



22

Silver Anniversary Edition 2011

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FRANK^{ly} ☹️

THE FULBRIGHT ALUMNI E.V. MAGAZINE

Contents

Introductions	
Letter from the Editor	3
Letters of Support	4
Greetings from the President	7
Meet the Board	8
The Extended Board	10
General Assembly and Winterball Announcement	13
Anniversary PowWow	
Opening Speech	14
Shaping a Changing World	15
Roundtable Discussions	17
Tracing the Allied Powers of the Cold War Era	22
Progress	
Why We Need an Honest Conception of Scientific Answers	24
A Brief History of <Online> Time: how www.fulbright-alumni.de was born	27
An Arab Spring Lesson on Cooperation	28
A New Approach to Integration	30
Association Information	32
National and International Events	
The 33 rd Annual Fulbright Conference, Buenos Aires, Argentina	34
Visit of Fulbright Alumni Associations to the Republic of China (Taiwan)	36
Meeting Fulbrighters in Cambodia	37
The German-American Fulbright Commission Berlin Seminar	38
General Assembly and Winterball, Heidelberg	40
Welcome Meeting, Frankfurt am Main	42
Jürgen Mulert Award	45
Regional Chapters	
Berlin	46
Cologne / Bonn	48
Franken	49
Frankfurt	50
Leipzig	51
Hannover	52
Dresden	53
Stuttgart	54
Mannheim / Heidelberg	55
Munich	56
Rhein / Ruhr	58
Conference Announcement	
Strasbourg 2013	59

Letter from the Editor



Dear Readers,

It is an utmost honor to present this Silver Anniversary Edition of the *FRANKly*. To best reflect the atmosphere of the celebratory year, the theme of this edition is designated “Progress”. As a symbol of the tremendous growth that has characterized the last 25 years, extended coverage of the Anniversary PowWow in Berlin serves to exemplify the vast reach and inspiring potential of the alumni network. Continuing in Senator Fulbright’s example, the process of challenging ideas and understanding perspectives to develop solutions for the prominent issues of our time is the ultimate goal, and one that I hope this magazine contributes to. I encourage you, then, to read deeply and engage in the conversation.

To ask to represent “Progress” was an ambitious call, but the authors of the thematic articles rose to the occasion to contribute exceptional works, each expounding on the theme in a different way. Jakub Limanowski begins the section with a mindful approach to appraising scientific advances and translating their significance to the public. Andreas Schoberth recounts the establishment of the Association’s website as one who participated in its founding. Julian Fuchs and Matthias Pauthner jointly present an article on the strength of cooperative efforts, using the upheaval in the Middle East as a poignant and timely example. Finally, Özden Sevimli, as a first-generation immigrant, offers a novel perspective to understanding the process of cultural integration.

In addition to the Association’s annual national events, some members attended events hosted by the American Fulbright Alumni Association in Buenos Aires and the German-American Fulbright Commission in Berlin, as well as smaller gatherings of Fulbright leaders in Taiwan and Cambodia. Their accounts provide an excellent view of the international network that continues to foster cross-cultural discussion and growth. Lastly, the regional chapter reports demonstrate the vivacity and diversity of the activities of the rich German alumni network.

Now, I am happy to shift the focus toward thanking those who truly deserve the credit for this publication: the authors, photographers, and coordinators. Their thoughtfulness confirms the tradition of keen awareness and limitless ambition for which this Association so proudly stands. Behind the scenes was Andreas Schoberth when considerate editing was much appreciated, as well as Lisa McMahan, Thomas Wagner, Bryan Baker, and Barbara Weiten. Of course, the board was graciously helpful, especially Benjamin, Susanne, and Timo, who served as liaisons for much material. This page is not large enough to fully describe how grateful I am to Thomas Wagner, in particular, for his kind assistance and professional advice throughout the long development of this magazine. In the later stages, Astrid Weingarten has shown that she is as unbelievably talented in graphic design as she is in lending instruction, having patiently trained this scientist to be an editor. As well, I would not be here if it weren’t for Julia Mews, who first proposed that I become involved. This magazine owes its current, high standard to her, and it has been a privilege to follow in her example. Lastly, I cannot help but share how lucky I am to have the immeasurable support of my family, especially my mom, whose boundless care serves as proof that there is no greater achievement than helping others and nourishing community. I dedicate my efforts in gratitude to her.

