs of the association on a daily basis.

The zonal structure consists of the chapters of the association, which are located at the Universities in the six various geo-political zones in the country. The zonal coordinators manage the affairs of the chapters in the zones and form a link between the chapters and the NEC. The most active chapters of the association are in the older federal universities, namely Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria; Bayero University Kano; University of Ibadan; University of Nigeria, Nsukka; University of Jos/ National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru; University of Calabar; University of Port Harcourt; University of Lagos; Usumanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto; Benue State University, Makurdi; etc.

Achievements of the Association

In its eight years of existence, the association has held seven annual conferences, which are usually rotated among the chapters between the north and south of the country. It has also published four books based on the papers presented at some of the annual conferences on the themes of globalization, democratization, security/social services and US-Nigerian relations. Furthermore, the association has executed a database project to identify the

scholars who have benefited from the Fulbright Program in Nigeria. This project was funded by the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Abuja. In addition, the association has set up mentoring services in the various chapters for applicants to the senior and junior Fulbright Programs, as well as for the American Fulbright scholars in various Nigerian universities. And finally, the association has developed its own website, which can be viewed at the following address:

www.fulbrightnigeria.org.

These achievements were possible thanks to the support and cooperation of members, as well as the assistance of the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Abuja, and our various institutions. The availability of the internet and mobile telephones for sending and receiving messages in a country as large as Nigeria (total area = 923,768 sq km) has facilitated our operations tremendously. >



Prof. Gabriel Babatunde (right), the pioneer national president of the Fulbright Alumni Association of Nigeria (August 2000 to February 2005), and Prof. James Ajala (left) the former zonal coordinator of South-West of FAAN



Prof. Dung Pam Sha, the current national president of FAAN since February 2007

The Fulbright Alumni Association of Nigeria

> Challenges and Problems

One of the main challenges that the Fulbright Alumni Association of Nigeria faces is that of fundraising. The sources of funding of the association are the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Abuja, membership dues, sales of publications and souvenirs, and donations. The association is not buoyant financially, and there is a need for a more aggressive fundraising drive. Also, the activities of the association are essentially limited to holding the annual conferences and publishing the papers presented at the conferences. There is a need to diversify the activities of the association, probably by introducing some community service- and fundraising activities.

As a federated organization, at the moment there are activities taking place only at the national level and at the chapter level. In between, at the zonal

levels, there are no activities taking place, essentially due to lack of funds. In addition, we should also strive to establish more chapters. The active chapters of the association are few given the total number of scholars who have benefited from the Fulbright Program and the relatively large number of Nigerian universities. As indicated earlier, the active chapters are mainly to be found in the older federal universities. The database project, which was executed by the association, should provide some necessary information for the establishment of new chapters where none exist currently. The factors that should determine the establishment of new chapters of the association should be the number of Fulbright alumni available in a location; the interest, sacrifice and commitment demonstrated by the members; and the availability of institutional support, especially logistic assistance such as



Abubakar Sokoto Mohammed is a member of the National Executive Council, Fulbright Alumni Association of Nigeria.

venues for meetings, transport, funds, refreshments, etc.

Appreciation

On behalf of the Fulbright Alumni Association of Nigeria, I would like to acknowledge the support which we have been receiving from the U.S. Fulbright Association and the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Abuja, Nigeria. Specifically, I wish to mention the sponsorships of our conferences and the assistance provided for members of our association to attend the annual conferences of the U.S. Fulbright Association over the years.

The Philippine Fulbright Scholars Association by Isagani Cruz

The Philippine Fulbright program is the oldest in the world, having been launched in 1948, shortly after the Fulbright legislation passed through the U.S. Senate. The Fulbright Scholars Association (PFSA) was organized in 1959 and has since grown to include almost 2,000 Filipino Fulbright alumni.

1991 was a banner year, with PFSA organizing the First Southeast Asian Fulbright Alumni Conference at Manila Hotel on the theme "The Fulbrighter: Meeting the Challenges of the 21st Century." In other years, PFSA held concerts, exhibits, lectures, essay contests, and conferences. PFSA has also published books and given awards to outstanding Fulbright



After her term of office, former Philippine President and International Fulbright Laureate Corazon Aquino swears in officers of the Philippine Fulbright Scholars Association.

alumni. In cooperation with the Hubert H. Humphrey Alumni Association and the East-West Center Alumni Association, PFSA has also initiated livelihood projects and has held conferences. PFSA successfully nominated former Philippine

President Corazon C. Aquino for the 1996 J. William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding.

PFSA currently networks through the web, with members communicating with each other through an e-group. In addition to its usual lectures and conferences, PFSA now focuses on increasing the national visibility of the Fulbright program in order to attract the best and the brightest young Filipinos to take advantage of the opportunity to study in the USA.

Isagani Cruz is President of the Philippine Fulbright Scholars Association.

Fulbright in Switzerland

by Birgit Klocke & Karl Safft

In Germany, the Fulbright Program has played a central role in academic education since it was established in 1946. After all, a main reason for Senator J. William Fulbright to establish the program was the experience of the Second World War and his determination to undertake everything possible to prevent the repetition of a man-made, global catastrophe of this dimension.

In Switzerland, students and the public are less aware of the Fulbright Program. Politically, the country is proud of its independence and neutrality, which has served it well since its foundation. Academically, most Swiss universities provide exchange programs on a bilateral basis with many prestigious American universities, and Swiss students receive additional stipends from academic and private institutions. Since the number of students is comparatively small, but the demand for highly qualified professionals is large, the supply of scholarships is numerous, and it is sometimes difficult to use all funds available.

To enhance the visibility of the Fulbright Program, Dr. rer. nat. Franz Ruder, a German Fulbright alumnus (1983, University of Chapel Hill), who moved with his family to Switzerland, invited the authors of this report, Birgit Klocke and Karl Safft, for a luncheon presentation at his Rotary Club in Zürich.

In the first part of the presentation, we spoke about the purpose, size and history of the scholarship program and



Birgit Klocke and Karl Safft speaking at the Rotary Club luncheon

about its founder, U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright. Issue 15 (2005) of the *FRANKly* gives detailed insights into the Fulbright Program and the biography of its founder on the occasion of his 100th birthday and its celebrations in Germany. In addition, we shared some personal experiences about our studies in the United States – the Fulbright Experience – and what impact the participation in the program and our year abroad had on our lives.

The second part of the presentation addressed the status of the Fulbright scholarships in Switzerland. The current program is based on an agreement signed in May 2006 by then United States Ambassador Pamela Pitzer Willeford and the Swiss State Secretary Michael Ambühl. On the Swiss side, it is not financed by taxes, but by money raised by the U.S. Embassy from national and international companies located in Switzerland. The Embassy organizes a variety of fundraising events, and the Ambassador of the United States, Peter R. Coneway, personally supports the process. Around ten Swiss students participate in the program each year, and the number of grantees shall be doubled, if funds permit.

The program provides scholarships for Swiss students to study in the United States and for American students to study in Switzerland. They are chosen for their academic excellence and leadership potential. Like in other countries, participants will receive the opportunity to learn about each other's cultures and political as well as economic institutions. They shall exchange ideas, develop skills, and initiate joint projects that promote the mutual understanding between Americans and Swiss, as well as serve the general public. Since a Fulbright Commission, like the one in Germany, does not exist, the Embassy of the United States plays a central role in promoting and coordinating the pro-

gram in Switzerland, selecting the scholarship recipients and supporting the alumni.

An alumni organisation for Swiss Fulbrighters has not existed until recently, due to the small number of Swiss alumni. Many Fulbright alumni in Switzerland, including the two authors of this article, are foreigners who have moved here (after all, it's a great place to live ...). And since Germans cannot live without a proper "Stammtisch", some German Fulbrighters founded one a few years ago, which meets regularly in Zürich every last Thursday of the month. The majority of Fulbright alumni live in Switzerland's banking capital. Julian Edler organized the Stammtische until 2006, when Ulrich Schuster took over. >



Fulbright & Friends meet Piccadilly Six: In September 2006 we attended a concert with "the best jazz in the Alps" at a farm in Kilchberg. In the front left are Prof. Dr. med. Alexander von Graevenitz and his wife. He was one of the first German Fulbright Scholars in the 1950s. Karl Safft met him by accident in the Kilchberg village bus when they discovered that they were both Fulbright alumni.



The group in Karl Safft's garden. Besides alumni from Fulbright, some of his guests were alumni of the International House New York.

Fulbright in Switzerland

> Together with Sophie Frank and other alumni, they put together a calendar of activities, among them hiking in the Grindelwald alps, visiting museums, cart racings, Jazz concerts (“Fulbright & Friends meet Piccadilly Six”) and meetings at private homes, for example at Karl Safft’s in Kilchberg.

When Birgit Klocke relocated for professional reasons from Frankfurt to Bern in 2005, she contacted the U.S. Embassy to find out about the Fulbright Program and an alumni organization in Switzerland. To her surprise, the latter did not exist. During the same time, Aneta Ernest, a Swiss Fulbright scholar in New York, faced some challenges when she arrived in the “big apple” and felt that some kind of support from former Fulbright scholars would have been helpful. Therefore, both of them worked with Dan Wendell and Hugo Sanchez from the U.S. Embassy in Bern to help establish the Swiss Fulbright Alumni Association – SFAA.

The “big day” of the SFAA’s inauguration took place at the Embassy of the United States in Bern on July 4, 2007. It was directly followed by the reception in honor of the 231st anniversary of the independence of the United States, at the residence of Ambassador Coneway. Since Fulbright alumni were invited to the reception, many came to Bern and we had a great attendance at our first meeting, with about 20 participants from all over Switzerland. Our first board is represented by Aneta Ernest (vice president), Thomas Heinis (secretary), Michael Lierau (treasurer) and Karl Safft (president). One week later, Ambassador Coneway, who had studied in Hong Kong as a Rotary Scholar and is a strong supporter of the Fulbright Program, hosted a jazz recital at his residence in honor of the program.