To conclude, for the sake of advancing the aims of the Association to benefit our global society, may we be reminded of Ambassador Murphy’s compelling statement during the Berlin Seminar: “This century brings much change, but the question is whether that will mean progress or not.”

With great hope for our shared future,

Julianne McCall
Heidelberg, October 2011

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Dear Friends of the German Fulbright Alumni Association,

Congratulations on the 25th Anniversary of one of Germany's most forward-thinking organizations.

Strong transatlantic networks like the German-American Fulbright Program enable German and American citizens to become citizens of the world. In the increasingly globalized times in which we live, this is more important than ever before. A Fulbright exchange experience provides students with unique opportunities to discover common goals and interests and to apply this new-found knowledge to solutions to common challenges. The impressions and perspectives, both academic and personal – and sometimes also unconventional – that students gain about how our two countries can and do work together are absolutely crucial for the future of our bilateral relationship, one of America's most important alliances.

Recently I had the opportunity to meet Senator Fulbright's widow, Harriet Mayor Fulbright. She, like the good Senator, is convinced of the importance of international education. She told me that her husband never dreamed that the exchange program that bears his name would one day grow to such truly global proportions. What he was most proud of was that the Fulbright spirit had become known around the world for its "power to convert nations into peoples and to translate ideologies into human aspirations." As citizens of the world, Fulbright students and researchers go on to do great things – very often in conjunction with alumni associations.

Just a few months ago, the Embassy hosted the opening reception of the German Fulbright Alumni Association's 25th Anniversary Conference. Fulbrighters from more than 15 countries were in attendance. My colleagues and I were proud – but not surprised – to hear about the many activities and initiatives that bear the Fulbright alumni seal of approval. I was most interested in the volunteer service projects which the German Fulbright Alumni Association has launched. This is what I call true grassroots diplomacy. Volunteer service, in all its varied aspects, can be incredibly useful in addressing misconceptions and stereotypes and creating platforms for dialogue and conversation. This is what the Fulbright spirit is all about. The commitment of the German Fulbright alumni community to sharing that spirit has an enormous impact on the long-term relationship between our two countries.

The United States and Germany are partners in every sense of the word. Your dedication is an essential element of that partnership. I am passionate about the importance of exchange programs, and people like all of you are the reason why.

All the best and again, congratulations.
Keep up the good work.

*Philip D. Murphy,
U.S. Ambassador to Germany*



Dear friends of the German Fulbright Alumni Association,

We are living in a time of fundamental changes and immense global challenges. Longstanding regimes are being toppled. The young people of the Arab world have taken up the fight for greater freedom, democracy, and civil rights. At the same time, environmental and technological disasters such as the nuclear accident in Japan and the drought in the Horn of Africa present political problems on an unforeseen scale. In 2008 and 2009, the world was rocked by the most severe economic and financial crisis of the postwar era; future generations and governments will have to deal with its consequences.

How can we tackle all of these problems while keeping an even more rapidly changing world in perspective? Senator Fulbright offered an answer to this question many years ago when he said of the exchange program he had founded: "Creative leadership and liberal education 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."

Fulbright's vision is now more important than ever. We need well-educated young people who are prepared to face future challenges and tackle them in an intelligent way. Some 3,000 American students per year study abroad in Germany, while roughly 9,000 German students each year study abroad in the United States. The students known as Fulbrighters are especially noteworthy among these young people. The German-American Fulbright Commission, founded in 1952, is the largest bi-national commission within the global Fulbright network – an impressive testament to the deeply rooted friendship between the United States and Germany.