This is the newly elected board with Dan Wendell, the “right hand” of Ambassador Coneway and a great supporter of SFAA. Left to right: Dan Wendell, US Embassy; Frank Lierau, treasurer; Aneta Ernest, vice president; Karl Safft, president; Thomas Heinis, secretary

Membership to the SFAA is open to all Swiss Fulbright Alumni as well as other Fulbright Alumni living in Switzerland. Besides collecting and providing contact information from and for its members and offering a platform for exchange, the SFAA aims to establish a process to prepare and support new Swiss Fulbright grantees before they leave for the United States and after their return to Switzerland. Furthermore, we aim to meet with and support U.S. grantees, who study in Switzerland for one year. Of course, we will also continue with our monthly “Stammtisch” and other social activities.

In 1987, Senator Fulbright said: “Our Future is not in the stars but in our minds and hearts. Creative leadership and liberal education, which in fact go together, are the first requirements for a hopeful future for humankind. Fostering these – leadership, learning, and

empathy between cultures – was and remains the purpose of the international scholarship program that I was privileged to sponsor in the U.S. senate over forty years ago. It is a modest program with an immodest aim – the achievement in international affairs of a regime more civilized, rational and humane than the empty system of power of the past. I believed in that possibility when I began. I still do.”

Although collecting and distributing addresses or organizing a “Stammtisch” seems mundane in light of the great words of William Fulbright, they are a small contribution to fostering leadership, learning, and empathy between cultures. We at SFAA will work along these lines so that the “Fulbright Experience” is not limited to the year we study abroad, but becomes a life-long experience.



Some of the founding members of the Swiss Fulbright Alumni Association (SFAA) with U.S. Ambassador Peter R. Coneway in the middle



FULBRIGHT ALUMNI E.V.

History and Purpose

The German Fulbright Alumni e.V. was founded in Frankfurt in 1986 by former Fulbrighters. By 2007, 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 "Stammtische". To find out about the next "Stammtisch" in your area, contact the regional coordinator listed on the overleaf.

Powwows/ Focus Conferences

Different regional chapters of our association regularly organize national conferences and seminars, 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
2007	Sustainability/ Right Livelihood Award

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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, Toledo
- 2004 The International Interdisciplinary Fulbright Conference, Olympism and the Fulbright Spirit: Humanism in Action, Athens
- 2006 2nd International Fulbright Alumni Conference, Morocco

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 on the left.

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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: _____

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

Der Jahresbeitrag (Euro 40,-; ermäßigt Euro 25,- gemäß Beitragsordnung Abschnitt D: Der unter A.(2) aufgeführte ermäßigte Jahresbeitrag ist für die Mitglieder gedacht, die einer andauernden finanziellen Bedürftigkeit unterliegen. Dieser Status muss jährlich bis 1. März schriftlich erneuert werden.) soll alljährlich per Lastschrift von meinem Konto auf das Fulbright Alumni e.V. Vereinskonto (Nr. 5478 85-600, Postbank Frankfurt, BLZ 500 100 60) eingezogen werden. Die von mir umseitig erteilte und unterschriebene Ermächtigung gilt bis auf Widerruf. (Hinweis: Andere Zahlungsverfahren sind nur im begründeten Ausnahmefall möglich.)

Der Fulbright Alumni e.V. ist berechtigt, für Beiträge und Spenden Zuwendungsbescheinigungen auszustellen.

Ort, Datum _____

Unterschrift _____

[Bitte wenden!]



FULBRIGHT ALUMNI E.V.

AUFNAHMEANTRAG Einzugsermächtigung

Von (Name und Anschrift des Kontoinhabers):

an den Fulbright Alumni e.V., 60008 Frankfurt/Main.

Hiermit ermächtige ich Sie widerruflich, die von mir zu entrichtenden Zahlungen bei Fälligkeit zu Lasten meines Girokontos durch Lastschrift einzuziehen.

Grund:	Mitgliedsbeitrag	_____	€	(€40,-, ermäßigt €25,-)
	Spende	_____	€	(jährlich, freiwillig)
	Betrag:	_____	€	

Konto-Nummer _____ BLZ _____

bei (Bank/Sparkasse) _____

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

Ort, Datum _____ Unterschrift _____

Den FAIN (Fulbright Alumni Internal Newsletter) möchte ich per E-mail erhalten. Ja Nein

E-Mail Adresse: _____

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

Intercultural Communication: A Story of Love, Work, and Passion

by Shonda Kohlhoff

It would be an understatement to say that the Fulbright Commission opened new and unexpected doors in my life. If you had asked me in early 1999, when I was living in Brussels and working for the U.S. Foreign and Commercial Service as a Master's student, where I thought I would be for the next eight years, I never would have answered "Germany." And yet here I am, and I am honored to be here. It has been a conscious and well-thought-through decision to stay. We know that we could change course and set sail for another cultural adventure at any time. In 2005 we did just that. We went to Seoul, South Korea, for a fascinating and dream-come-true visit of several months – but in the end we found ourselves right back here, appreciating the German quality of life with a greater work/life balance, six weeks of paid vacation, a strong sense of safety and much cleaner air!

First of all, when I say we, I mean my husband and I. Nathan, who was the direct reason why we moved to Berlin in October 1999, was granted a ten-month Fulbright Fellowship, which is what motivated him to ask me to marry him – a bit earlier than expected! Nathan is the kind of person who likes to do things right – not halfway or randomly. When he received the letter from the Fulbright Commission as a Johns Hopkins Master's exchange student in Germany at the School of Advanced International Studies, he went into action in a way I could not have foreseen. After conducting a long-distance relationship since we met in 1996, with only a few semesters in the same city, Washington, D.C., he decided that enough was enough and he would only accept the Fulbright if I accompanied him to Berlin. Due to legal (visa) issues for U.S. Americans living longer than three months in Europe, this meant marriage would be the door opener.

To make a long story short, we started our married life in Germany five months later with the Fulbright Welcome Meeting in Bremen. That first weekend was full of cultural surprises, which still make us smile when we think back on them today. From constantly cycling elevators without doors (a shock to Americans used to a very litigious society of lawsuits!), famous musical animals (which we had never heard of before but found enchanting), paying at restaurants by saying how much tip you wish to give by adding it and stating the total (to the waiter's face and not silently in a tray!),



Shonda in action: speaking to a group in Bremen about intercultural communication

non-verbal counting starting on the thumb instead of the index finger, to sexually-explicit TV programs which we thought we had inadvertently ordered by pushing the wrong button on the remote control at the hotel! As an intercultural communication master's graduate, I was in seventh heaven, and excited to understand the roots of all of these mysterious behaviors! Following intense German language courses and a total immersion experience with only German-speaking friends in Berlin, I started my own intercultural communication management company, *Berlintercultural*, and Nathan was offered a job as a trainee at a bank. Feeling these prospects had a great deal of potential for us both personally and professionally, we decided to stay in Berlin when the Fulbright fellowship ended.

Some of my first clients were established through Fulbright connections. With my work as an intercultural trainer, lecturer and consultant, I never advertised publicly; it was all done through word-of-mouth. With every workshop I delivered, there was interest shown in more. From the IHK, Wirtschaftsunioren Intercultural Competence workshop, which became part of a series, to the course on Intercultural Teambuilding for international Master's of European Studies students from 17 different countries at the Hochschule Bremen, which I have taught for seven years running. These

courses teach deep listening skills and intercultural communication strategies, as well as a healthy amount of tolerance and respect for the importance of cultural differences. Although I come from this academic background as an International Communication Master's graduate from the School of International Studies at American University, I have learned the most powerful lessons through practical international experiences and from my clients in the training room. I have an unquenchable thirst for unlocking the cultural mysteries which influence the way each of us thinks and interacts. I strongly believe that my work in this field is making a difference by giving participants new perspectives: allowing them to see their cultural bias for the first time and learn how to switch to the other's point of view to >

Fulbright International – from Lebanon to the U.S. and on to Germany

by Nadia Manasfi

“Excuse me, is this the Fulbright table?” This is how my story with the Fulbright Alumni e.V. started. It was September 2006, and my first week in Frankfurt after completing my Masters in the U.S. on a Fulbright scholarship. I was not a true “returnee”, though, since it was my first time living in Germany. Born to a German mother and a Lebanese father, I grew up in Beirut, Lebanon, and went to the U.S. as a Lebanese Fulbrighter. I was very lucky to find a job at the Senckenberg Research Institute in Frankfurt while still finishing up my Masters. At the time, I jumped at the opportunity to finally spend some time in my motherland and learn more about the country, its people and its culture.



Nadia enjoying an afternoon out in Frankfurt with her Fulbright friends: from left to right, (top row) Nadia Manasfi, Vivian Hermann, & Lance Weldy; (bottom row) Navin Lal & Bryan Baker

Somehow, though, despite having already been away from home for over a year, and supposedly having experienced a culture shock already, the move to Frankfurt was incredibly difficult. I had attended a workshop in the U.S. (organized by AMIDEAST) that prepared us for the reverse culture shock that we would probably encounter when returning to our home countries, but this was different. I was homesick for two places on opposite sides of the world – on the one hand I missed the U.S., and all my friends and the familiarity of the past year and a half of my life. On the other hand, I also missed my family and friends in Lebanon, whom I had not seen in almost a year and whom I had worried about immensely during the summer’s unrest in Lebanon.

So, having just arrived in Frankfurt, a city in which I knew a single person and in which I still had no permanent place to stay, I showed up at the monthly Fulbright Stammtisch, which I had heard about from another Fulbrighter currently living in the U.S. I explained my story to the few people who were already gathered at the “Künstlerkeller”, and then asked them hesitantly if I could join their group, even if I was not a “true” German Fulbrighter. And boy did they welcome me with open arms! Over the past year the Fulbright Alumni community has offered me so much, for which I am all very grateful. They gave me advice on apartment searching, demystified technical German forms I had to fill out, but most of all

provided me with an opportunity to meet with them on a regular basis and make some friends. One year on, most of my closest friends in Germany are still people I have met through Fulbright alumni meetings.

At several points during my Fulbright year in the U.S., especially during enrichment seminars and the like, I was told that the Fulbright experience will live on with me even when I leave the U.S., but I never really believed it while I was there. As most things in life, I thought I should just make the most out of my year in the U.S., and then get on with my life. My experience with the German Fulbright alumni has since made me change my mind completely. For me, as I think for a lot of fellow members in the Fulbright Alumni e.V., the Fulbright experience is not over yet, and we try to continue our intercultural and intracultural exchange with the various regional and national activities. My experience in Germany has also made me believe that I can hope to find a similar Fulbright Alumni Association, and a similar almost instant circle of friends wherever else I end up next or over the next 50 years!

I have greatly enjoyed working on this issue of the *FRANKly*, and being an active member of the alumni group. It has been a way to give something small back to a community that has given me so much over the past year.

> [continuing from page 25](#)

prevent unnecessary cultural clash, or to repair the damage usually caused by a lack of cultural awareness. Knowing that these workshops or courses inspire participants to see culture more objectively, with more open eyes and hearts, is the most rewarding aspect of my work.

Fulbright has remained an important part of our lives throughout the years, attending annual Fulbright balls, Fulbright Thanksgiving dinners, speaking to new Fulbrighters pro bono about cultural adaptation strategies and the culture shock process at welcome meetings, participating in alumni meetings in different cities, and “winning”

Fulbrighter friends whom we have remained close to throughout the years. We moved to Munich this past fall, and eager to learn firsthand about another cultural identity of Germany, we continue to carry Senator Fulbright’s torch of creating mutual understanding as cultural ambassadors every day in our personal and professional lives.

State Alumni: A Global Community for Mutual Understanding

by Jason Haserodt

What is State Alumni?

Imagine an illustrious group consisting of more than 35 Nobel Laureates and over 270 current and former heads of state. Imagine a group of leading scholars, artists, CEOs, NGO activists and up-and-coming leaders in every field from more than 150 countries around the world. This group of high achievers really does exist, and it includes you!

As alumni of the binational Fulbright program in Germany, you are part of a unique 800,000 member strong, global community that includes alumni of U.S. government funded programs the world over who have taken part in a similar life-changing exchange experience.

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, of the U.S. Department of State, created the State Alumni website to provide you and all alumni of U.S. government (USG) sponsored exchange programs with a unique venue to meet, network, and interact with fellow alumni from around the world. The website also provides resources to help you continue your exchange experience once you have returned home.

The Network

I, too, am a Fulbrighter, having spent a year teaching English in a small town in Thüringen called Stadtroda. Upon returning to the States after a truly amazing year, I was excited to discover the State Alumni website, through which I found American Fulbright alumni in my own home town as well as German Fulbright alumni and German alumni of other exchange programs as well.

As members of the prestigious Fulbright Alumni Association, you already enjoy privileged access to an incredible network of like-minded scholars and professionals who are committed to the Fulbright ideal, and indeed the ideal of all USG-sponsored exchange programs:

to further mutual understanding and to build bridges among the peoples of the world.

The State Alumni website seeks to add a global component to your network and, therefore, help to further additional exchange of ideas by connecting you with alumni from around the world.

The networking possibilities are endless. Preceding a business trip to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a French alumnus used the State Alumni website to find a contact there. The alumni connection eventually blossomed into a professional relationship ultimately resulting in the alumnus being invited to speak at a national conference in Washington, D.C., earlier this year.

As another example, an alumnus in Turkey used the “Find Fellow Alumni” tool on the State Alumni site to invite alumni from a range of U.S.-sponsored exchange programs, including Fulbright alumni, from around the world to participate in a conference for young democratic leaders that took place in April. The conference brought together over 50 alumni who are young, up-and-coming political leaders in their home countries engaged in grassroots democracy. Alumni representing 37 countries participated in workshops on a variety of topics, including participatory democracy, election campaigns, economy, human rights issues, and climate change and the environment.

If you are a researcher in a particular field, you could use the website to look up other alumni doing similar research and find possible collaborators. Through Find Fellow Alumni you can use the website to expand your professional network or to organize international activities. There is really no limit to the networks and connections you can develop through State Alumni.

Continuing your Exchange Experience

In addition to the great networking potential available through State Alumni, the website also offers a variety of other ways to share ideas and keep your exchange experience going.

While studying or researching in the United States, many Fulbrighters enjoyed access to American and international academic journals and periodicals. We realize that your studies and research are a critical part of your exchange and a shared foundation upon which to build greater mutual understanding. We therefore offer access to thousands of leading periodicals through State Alumni’s Online Research Center, including *Science*, *The Economist*, and the *New England Journal of Medicine*, to name just a few.

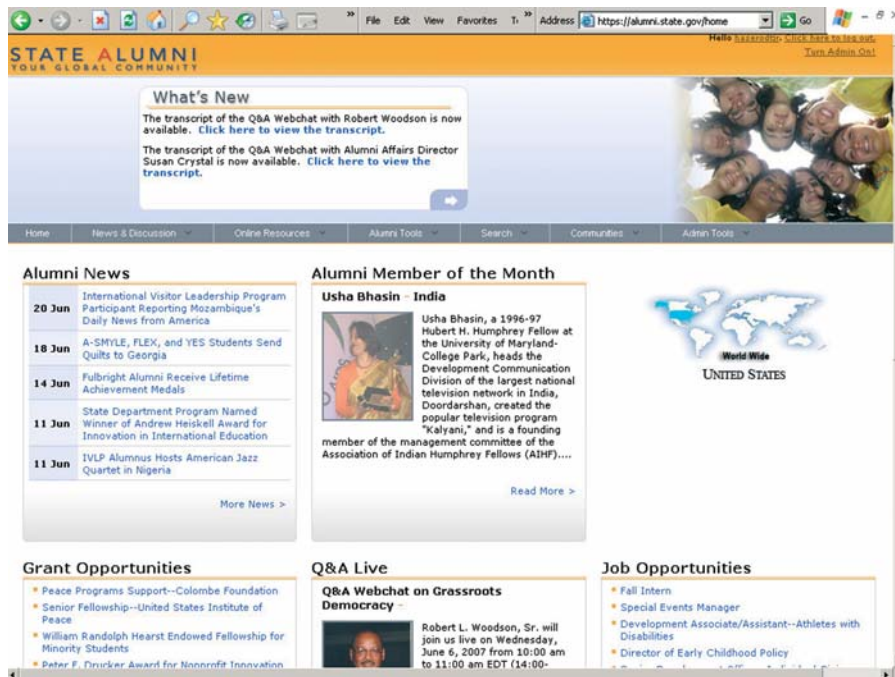


Jason Haserodt

The Online Research Center also boasts an eLibrary of U.S. and international periodicals and newspapers. Many alumni have used these resources to write research papers and even books. Together, the Journal Database and eLibrary have proved to be among the most popular features of the State Alumni website.

Q&A Live webchats give you the opportunity to directly engage high-level U.S. government officials as well as other prominent private sector specialists. >

State Alumni: A Global Community for Mutual Understanding



Screenshot of the newly redesigned State Alumni Website

> As the State Alumni website is password protected, these webchats are available exclusively for you. Previous webchats have covered topics such as U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East, U.S. visa policy with an Assistant Secretary of State, and women's leadership in post-communist Europe and Eurasia. We also hosted a webchat for alumni with an astronaut and cosmonaut while they were at the International Space Station!

In the Alumni News section of the website, you can read success stories about projects and activities that Fulbright and other alumni from around the world are carrying out. Additionally, we highlight the success of one particularly exceptional alumnus or alumna every month in the State Alumni Member of the Month section.

The AGS Community

In addition to the main, global State Alumni community, as alumni from Germany, you have the opportunity to take part in the AGS Community. An initiative of the Cultural Affairs Section

of the U.S. Embassy in Berlin, the AGS Community is a special section of the State Alumni website for German speaking alumni from Austria, Germany and Switzerland (thus AGS), that provides customized news, events, grant information, and other content tailored to alumni of these three countries.



Polish alumni join State Alumni at an Alumni Association reception.

A Meaningful Connection

To quote Senator J. William Fulbright, "The rapprochement of peoples is only possible when differences of culture and outlook are respected and appreciated rather than feared and condemned, when the common bond of human dignity is recognized as the essential bond for a peaceful world." International

exchanges are as important now as when Senator Fulbright spoke these words decades ago. Person-to person contact, initiated by exchanges and continued through alumni involvement, remain an effective way of facilitating mutual understanding and laying a foundation for peace in our world.

Breaking down stereotypes and building up mutual understanding, and replacing intolerance with an appreciation and acceptance of other peoples and cultures, is shared by hundreds of thousands of alumni around the world. State Alumni and your participation make the connections possible.

What's the connection between a scientist in India, an ambitious high school student in Kazakhstan, and a member of the EU Parliament in Bulgaria? All are committed to mutual understanding, all are alumni of USG exchange programs, and all are members of State Alumni. I invite you all to visit State Alumni (<https://alumni.state.gov>) and take part in this exciting global community.

Jason Haserodt is the U.S Department of State Alumni regional coordinator and was a Fulbright fellow to Germany in 2004-2005.

Interview with the Atlantic Review Team

The Atlantic Review is an international press digest on the internet developed by several Fulbrighters. Its aim is to promote mutual understanding and a critical and frank dialogue on crucial transatlantic topics for everybody who is interested. The 2005 issue of the *FRANKly* featured an article describing the Atlantic Review website, and the idea behind the initiative. In light of this year's theme of "Fulbright International" and its emphasis on international networking, we have spoken with its two editors, Jörg Wolf and Sonja Bonin, to explore how the Atlantic Review might contribute to increase networking and communication among its readers, be they Fulbrighters or other interested community members.

Q: On the website you say that you were driven to create Atlantic Review "out of a concern for the deterioration of the U.S.– German relationship." Did you base this initiative on any personal experiences you had while in the U.S. which brought to light this deterioration or gap in communication?

A: None of the founding editors (Jörg Wolf, Scott Brunstetter and Jörg Geier) were based in the U.S. at the time that *The Atlantic Review* came to life; in fact, they all lived in Germany back then. Current editor Jörg Wolf was a Fulbright grantee to Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C., in 1999-2000, and the second editor, Sonja Bonin (who joined the project in 2003), to Rutgers, NJ, in the academic year of 1993-1994. So, no: the initiative was based mainly on Jörg Wolf's observations in Germany during the debates regarding the war with Iraq in 2003, and the lively discussions he was leading on the Fulbright Alumni email list(s).

Q: How has The Atlantic Review evolved since those early days?