Now in the 21st century, transatlantic relations remain unparalleled in their depth and breadth. Shared history, culture, and values as well as close economic networks form the basis for both unique political relations and a joint strategic orientation. Together, we strive to further stabilize Afghanistan, to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran, and to support movements for freedom and democracy in the Arab world so that progress there can endure in the long term. We seek to meet new technological challenges together. For this, we will have to take additional, future-oriented steps. I see major progress, for example, in the area of economic cooperation. We have in the Transatlantic Economic Council an instrument for the further expansion of our economic ties. We are working together on both sides of the Atlantic to develop innovative technologies – for electric vehicles, for example – as well as standards for new energy-efficient products.

Close partnership and friendly ties unite the people of Germany and the U.S. The alumni of the Fulbright Commission are a key pillar of this friendship. In fostering worldwide networks and thereby furthering intercultural understanding, they help keep Senator Fulbright's vision alive. It is my pleasure to congratulate the German Fulbright Alumni Association in this anniversary edition of their tradition-steeped magazine on the 25th Anniversary of their founding.

*Sincerely,
Dr. Guido Westerwelle
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Honorary Member of the Board of the Fulbright Commission*



Dear Alumni,

The German-American Fulbright program will celebrate its 60th Anniversary next year.

Over the years, it has been one of the most successful drivers of transatlantic exchange and dialogue, with 45,000 grantees to date supported in more than 35 different programs. The Commission has experienced both success and challenges in changing times – the fall of the wall among them, a growing Europe and the changing role of bilateral relations, the Bologna reforms and their impacts on student mobility, and last – but not least – financial markets in turmoil, with its implications for government-funded programs like Fulbright. The Commission, with the support of its board and both governments, has been able to navigate these sometimes treacherous waters safe and sound over many decades, and to continue to even grow over the years. Nevertheless, several more recent developments may leave a more lasting mark on the program: the ever growing commercialization and rising costs of higher education in a global setting, the changing needs of German students studying abroad, and a shifting focus of lawmakers away from Europe, which traditionally enjoyed the strongest ties with the U.S.

While the Fulbright program still is the flagship program of U.S. public diplomacy, its impact and volume of support is under constant observation on the hill, particularly in times of substantial budget threats and cuts. Support is urgently needed, and Fulbright alumni in the U.S., supported by current grantees in Europe, render this support by rallying their congressmen and giving testimony to how important transatlantic dialogue is and how exchange shapes young leaders on both sides of the Atlantic.

U.S. universities – private as well as public institutions – suffer dramatically from current cuts and increasingly depend on full-paying students from abroad to cover a part of their costs.

Fulbright students are welcome but increasingly face bureaucratic obstacles when they want to enroll as non-degree students for only 9 months of study, or as students wanting to take courses at a U.S. partner institution for 6 months as part of their new Bologna study program in Germany, or as Ph.D. candidates wanting to do part of their research for their thesis at a lab of their choice in the U.S. None of these ‘typical’ Fulbrighters fit anymore into the traditional U.S. category of full-tuition-paying program students. Changing policies and funding patterns have been high on the agenda of the Commission to better serve the needs of both students and their host institutions in the U.S., and I am happy to say that we have been successful in adding new flexibility to the Fulbright program for next year: applications for study grants for a study period of 6 – 9 months will be accepted, young researchers will continue to be able to apply for a research project as part of their Ph.D. thesis for 6 - 9 months, and master’s degree programs of up to 2 years in non-professional fields will be supported in exceptional cases.

These changes provide new opportunities for German students; they complement the existing programs, and all those initiatives that would not be possible at all without the support of our alumni – an exceptional group in Germany that provides leadership and funding for an exceptional group of young leaders who normally would not be able to attend a summer school in the U.S. It is this Fulbright spirit of reaching out and giving back that makes the Fulbright family so special.

Dr. Rolf Hoffmann,
Executive Director of the German-American
Fulbright Commission



Greetings from the President

Dear Fulbrighters and Friends,

It is my great pleasure to introduce to you the 22nd issue of our Association’s magazine, the *FRANKly*. Let me thus first take the opportunity to thank all contributors and especially our Editor, Julianne McCall, for their exceptional dedication and work!

What an exciting year already! In February, Benjamin Pfleger and his team organized a fantastic Winterball in Heidelberg with record attendance – less than one year after the foundation of the regional chapter of Mannheim/Heidelberg!

In March, we were able to celebrate our Association’s 25th Anniversary with a spectacular PowWow in Berlin, where more than 170 people took the opportunity to discuss, network, and celebrate with us.

While the PowWow was certainly an inspiring and fun event for many individual Fulbrighters, it was also proof of our Association’s professionalization: The close cooperation with our partners and sponsors not only allowed us to hold our reception inside the U.S. Embassy (with cell phones explicitly permitted!) and conference inside the Bosch Repräsentanz Berlin, it also enriched the event with first-class speakers, among them, His Excellency Philip D. Murphy, Former Ambassador John C. Kornblum, and board member of the Atlantik-Brücke Karsten D. Voigt.

Hence, the greetings of H.E. Philip D. Murphy, Federal Minister Dr. Westerwelle, and the Fulbright Commission’s Executive Director Dr. Rolf Hoffmann in the current *FRANKly* both honor us and let us proudly look back on our history and achievements thus far.

So where do we go from here? On the one hand, we will preserve good and successful traditions and will bring together Fulbrighters on many different levels. The regional chapters’ activities offer ample opportunity for this, as can be seen in the numerous 4th of July, Halloween, and Thanksgiving events (to follow). On a national level, the Welcome Meeting, Winterball, and future PowWows serve the same cause.

On the other hand, we will also further our development and seek progress, as this year’s *FRANKly* fittingly proclaims. One way of progress is certainly our Association’s long overdue social media implementation, which was called into life at this year’s PowWow. A first result can be seen on Facebook, where “The German Fulbright Alumni Association” can now finally be “liked”. More will follow soon, and I am absolutely certain that this digital progress will also lead to a general enrichment of the Fulbright (alumni) experience.

Another way of progress is the intensified cooperation with other alumni associations – not only, but increasingly, on a European level. In 2010, my predecessor, Barbara Weiten, was invited to an enrichment workshop by the U.S. Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs in Paris, where the idea of a European Network of American Alumni Associations was born. One year later, this vision has been institutionalized with ENAM, the world’s first regional network of Department of State alumni associations. Of course, the German Fulbright Alumni Association is among its first official members, and we are already looking forward to contributing to the first ENAM conference, to be held in Strasbourg in June 2013.

Much more could be said about projects and intentions, but as progress has it, it is also always a process, and one which in many cases cannot be predicted.

In this sense, I wish us all a productive and pleasant year to come!

Have an enjoyable read,

Benjamin Becker
Düsseldorf, October 2011

Meet the Board

Benjamin Becker President

- since 2011, Düsseldorf;
previously Vice President Members (2009 and '10)
- **Fulbright Studies:** Teaching Assistant (FLTA) at Emory University in Atlanta, GA (2007-'08)
- **Professional life:** at present, working towards a Ph.D. in English Studies (Intercultural Learning)
- **Benjamin, what do you think is the major benefit of participating in the Alumni Association?**
"I consider the networking opportunities that being a member brings about as an important benefit, both personally and professionally."
- **When and why did you join?**
"Shortly before my return to Germany, I received emails announcing the Welcome Meeting. When I went to attend in November, I had already joined the Association. During my stay in the U.S., I was so impressed with "alumni spirit" that I decided to join the German Alumni Association upon my return home."

Claus Vollrath-Rödiger Treasurer

- since 2008, Bochum;
previously Sponsorship
- **Fulbright Studies:** Sociology at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo (1983-'85)
- **Professional life:** self-employed
- **Claus, what do you particularly like about the Alumni Association?**
"Fulbrighters are exceptionally interested in all things around them and in the world. No other professional organization offers the opportunity to meet friends of such diverse interests and open minds."
- **Can you name a highlight of your work for the Association?**
"For me personally, it is the organizing of events. As an attendant, there are too many to mention."