A: We have sent our press digest as a newsletter to a German and an international Fulbright mailing list twice a month ever since. In April 2005, we launched our web presence, using a blog software. Thanks to the online medium, we have reached more readers outside the Fulbright community, especially Americans, who account for roughly half of our readership (another 30 percent are from Germany, and the rest from all over the world, including Iran, Afghanistan and China). We currently have more than 3,000 readers every week, and many of them are quite active, contributing comments and links, and recommending further readings.

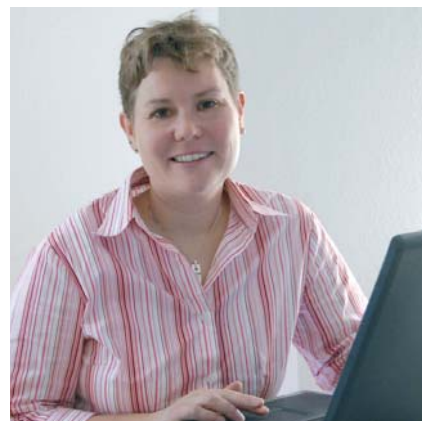
In order to bridge the communication gap between America and the rest of the world, we strive for a critical, but fair and multifaceted coverage of U.S., European, and world politics. We hope to contribute to mutual understanding in the spirit of the Fulbright Program by summarizing interesting press articles from respected sources and different points of view published on both sides of the Atlantic and freely available on the internet.

Q: Has the website been as interactive as you would like it to be? In other words, do you get a lot of comments from readers? Are there any hot topics on which you receive a lot of comments? Are there any topics which you sense readers are hesitant to comment on?

A: We could always use more activity from our readers, but we should not complain. You can see on our webpage that nearly every post has attracted several comments from our readers. You'll also notice a list of posts with the most comments in recent weeks by checking out the following website:

<http://atlanticreview.org/archives/600-The-Most-Extensive-Debates-on-Atlantic-Review.html>

It's really interesting to read what people from different nations and political backgrounds contribute to the discussion! Many posts have more than 40 comments; several even get more than 50 comments within a few hours or even minutes! Given the fact that we have no resources for advertising or marketing our website other than via mouth-to-mouth, that's very impressive, don't you think?



Sonja Bonin



Jörg Wolf

Q: Has user behaviour changed over time? Does usage fluctuate a lot depending on whether "hot" political topics are being discussed?

A: Obviously, there are peaks and lows, but generally speaking, we've continued to grow our reader basis to an average of more than 3,000 readers every week. After a few recommendations from big blogs in the U.S., we sometimes even had several thousand readers on a single day.

Q: Are the comments always about an article your team originally posted, or do readers eventually start commenting on other comments as well?

A: As you can see on our website, users regularly indulge in lively debates over our postings. Oftentimes one of the editors will join the discussion, too. That's what the Atlantic Review is all about: stimulating and enhancing informed debate on both sides of the

Interview with the Atlantic Review Team

Atlantic. We are very proud to have established a truly international exchange of ideas and opinions.

Q: What do you think might keep some readers from contributing/commenting on articles they read?

A: Well, like ourselves, our readers usually have jobs and not too much time on their hands to write extensive comments. A lot of our readers are actually native English speakers, and the great majority of them are quite fluent in English as a second language. However, there are some German readers who are reluctant to write comments in English, even though they read quite a lot of articles on our website. Some visitors also don't like the idea of having their names associated with the comments they make. Unfortunately, this keeps some from commenting at all, even though they could just post comments using pseudonyms.

Q: Have you thought of some more ways to encourage readers to contribute to your website?

A: We've always received reading recommendations and links to interesting articles on the internet. In order to make better use of all this input, regardless of whether the editorial team decides to write something about it, we've recently established a column called "Tips From Our Readers". It's a very simple, easy-to-use tool which allows trusted readers to recommend articles they find interesting to the Atlantic Review community. Our blog-software makes these tips available online (in the sidebar) within one hour of being posted. All readers are invited to participate. The "tagging" process is really fast and easy. It is described on our website: <http://atlanticreview.org/archives/595-Trusted-Readers-Make-the-Atlantic-Review-More-Interesting-and-Faster.html>.

Using this new tool, no recommendation gets lost and our content turnover has become much faster. The editors still take the time to decide if there are any leads they would like to follow and turn into more in-depth story-summaries.

Q: Has the Atlantic Review platform helped you and the other editors build up international relations and networks of your own? Do you know of any users who have established relationships with other users through your platform?

A: The Atlantic Review is not primarily meant as a networking tool. It's an online, interactive transatlantic press digest aiming to improve transatlantic dialogue and foster a deeper knowledge and understanding as well as more empathy and more cooperation across the Atlantic and indeed everywhere in the world. Nevertheless, we have frequently been linked to by other bloggers, quoted by news media and even asked to contribute to established online and print publications. We are also in contact with various transatlantic institutions which might incorporate parts or all of our content into their own websites (as the Fulbright Alumni e.V. Berlin Chapter has done.) So, yes, we do think we are on our way to becoming an important and respected part of the trans-

atlantic relations community – and there are some rather flattering testimonials on our website to prove it, too!

We also network a lot with other bloggers and list many of them in our blogroll. Likewise, recommendation within the blogosphere, including established news media, account for most of our new readers. We can't spend any money on advertisement because we're not getting paid for the Atlantic Review, so everybody who gets to know about us does so upon recommendation of some other online or print medium. We really have to convince others with our content if we want their attention.

One project, which was initiated by one of our readers and which the Atlantic Review is supporting, is bringing the great U.S. tradition of "Black History Month" to Germany. We believe that we can learn from the U.S. in this regard; a "Black History Month" in Germany might help reduce prejudice, stereotypes and discrimination against Afro-Germans by raising the profile and focus on their contributions and achievements throughout history.

Q: In what direction do you see the Atlantic Review evolving? Can you think of any other features you could include on the website to further increase international networking?

A: Ah, there's tons of things we would like to do, if only we could afford spending more of our time and maybe some money on the task! Right now, we're working on expanding our readership and connecting with other institutions and publications that share the same goals: providing trustworthy information on Europe, the United States, transatlantic relations and global affairs; encouraging informed debate and mutual understanding around the globe, especially on both side of the Atlantic ocean; and, last but not least, increase and foster the transatlantic friendship and shared values in the spirit of the Fulbright program. We provide insights into what's published and discussed outside the U.S. – information that's usually difficult to come by due to the language barrier. At some point we hope to incorporate much more content from non-English and non-German sources, too. But in order to do that, we would need many more editors in different countries all over the world. At the moment, that's a distant dream.

It would be great if this article could encourage more Fulbrighters to participate in the comments section of the Atlantic Review and encourage them to recommend articles or write short summaries of those articles. Our fellow alumni are also warmly invited to share any interesting idea or argument or thought concerning transatlantic relations with us. We appreciate feedback and input.

To find out more about the Atlantic Review, go to www.atlanticreview.org.

Also, if you'd like to sponsor the Atlantic Review or syndicate some of their content, please contact Sonja Bonin at [marketing\(at\)atlanticreview.org](mailto:marketing(at)atlanticreview.org).

Welcome Meeting 2006

October 27-29, 2006 by Nadia Manasfi, Reinhard Koch & Sarah Happel

As every year, the Fulbright Alumni e.V. organized a Welcome Meeting last year to welcome back students just returning from their Fulbright year in the U.S., to welcome American Fulbrighters who had just arrived in Germany, and to provide German Fulbright alumni the opportunity to meet again. In 2006 the Welcome Meeting took place in Frankfurt am Main from October 27 to 29, under the theme “Frankfurt am Main – Ein Weltdorf. Die Welt war zu Gast bei Freunden” (Frankfurt am Main – A Global Village. The world hosted by friends). This theme refers to Frankfurt having hosted four FIFA World Cup games over the summer and having become an even bigger melting pot of people, cultures, and football fans.

The Welcome Meeting started on Friday evening with a get-together at the “Künstlerkeller”. This restaurant, with its lively atmosphere and long tradition of hosting the monthly meetings of the Frankfurt Fulbright Alumni, provided a great setting for an evening of chatting, drinking, and fun.



From left to right: Rolf Hoffmann, Consul General Jo Ellen Powell, and Matthias Stecher

The next morning we gathered in the conference room of the Regus Business Center, where the meeting was formally kicked off with brief talks by Mario Reichel the regional coordinator of the Frankfurt alumni chapter, and by Matthias Stecher, President of the German Fulbright Alumni Association. Next, Michael Krupp from The Boston Consulting Group GmbH (the Welcome Meeting’s generous sponsor) gave a brief talk in which he introduced his company and welcomed us to the Welcome Meeting, part of which would take place in the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) building. After more welcoming words from Rolf Hoffmann, Executive Director of the German Fulbright Commission, the American Consul General Jo Ellen Powell took to the stage. Preferring to speak to us freely instead of reading off a prepared speech, the

Consul shared with us that, to date, almost 50,000 Germans have gone to the U.S. as guests of the U.S. government through the Fulbright program. She also urged us all to continue in our role as ambassadors of German-American friendship. The final speaker in this introductory session was a representative from the city of Frankfurt, who touched on the dual nature of the city, which, on the one hand, is sometimes called “Mainhattan” for the intimidating skyscrapers that dominate its skyline. On the other hand, the city also came to be known during the World Cup 2006 as a “global village”, which, even while hosting thousands of fans from all over the world, still retained an air of compactness and familiarity that is so typical of villages.

After a brief coffee break, attention then shifted to Fulbright Alumni member Lars Uwe Bleher and his colleague Jürgen Schulz-Anker – both of whom work for the Frankfurt-based agency Atelier Markgraph. In their presentation, they reflected on the SkyArena project, a multi-media show which took place in Frankfurt as an overture to the 2006 FIFA World Cup on three consecutive evenings during Whitsuntide weekend (for more information about SkyArena and its sister project MainArena, see Box 1).

Lunch, which was also hosted by BCG, provided more opportunities for participants to network and meet other alumni; at the same time, the regional coordinators of the various regional chapters also met for a workshop. Participants split up after lunch to attend one of the six workshops that were being offered. “How to become a Management Consultant” was presented by BCG representative Gunar Hering; Christine Tröger presented “Mastering your Reverse Culture Shock”, while Sarah Happel and Bryan Joseph Baker presented a workshop entitled “Surviving Germany” (for more information about this last presentation, please see Box 2). In addition, Peter Lucks presented “Die deutsche Hochschule – ein Schmelztiegel der Kulturen?”, which focused on how to properly welcome and integrate the increasing number of international students at German universities. Lars Uwe Bleher and Jürgen Schulz-Anker gave another presentation entitled “Nach der WM ist vor der EM”, and Klaus Schiller presented “Wie berichte ich über ein Mega Event”, which focused on a series of local special ARENA newspaper issues that covered the 2006 FIFA World Cup. Upon the completion of the two-hour workshops, we all gathered together again and speakers from each workshop gave brief summaries of the workshops they had just attended.

We were then given some free time, which some participants used to explore the city, while others travelled in bigger >

Welcome Meeting 2006

> groups and took over various cafés in the vicinity. At 7 pm, participants reconvened for the Welcome Dinner and Party, which took place in the DIFA Eventetage. Formal greetings and words were kept to a minimum, and instead everyone rushed over to the buffet. A casual dinner with great music, dancing, and socializing followed, ending only when we were “kindly requested to leave”, way past midnight.

We met again for the traditional Sunday brunch the next morning at café “Alex” and enjoyed the great food and ambience the café had to offer. As morning turned to afternoon, the Welcome Meeting formally came to an end with some closing remarks from Mario Reichel, and we all agreed with him that the event had been a great success. Those participants who still had some time to spare before heading back home had the choice of joining Andrea Möller for a guided tour of the Senckenberg Natural History Museum, or going on one of three guided tours of the Frankfurt city center.



Participants attending the BCG workshop



Fulbrighters enjoying the party

SkyArena and MainArena Projects

by Reinhard Koch

In their morning presentation, Fulbright Alumni Lars Uwe Bleher and his colleague Jürgen Schulz-Anker – who both work for the Frankfurt-based agency Atelier Markgraph – reflected on the SkyArena project. SkyArena was a multi-media show which took place in Frankfurt as an overture to the 2006 FIFA World Cup on three consecutive evenings during Whitsuntide weekend.

More than 500 sport photographs with scenes from former World Cups were projected onto nine skyscrapers and high-rises of the Frankfurt skyline. The show was accompanied by a specially-composed soundtrack, recorded by the hr (Hessischer Rundfunk) symphony orchestra and the hr Bigband. As a highlight of the show, the football anthem “You never walk alone” was performed live by Cassandra Steen on the Untermainbrücke.

Mr. Schulz-Anker and Mr. Bleher reported impressive figures: about 300,000 spectators each day; TV coverage in about 100 countries; 10,000 square metres of projection screens; 40 wide format slide projectors hired from all over the world; 92 Space Cannons.

Roland Lambrette, one of the founders of Atelier Markgraph and one of its five managers, had originally come up with the idea of projecting images on the skyscrapers several years ago, and the World Cup finally provided him with the opportunity to turn the idea into a reality. The actual planning of the project took around two years and was full of challenges that had to be overcome.



Aerial view of the MainArena (Photo Juergen Blumenthal)

The projectors were carefully positioned on the roofs of lower buildings and on specially built platforms. Due to the low position of the projectors, image distortion had to be compensated for. It was difficult to synchronize the slide show with the lights and the music, and even seemingly trivial problems, such as getting an absolutely dark skyline without a single light in any of the offices during the performance, had to be solved as well.

The attention of the local as well as the international media was focused on the SkyArena project, especially so after the World Cup Gala, that was to be held in Berlin, was cancelled. The vast positive worldwide media coverage of the event was one indication of its success, as was – naturally – the number of people who had gathered onsite to watch the spectacle.



The big SkyArena show! (Photo Ralph Larmann)



The SkyArena (Photo Ralph Larmann)

In one of the afternoon workshops, Jürgen Schulz-Anker, the former project manager of MainArena, talked about this exciting project. MainArena was the Frankfurt public viewing area during the 2006 FIFA World Cup. While each of the 12 German World Cup cities had their own public viewing area, the Frankfurt one was unique for its two large video screens in the middle of the Main river, which allowed the games to be viewed from both riverbanks.

Mr. Schulz-Anker outlined the development of the project from its inception to the opening on June 9. As with the SkyArena, the organizational effort was huge: The video screens with an area of 144 square metres each were mounted on a frame resting on hydraulic pillars on the river bed. The hydraulic pillars compensated for sinking-in. The installation was manufactured in Rotterdam, assembled in Frankfurt's Osthafen, and then shipped to its final destination.

Shipping traffic had to be re-organized, as ship encounters and overtaking were prohibited along the MainArena. Nevertheless, two ships collided with the video platform, fortunately without major damage. Another challenge was converting the Main riverbanks into quasi-stadiums, with bleachers, lighting and sound equipment. Security measures were immense. For example, 2100 voluntary and full-time firemen were employed each day.

This project was hugely successful and was the place to be during all of the World Cup matches. While MainArena was designed for 30,000 spectators, the actual record was 80,000 spectators during the matches Germany vs. Sweden and the



The MainArena crowd (Photo Nina Sieber)

Netherlands vs. Argentina, with about 50,000 spectators spilling over onto surrounding streets and bridges.

The aim of the actual workshop in the 2006 Fulbright Welcome Meeting was to develop a public viewing concept for the European Football Championships 2008 in Switzerland and Austria. Although the participants could not agree upon a concept in the end, there was an interesting discussion with a lot of innovative ideas.

For me, the Atelier Markgraph presentation and workshop were one of the highlights of the Welcome Meeting weekend as they provided first-hand background information on events which had greatly moved the City of Frankfurt in 2006.

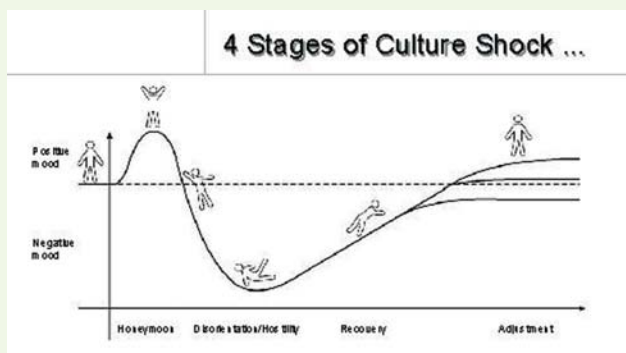
Surviving Germany Workshop

by Sarah Happel

Our “Surviving Germany Workshop” group was small, “klein aber fein”, as some of my German colleagues would say, and we had a chance to delve into current events, touchy topics and how to make the most out of your stay in Germany.

We spent a lot of time with Geert Hofstede’s internationally recognized model of the 4 Stages of Culture Shock. It is a great help to recognize this curve if you are abroad.

Ironically, every person goes through this culture shock



The four stages of culture shock, after the model of Geert Hofstede

curve when leaving his home country for an extended period of time. Although experts disagree on the length the entire process takes, one can estimate anywhere from three months to one year depending on the length of the stay.

The first stage is called the “Honeymoon Stage” and normally happens when you first arrive in your host country. The food is tasty. The architecture is fascinating. The people are friendly and you wonder why you even worried about leaving home. You even understand some of the foreign language!

A couple of weeks later the initial excitement begins to wear off and stage two, “Disorientation”, creeps in. The culture shock curve sinks drastically along with the newcomer’s mood. The food that tasted great a couple of weeks earlier isn’t so appetizing anymore. The architecture is suddenly a bit too exotic. You have encountered misunderstandings with those lovely people you thought were so friendly. And alas, you are lost in conversations because the language is simply too complicated.

A couple of participants were experiencing this nasty disorientation stage at the time of the workshop. They were extremely relieved to discover that although this stage is the most difficult in the culture shock curve, it does not last forever. For some it is a number of days, others weeks, but you do progress to the third stage known as “Recovery”.

In the recovery stage you begin to accept your new surroundings and make decisions about overcoming cultural obstacles. Perhaps you join a tennis club to meet those exotic natives, or take a class to improve your language skills. The culture shock curve, along with your mood, begins to recover. You begin to realize that it’s a lot of work to live abroad but there are some benefits, too.

The fourth and final stage of culture shock is called “Adjustment”. Often the decisions made in the recovery stage have a direct outcome regarding how adjusted an expatriate feels in the host country. For example, people who have learned the language can communicate better with the locals, have more friends and feel more comfortable in their surroundings. This person’s culture shock curve finishes rather high in comparison with someone who (in the recovery stage) decided not to learn the language and therefore still encounters frustration with daily life abroad. This person’s curve finishes a bit “flatter” in the adjustment stage.

Experts cannot agree on the entire length of the culture shock process. Even within our group there was extensive discussion about where everyone was in the curve. Participants discussed symptoms they faced, such as depression, exhaustion, insomnia and homesickness in stage two, as well as how rewarding it was to survive that stage and settle into Germany. Most even said they were hoping to stay longer than originally planned.

The second half of the workshop emphasized cultural differences and stereotyping. We were delighted to also have a German in the workshop. (I thought it was fantastic that a native German was interested in a workshop explaining how to survive in his own country!) He gave first-hand feedback to the new Fulbrighters from a local point of view.

We discussed using stereotypes in a positive manner, such as showing up on time for an appointment because, in general, Germany is a punctual society. However, stereotypes break down with individuals and can get you into trouble. For example, “Nina will never be late because she’s German.”

The last part of the workshop was turned over to a guest speaker, Bryan Baker. Bryan shared his Fulbright experiences in Germany along with some useful tips for the group.

I recently ran into one of the workshop participants at a meeting in Frankfurt. I remember he was struggling with culture shock in October, especially with the language barrier. But it seemed those days were long gone. He cheerfully told me about his teaching, travels and latest Fulbright adventures, and how he couldn’t believe how the time was flying by. We were interrupted by his mobile phone, “...Ja, okay, wir sehen uns gleich,” he said easily in German and headed for the door. I just smiled.

Winter Ball 2007 in Munich – a Weekend in Southern Germany



by Astrid Fontius (co-edited by the organizing committee)

Like in preceding years, all Fulbrighters had a splendid time at the Winter Ball. This year the ball took place on a Saturday evening in January at the “Künstlerhaus” at Lenbachplatz. The bohemian atmosphere of the building, which is mainly used for art performances of all kinds, provided a suitable setting for our annual ball.

Guests were stylishly welcomed in a great hall lined with pillars. From there, people walked up the marble steps of a flight of stairs leading up to the ballroom. Its decoration was – in honor of its name “Festsaal” – kept entirely in red and gold alternating with black wood. I am sure you will agree that it is easy to enjoy a night of partying in such surroundings.

To start off the evening, the guests of honor, the American Consul General for Bavaria, Eric G. Nelson, as well as the director of the Fulbright Commission, Dr. Rolf Hoffmann, each delivered a vivid and entertaining speech, which nicely tied up the official and celebratory nature of the evening. Subsequently, the old and new members of the board of the Fulbright Alumni e.V. introduced themselves briefly, but sweetly.

And then everyone was ready to party. Almost 160 guests relished the excellent food and wine; they were even allowed to choose the wine themselves! They also enjoyed good conversations and – last but not least – the dancing.

Accompanied by a live-band (“The Marbles”), the “heroes of the dance-floor”

never got tired and continued their favorite activity until the dim gray light of the early morning sent them home.

Fulbright veterans will have noticed some differences at this year’s ball. Apart from the attendance of the American Consul General and the executive director of the Fulbright Commission, the organizing committee had chosen to offer a five-course meal this time. This allowed all of us to eat at the same time and to start dancing earlier in the evening. Long waiting lines at a buffet were avoided. In addition, several hours before the ball was slated to begin, text messages were

the General Assembly of the FA e.V. The outgoing board presented reports on their work during the past year, and a new board was elected. The attendees discussed various issues of interest to the association’s future, such as past and planned future FA e.V. donations to the Diversity Initiative of the Fulbright Commission (see article by Dr. Rolf Hoffmann).

On Sunday morning, most guests got together again for brunch at the “Kaptol”-Café. Afterwards, anyone who still had some energy left could choose between four prearranged activities: taking a tour



Old friends meet again at the get-together on Friday



At the Annual General Meeting

sent to roughly 30 guests to remind them to be on time. The organizing committee would like to recommend this procedure for future Winter Balls.

This year, as in previous years, the ball was preceded by the traditional get-together the night before. After spending a relaxing evening greeting old friends and meeting other Fulbrighters on Friday night at the SkyBar of the European Patent Office, the Fulbright Alumni members met again on Saturday morning and afternoon at the community center of the “Protestant Youth of Munich” for

of the Stadtmuseum (the museum of the city of Munich), of the Jewish quarter, of the Pinakothek der Moderne, or listening to a lecture on space tourism.

These kinds of get-togethers, which provide entertainment as well as education and an opportunity to socialize, cannot be arranged overnight. That is why we would like to express our most heartfelt thanks to the organizing committee (Birgit, Melanie, Maren and Andreas) – as well as their invisible helping hands – for such an extremely smooth organization!



The newly elected extended board



Dancing to the beat of “The Marbles”



On the dance-floor

The 53rd Berlin Seminar

by Lance Weldy

The 53rd Berlin Seminar was held from Sunday, March 11, to Wednesday, March 14. Its theme was “Bridging the Atlantic: 55 Years German-American Fulbright Program,” and during my experience, I definitely feel as though I made some great connections with Fulbrighters from across Europe.

My experience as a Fulbright fellow began a little bit earlier in the academic year than other senior scholars. Because my knowledge of the German language was nonexistent, I opted to attend an intense German language course sponsored by Fulbright in Kiel starting in the middle of August 2006. In Kiel, I developed some great friendships with other fellows who hailed from all over the US.

perform. I opted to go on one of the Fulbright-sponsored walking tours and visits and was delighted to see a guided tour through the Pergamon Museum. Dr. Manisha Patel, one of my Kiel fellows who is doing research on dermatology in Berlin, met me there, and we walked through some very fascinating Mesopotamian artifacts! During this tour, we met other fellows, including Mrs. Sarala Abreu Van Dover from New Mexico, who was based in Austria. After the tour was finished, Manisha and I spent some time looking at the Middle and Far East exhibits.

That night, Fulbright sponsored a welcome dinner at the Park Inn Hotel, which was a great way to meet new and

tations, which were probably my favorite component of the meeting. These panels allowed us to hear the kinds of work that both students and scholars were pursuing during their time in Europe. As far as the student research presentations went, Raysh Weiss gave a fascinating overview of her ethnomusicology interests in the Klezmer music scene in Berlin; Genevieve Waller explained her research on cameraless photography; and Heath Cabot spoke about the issue of those seeking asylum in Greece. I especially thought Cabot’s topic was thought-provoking because of its connection with Fulbright’s international outreach mission. The scholar research presentations were equally interesting. Dr. Charles Johannigsmeier really stirred



Manisha Patel (right, foreground) and others in the Mesopotamian exhibit at the Pergamon Museum



During one of the presentation panels

It was great to see practically everyone from Kiel at the Berlin meeting as well.

On Sunday afternoon, I arrived in Berlin, excited about the many opportunities and events during this meeting. I had been to Berlin twice before, once for the Fulbright orientation, and once during Thanksgiving at the Rote Rathaus, where I heard some of the Kiel musician fellows

old friends I have made since starting my Fulbright fellowship. For example, I got to see Nadia Manasfi, who I met at the Fulbright Alumni Association meeting in Frankfurt last October, and I ran into practically everyone from the Kiel language course.

On Monday, March 12, we began the day with the first panel, research presen-

up the crowd’s interest when he discussed the influences and effects of Regionalism in America, such as what it means to live in “Fly-Over Country,” the “uninteresting” part of America between the two coasts.

That night, Dr. Ernst-Jörg von Studnitz gave the keynote address, “Germany and Ostpolitik.” Dr. von Studnitz served

as the German ambassador to Russia from 1995 to 2002 and presently oversees the German-Russian forum in Berlin. His personal experience of international exchange as a Fulbright scholar to Indiana University was most compelling, especially as he told his perspective of the American Midwest, a region of the US that I am all too familiar with. I was pleased to hear his belief that the Midwest reveals “how America ticks.”

Tuesday’s presentation panels were highlighted by the very informational one about contemporary Germany entitled “Demographic Challenges-How Much Immigration Do We Need?” I found the discussions particularly engaging because of the parallel significance of this

But I think my favorite panel was the one on Wednesday, “European Dimensions,” where Fulbrighters from six different countries discussed their experiences. These students and scholars worked in such countries as Spain, Finland, and Sweden. The teaching assistant from Spain gave a great account of what life was like in her country and how she spent her Thanksgiving cooking a meal for her friends. Probably the most memorable presenter at this panel was John Pocus, who was a teaching assistant in Andorra. Pocus hails from Birmingham, Alabama, and he had a rather impersonal style of discussing life, culture, and school in Andorra. I did find it fascinating to learn about the racial tensions Pocus noticed in his

All in all, I left the Fulbright Berlin Meeting on Thursday, March 15, with a sense of being part of a wider community. Even though I have not spent the past year in Spain, Andorra, Finland, or Sweden, I found it really helpful to hear from an outsider’s perspective about what life was like in these countries; it was fun to compare my experiences in Germany to their stories. I already know that my life has changed because of this Fulbright experience, and I know that when I return to Michigan to teach in the fall, I will be incorporating the first-hand experiences and first-hand accounts I have gained not only from the Berlin Meeting, but from my whole year abroad.



Reiner Rohr, the Berlin Fulbright Commission officer, is sung “Happy Birthday” at the end of the Music Gala.



From left to right: Lance Weldy, Derek Chester, Manisha Patel and Laura Chester enjoying the fun at the closing ceremony at a club in Berlin

topic for America. As a teacher and scholar in the areas of Multiculturalism and Children’s Literature, I realize that the issues of nationalism and identity boundaries can be quite volatile, so it was great to hear what German scholars such as Dr. Steffen Angenendt and Dr. Josef Braml had to say.

Andorran classroom and how he, from the American South, used his personal experiences in the US to teach the devastating effects that racism causes. Also, everyone was astounded to learn that it took 20 years to become a citizen of that country!

Lance Weldy is a Fulbright Fellow Junior Professor with a specialization in Children’s and Young Adult literature. He spent his Fulbright year (August 2006-July 2007) teaching American and Children’s Literature classes at the Johann Wolfgang von Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main.

Einladung Mitgliederversammlung / Winterball 2008

Münster, 8.-10. Februar 2008

Liebe Fulbrighter,

wir möchten Euch ganz herzlich zur Mitgliederversammlung und zum Winterball 2008 in Münster einladen.

Für manche von uns wird es ein Homecoming sein, für andere ein Kennenlernen einer liebenswerten historischen Universitätsstadt.

Ein vergnügliches Wochenende und ein festlicher Ball erwarten uns. Wir freuen uns auf Euren Besuch.

Herzlichst
Eure Regionalgruppe Ruhrgebiet / Westfalen

Vorläufiges Programm:

Freitag, 8. Februar 2008	Abend	Get-together
Samstag, 9. Februar 2008	Vormittag Nachmittag Abend	Mitgliederversammlung offene Veranstaltungen Winterball
Sonntag, 10. Februar 2008	Vormittag	Brunch

Günstige Übernachtungsmöglichkeiten können in der fußläufig erreichbaren Jugendherberge oder in Hotels arrangiert werden.

Wir können zwar keinen Frühbucherrabatt anbieten, aber doch ein herzliches Dankeschön für eine unverbindliche Voranmeldung ehest möglich an:

E-Mail: [rc.ruhrgebiet\(at\)fulbright-alumni.de](mailto:rc.ruhrgebiet(at)fulbright-alumni.de)
Betreff: Voranmeldung Winterball 2008

Informationen zum Stand der Vorbereitungen findet Ihr auf unserer Website:
www.fulbright-alumni.de/ruhrgebiet

Einen Vorgeschmack auf die wunderschöne Stadt Münster gibt es hier:
www.muenster.de/tourismus und www.muenster.de/stadt/panorama



Regional Chapter Ruhrgebiet/Westfalen



Enjoying the beer during our trip to Hagen



On a bike tour along the Mosel river

2006 saw a restart of our regional chapter with a year full of activities.

We got off to a good start with the 4th of July celebration at Lake Kemnade in Bochum. After a bicycle tour around the lake and a visit to the cash box museum, we were hungry and ready to enjoy the delicious, freshly-grilled hamburgers.

One sunny afternoon, our group and their families took a trip to the Living History Museum at Hagen, where we visited several houses with different work settings. Watching old craftsmen going about their long-forgotten trades left us thirsty and hungry, for which there was

only one solution: we joined the crowd at the brewery, where they served locally brewed beer and tasty bread fresh from the oven of the old bakery.

Our Thanksgiving celebration again took place at “Chez Claus”, where we enjoyed the company of American Fulbright grantees. Everybody had a good time (except the turkey!), and the cook collected tons of compliments for mistreating that poor bird so deliciously.

To end the year, we were able to offer ourselves and our American friends a historic and touristic treat: Münster. This medieval town was awarded the

title “most liveable city worldwide”. The Treaty of Westphalia that ended the Thirty Years’ War was signed in its spectacular town hall. A guided tour provided us with many new insights. Münster’s many historic buildings, the huge farmers’ market, the seat of the bishop, and its 50,000 students give the town a special flair. We enjoyed strolling through the city and ended up in one of its numerous historic restaurants. It was a day packed with new experiences!

2007 started off with yet another highlight: a trip to the German Occupational Safety and Health Exhibition (DASA), a hands-on museum about the workplace. Both kids and adults loved this experience.



Posing at the Weihnachtsmarkt – the Christmas market



Our small group gathered in front of the DASA

We cannot mention in detail all the other numerous activities of our regional chapter, such as visits to Circus Roncalli, or to the Neanderthal Museum, or our bike ride along the Mosel river. Suffice to say that these experiences gave us all the energy to organize the Winterball 2008 in Münster.

We are looking forward to our upcoming events. Guests are always welcome. For our current events, please consult the calendar on the Fulbright webpage.

Regional Chapter Frankfurt am Main

by Mario Reichel

Frankfurt is home to the FA e.V. office, but also has one of the largest regional chapters. The area we cover includes most of the state of Hesse, as well as parts of Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland, Baden-Württemberg, and Bavaria. Of our approximately 200 members, ten to 15 meet on the first Thursday of each month at our “Stammtisch”. Since the insolvency of our long-time host restaurant “Künstlerkeller” in March, we have been trying out different restaurants every month. First we tried some Hessian tourist attractions, and now we have started trying some American restaurants in the city. If you are in the city, check out the calendar on the FA e.V. website for up-to-date information. But the essence is still the same: in a relaxed atmosphere people of different ages, backgrounds (not only bankers or economists) and interests meet to eat, drink, talk, and engage in a friendly debate. Furthermore, it is the first place for new members, American Fulbrighters, returnees, as well as potential grantees to get in contact with



Enjoying a delicious Thanksgiving turkey

We started the American football season of our “Men in Purple” to beat down the “Amsterdam Admirals”. We used a joint Stammtisch with the “Studienstiftung” to organize the event together, and plan to organize more joint activities in the future. Later in the season we went to the Commerzbank Arena again to cheer for our team for another win vs. the Cologne Centurions. The Frankfurt Galaxy went from that game straight to another world bowl finale but lost there. Unfortunately, the NFL Europe was closed down, and this was the last season.



At the Christmas Market



At the Galaxy game



Celebrating a Galaxy victory

our regional chapter. Once a year we cast our ballot for the regional team chiefs. This year Vivian Herrmann and myself were chosen again, as was information expert Reinhard Koch. As the only new member on the team, we welcome Thomas Navin Lal as treasurer.

Our “Stammtisch” is also the place to decide on the activities of the Frankfurt Chapter. Sometimes we go to the movies – recently we saw “The Good Shepherd” and “Music and Lyrics” – but we have also organized opera and theater outings, among other activities.

Our December “Stammtisch” traditionally starts with a short visit to the famous Christmas Market at the Frankfurt Römer. In January we organized an intense ballroom dancing lesson to prepare for the national FA e.V. Winter Ball. In this crash course, we introduced this European tradition to participating American students.

Reinhard Koch will organize a weekend tour to the neighboring state of Thuringia again this year. In early October we will head to the city of Gotha, with its magnificent chateau, for a culture weekend.

In addition to our monthly activities, there are also annual events, such as the celebration of the traditional U.S. holidays Independence Day and Thanksgiving.

At the moment we are preparing for this year’s Welcome Meeting in November – which will, once again, take place in Frankfurt. We are hard at work to make it a memorable introduction into the association for the latest returnees, as well as a highlight for Americans during their stay in Germany.

We are always happy to see new and old faces, and are definitely open to new ideas to improve our activities, so please show up and speak up! We’d love to hear from you!

Regional Chapter München

The FIFA World Cup last summer gave us plenty of opportunities to hold several of our “Stammtisches” in one of Munich’s many beer gardens, where we watched the soccer game Spain against France in the last round of sixteen. One week later, we followed the duel between Germany and Italy, which we spontaneously decided to turn into a private viewing during the 4th of July Party at Andreas’ home.

The past twelve months were marked by a number of outdoor activities and cultural events. Among others, we undertook a hiking tour through the Mühlal, another one through Neureuth, and also spent one night dancing away on Prater Island, where we took advantage of the fantastic summer weather. An invitation to attend the vernissage of Donatella Lanzeni at Galerie Lichtpunkt and a visit of the open air “Klassik am Opernplatz” turned out to be the cultural highlights for 2006.

Yet the single most memorable event of the past twelve months has certainly been the Winter Ball along with the Annual General Meeting of the Fulbright Alumni Association in Munich, from January 26-28, 2007. The event started with the traditional get-together on Friday night, which took place this time at the Sky Bar located on the top floor of the European Patent Office, where new and old Fullies could meet and chat over a drink or two. On Saturday morning members of the Fulbright Alumni e.V. gathered to elect a new president and board of directors and to fix the agenda for the upcoming year. On Saturday night more than 160 guests followed the invitation to the annual Winter Ball staged in the Künstlerhaus at the heart of the city of Munich. The ball was opened officially by a series of top-notch speakers, which included the American Consul General to Bavaria, Eric G. Nelson, and the Executive Director of the German Fulbright Commission, Dr. Rolf Hoffmann. The band “The Marbles” entertained us during the

musical part of the evening, during which many Fullies tried out their newly learned steps on the dance floor of the ballroom. The following Sunday morning saw a large number of Fullies joining in on the guided tour through the new Jewish Center near St. Jacobs Square in the city center. The new Jewish Center is a cultural meeting place and a site of commemoration.

The tour across the new building compound turned out to be so popular that our regional chapter immediately decided to organize a second tour on March 25, 2007. Warm spring weather and blue skies gave us a good chance to examine the bold architecture of Wandel, Hoefer & Lorch, who designed the 13,000-square meter complex divided into three main parts – a community center, a main synagogue, and a museum. The 20-meter high newly-built synagogue closes a property spot that had remained empty for nearly 50 years, and is only a stone’s throw away from Marienplatz; it symbolizes a place of hope and forgiveness for many Germans. We recommend the following website: www.ikg-muenchen.de.

2007 has also brought a number of organizational changes to our regional group in Munich. Maren Stein, responsible for our outdoor activities until March 2007, has left for Cambridge in England to obtain her doctoral degree. Sabine Pallas has taken over her function and has become a new member of our regional



At the Winter Ball in the Künstlerhaus in Munich in January 2007



Tour of the new Jewish Center in March 2007



Tour of the synagogue of the new Jewish Center

team. Melanie Siebert, coordinator for the returnee program until March 2007, has handed over her function to David Luderer, who returns from New Delhi, India, this summer. On behalf of Birgit Hiller and Andreas Schoberth, our regional chapter would like to thank Maren and Melanie for their work and personal involvement and welcomes the new members on board. You can reach our regional chapter in Munich by sending an email to: [rc.muenchen\(at\)fulbright-alumni.de](mailto:rc.muenchen(at)fulbright-alumni.de).



View of the ballroom of the Künstlerhaus during the Winter Ball

Regional Chapter Köln/Bonn

Thanksgiving Dinner

In the past few years, the regional chapter celebrated Thanksgiving dinner together with the German American association. This tradition was broken last year when we organized an event for ourselves only. Instead of being passive and getting served in a tennis club, the Fullies got active and cooked themselves. Our host, Juliane Kronen, not only prepared an excellent turkey, but also decorated her apartment stylishly. The guests prepared the side dishes: pumpkin pie, beans, corn, cornbread, etc. Unfortunately, the mashed potatoes didn't find their way onto our plates, as two guests got lost in Cologne and never made it to the dinner. Especially the American guests enjoyed the family-like environment and were able to enjoy American culture far away from home.

Traveling through Iran

On February 27th Ulrich Schlecht showed us pictures he took while on a trip to Iran, in an attempt to communicate the intercultural ambitions of our association. Pictures of the diverse architectural sights were supplemented by visits of "social" places (cultural center, slums).



One of Ulrich's pictures of his Iran trip, here depicting the Shah mosque and the Naqsh-e Jahan square in Isfahan



Gathered together and hungry, we passed the time ...



... until we finally got to eat Juliane's delicious Thanksgiving turkey!

English Movie

In April we skipped the traditional Stammtisch to watch the movie "Music and Lyrics", which was both entertaining and served to reactivate our English knowledge a little bit.

Stammtisch

Since the beginning of 2007, the regional chapter has a new Stammtisch routine, alternating between Cologne and Bonn. The meetings take place on different weekdays so that everybody has the possibility to join. We started in January in Bonn, switched to Cologne in February, etc.

In Cologne, we meet at the Brauhaus Pütz (Engelbertstr. 76, 50674 Köln) every first Tuesday of an even month (Feb., Apr., Jun., Aug., Oct., & Dec.) starting at 20:00.

In Bonn, we meet at the Pathos (Weberstr. 43, 53113 Bonn) every third Wednesday of every odd month (Jan., Mar., May, Jul., Sep., & Nov.) starting at 20:00.

If you want to be informed about future events, join our mailing list fa-koeln.bonn. You can find a link on our homepage www.fulbright-alumni.de > Mailing Lists.

Powwow 2007 – Sustainability/Right Livelihood Award

From September 14-16, the regional chapter Cologne/Bonn organized a Powwow with the theme "Sustainability/Right Livelihood Award" in Bonn. The Right Livelihood Award (RLA) honors people and institutions who "[offer] practical and exemplary answers to the most urgent challenges facing us today". As part of the program, three award recipients presented their work. In addition, the executive director of the Right Livelihood Foundation, Ole van Uexkuell, gave a talk on the history and objectives of the RLA.

To find out more about the foundation, go to www.rightlivelihood.org



If you would like to support the Right Livelihood Award and the projects it honors, the foundation would be grateful for any donations. Please go to www.rightlivelihood.org/donations.html

(The Powwow will be covered in more detail in next year's issue of the FRANKly.)

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Regional Chapter Franken

by Désirée Doyle

Our annual 4th of July BBQ was originally planned to take place at the Pegnitz ground in Nuremberg, but due to bad weather we decided to change the location to Harald Mayer's garden. At first we were supposed to be seven grown ups and five children, but four parents with their children changed their mind and cancelled their reservations, thus leaving only three people.

Since our Fulbright board held one of its meetings in Nuremberg on the very day of the BBQ, two additional board members joined the group. So it turned out to be more of a board BBQ than one of the Franconian chapter. Nevertheless, it was great fun and many thanks to Harald for hosting us!

I must admit that I am a little disappointed because I wish I could have had the opportunity to say good-bye to all of you personally and not in written form – as you can read below.

Either way, so long and good-bye
Yours, Désirée

**Time to say goodbye and to wish
Harald success!**

I officially handed over my regional coordinator role to Harald on the occasion of the 4th of July celebration. It was not easy to part from this role because I always felt very much at home amongst you all, and also because I tremendously enjoyed working with and for all of you.



4th of July Barbeque

Unfortunately, my new role in the national Fulbright Alumni board takes up a lot of my time, and I would not be able to carry out both roles in parallel in the desired quality.

Please join me in welcoming Harald as the new regional coordinator for Franconia. I wish him much joy with, and in, his new role.

Yours, Désirée

Ties among Germans and Americans –

Social Network Analysis of the Fulbright Alumni in Berlin by Steffen Schmuck-Soldan

The term “network” has recently developed into a widely used metaphor, representing complex interactions among friends, colleagues, clients, and others. A variety of online applications of these interactions such as “Xing” and “MySpace” co-evolve with systematic attempts to describe and visualize network structures, since their characteristics cannot be placed into organigrams or strict hierarchies.

The Fulbright Alumni e.V. constitutes such a social network, with its members building, maintaining, losing, and retrieving ties in a vast area of private and professional matters. Our network may be characterized by common goals, its collection

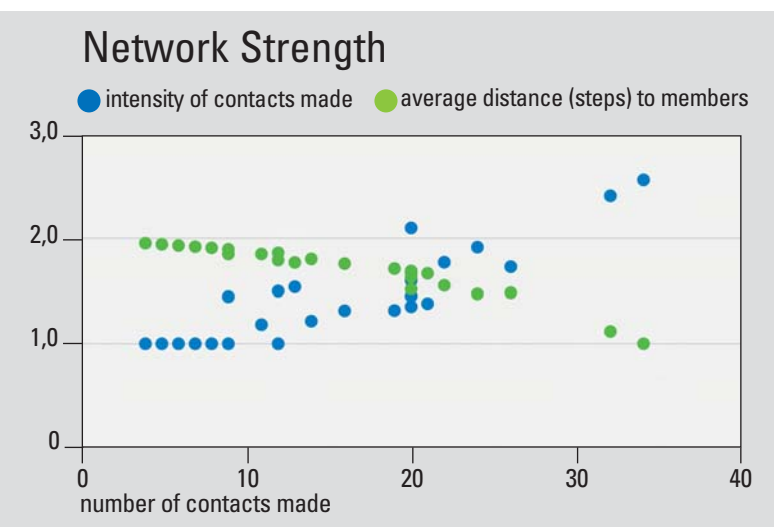
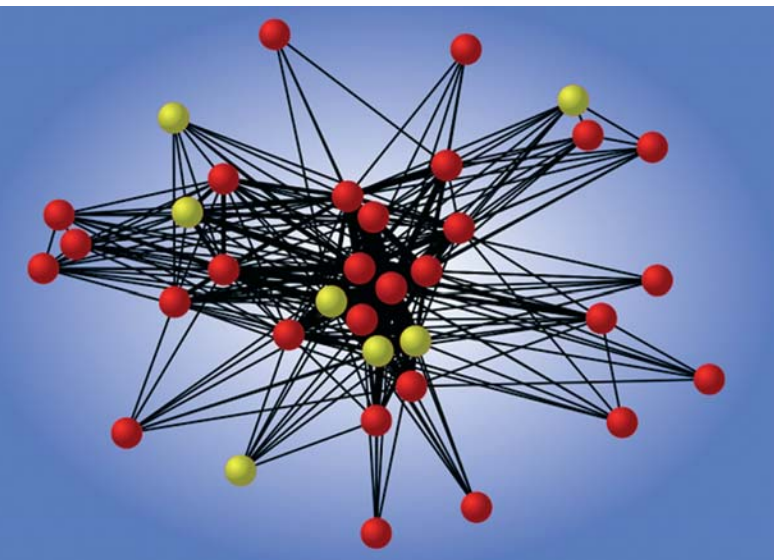
of knowledge and skills, by the diffusion of information, learning effects, and collective action (“powwows”, “welcome meetings”, “winter balls”). We organize all this without a central actor or necessary external impulses (although they may stimulate or slow down activity).

In order to gain a better understanding of these characteristics, I did a (small and non-founded) case study, during which I collected data from the Berlin chapter’s monthly meetings (the “Stammtisch”), and applied these data to special software for the analysis of social networks. In the present visualization, network members are represented by nodes, being tied to each other in case they visited the same “Stammtisch”. The more meetings two members share, the stronger the tie between them. Node colors represent nationalities (red: German; yellow: American). Naturally, this approach does not capture all Fullies living in the Berlin area, but rather the larger portion of active members in 2006. For anonymity reasons, I had to leave out one (well-known) Danish node, which was subsumed under the yellow nodes: My intercultural apologies!

The picture represents 35 members who in sum and over the course of 12 meetings made 249 different contacts, the number of contacts varying from 4 to 34. The seven Americans members and 28 Germans made 38 and 151 contacts with members of the same nationality, respectively. More importantly, there were 90 intercultural contacts made during our meetings.

The intensity of contacts, i.e. how many meetings members shared, equals 1.65 on average. The green dots in the table show the contact intensity among members. Ties permanently grow stronger the more contacts members build up, where intuitively you would think that connections get weaker with growing number of contacts. Represented by the line of blue dots, the average distance to all other members drops with growing contacts made. The minimum of distance 1.0 is equivalent to direct contacts with every member of the network.

The approach allows insights into the social framework of our activities as Fulbright alumni. Specific network measures and visualizations may help to evaluate information flow, diversity, trust, clusters and structural holes, and stability and vulnerability of the network. To access the full report, see www.fulbright-alumni.de/berlin.





natürlichERLANGEN²⁰⁰⁷



Friedrich-Alexander-Universität
Erlangen-Nürnberg



Einladung zur „Fachtagung Klimaschutz und erneuerbare Energien“ Klima heute – Klima morgen – große Sorgen?

30. November - 02. Dezember 2007 in Erlangen

Liebe Fulbrighter,

In Zusammenarbeit mit der Stadt Erlangen (www.erlangen.de), der Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (www.uni-erlangen.de) und des Deutsch-Amerikanischen Instituts (www.dai-nuernberg.de) können wir Euch einen informativen und kritischen Überblick über den Themenbereich anbieten.

Wir freuen uns Euch in Erlangen zu begrüßen
Désirée Doyle (VP Events) mit Orga-Team

Vorläufiges Programm:

30. November 2007

Zwangloses Get-Together am Abend

1. Dezember 2007

Konferenz-Tag

- 9:00 Registration und Begrüßungen
- 10:00 Keynote-Speech durch Dr. Donald Shemanski, Botschaftsrat für globale Fragen, amerikanische Botschaft, Berlin
Auflösung der Umwelt-Wette der Stadt Erlangen durch OB Dr. Siegfried Balleis
- 12:00 Mittagsimbiss
- 13:00 Aufteilung in Foren
- 17:00 Plenum mit Zusammenfassung der Erkenntnisse aus den Foren und Abschlussgespräch
- 19:30 Abendessen: Buffet und musikalisches Rahmenprogramm

2. Dezember 2007:

- 11:00 Brunch und anschließend Kulturprogramm (u.a. Besuch des Christkindlesmarkts, Nürnberg)

Folgende Mitarbeiter der FAU haben als Vortragende bereits zugesagt:

- Prof. Meinefeld: *Soziale Bedingungen umweltgefährdenden Verhaltens (Forum 1)*
- Prof. Richter: *Klimawandel – Faktum oder Spuk? (Forum 1)*
- Dr. Schwarz: *Klimapolitik in der EU (Forum 1)*
- Prof. Häder: *Energieversorgung und Klimaänderung in der Welt von morgen (Forum 2)*
- Dr. Samimi: *Die städtische Wärmeinsel und die globale Klimaerwärmung: Wird es unerträglich? (Forum 2)*
- Prof. Hundhausen: *Konzept einer umweltfreundlichen Energieversorgung – das Passivhaus (Forum 3)*
- Prof. Jäger: *Energieumwandlung aus der Sicht der Elektrotechnik (Forum 3)*

Weitere Redner:

- Jean-Paul Peers, *Siemens AG, PG: Solar-Dörfer in Gabun (Forum 2)*
- Dr. Seeberger, *Stadt Erlangen: Städte auf dem Weg zur Energieeffizienz, Beispiel Erlangen – Probleme und Visionen (Forum 2)*
- Manfred Bächler, *Phoenix Solar AG (Forum 3)*



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Ingrid Samuel (0211) 3011-3200 oder Ortrud Wiegleb (089) 2317-4361, www.bcg.de/karriere

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