Susanne Döring Vice President Members

- since 2011, Mainz
- **Fulbright Studies:** Master of Science in Accounting at Michigan State University in East Lansing (2008-'09)
- **Professional life:** Management accountant
- **Susanne, what do you think is the major benefit of participating in the Alumni Association?**
"The Association keeps us connected through our experiences in the U.S. and new experiences created together. I enjoy working with such immensely interesting people from diverse fields towards a common goal. And also, getting together with Fulbrighters is always fun. I am thankful for the friends I've made and the fascinating conversations I've shared."
- **When and why did you join?**
"Upon returning to Germany in the Summer of 2009, I attended the Welcome Meeting in Frankfurt and the Thanksgiving Dinner offered by the Cologne/Bonn Regional Chapter. At both events, I was happy to be surrounded by friendly people who could relate to my influential experiences, share a love for American topics, and feel connected by the Fulbright spirit. I joined the Association at the Winterball in 2010, realizing it presents a great channel through which I can connect with many interesting people while at the same time share and give back to the community."



Benjamin Becker



Claus Vollrath-Rödiger



Susanne Döring



Thomas Wagner



Timo Klein

Thomas Wagner Vice President Communications

- since 2011, Kiel
- **Fulbright Studies:** Social Psychology, University of Kansas in Lawrence (1999-2000)
- **Professional life:** at present, working in Government Administration at the local Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein
- **Thomas, what do you think is the major benefit of participating in the Alumni Association?**
"Meeting new people with very different scientific, professional, and personal backgrounds has been inspiring and interesting over the last ten years, not to mention fun!"
- **When and why did you join?**
"Some of my friends in the U.S. had a Fulbright Stipend, and, initially, I thought it would be a nice way to stay in touch. So, I joined at the first Welcome Meeting. I had no idea how far the whole thing would go."

Timo Klein Vice President Events

- since 2010, Cologne
- **Fulbright Studies:** Teaching Assistant (FLTA) at Fordham University in New York City (2008-'09)
- **Professional life:** at present, working as a research assistant towards a Ph.D. in Linguistics at Cologne University
- **Timo, why did you join the Alumni Association?**
"The Fulbright experience does not end with one's return to Germany. My wonderful stay in the U.S. was merely the seed out of which new friendships and cultural experiences keep growing. The Alumni Association facilitates just that."
- **And why not just stay in touch via social networks?**
"I don't think the occasional message can replace the personal experience we share at our frequent events. The alumni are a lively bunch of friends!"

The Extended Board

Hermes Winands Member Database

Hermes is responsible for the development and maintenance of our member database. This task includes office support (especially during the time of the “Lastschrifteinzug” and “Spendenquittungen”) and the creation of the yearly member directory. Our member database was custom developed and is now relatively stable.

Hermes lives in beautiful Munich. After his Fulbright years as a computer science major at North Dakota State University in Fargo, he started to work for Accenture in 1997. Today, he is a senior executive and is mainly responsible for managing large-scale IT implementation projects. He has administered our member database since 1998.

Wiltrud Hammelstein International Cooperation

Wiltrud spent her Fulbright year (1986-’87) in Charleston, Illinois, achieving a Master of Business Administration degree. She has served on the board of the FAA from 1994 through 2003 and again since 2010, including 4 years as president. Being responsible for international relations comes naturally to her, as she has extensive experience with the international Fulbright community from having attended a multitude of international meetings since 1993, being a lifetime member of the U.S. Fulbright Association, and currently sitting on the board of the French Fulbright Alumni Association.

Her network was used to recruit several international Fulbrighters as panelists and roundtable moderators for this year’s Anniversary PowWow in Berlin, where she served also as the major contact point for all international participants. In addition, she is the FAA’s liaison to the State Alumni network and contributes regularly to the newsletter to communicate about our events and best practices. Currently, she is part of the organizing group for the next European Fulbright conference, hosted by the French Fulbright Alumni Association, planned for June, 2013 in Strasbourg.

Elke Handschug-Brosin Family Weekend

Elke founded the Fulbright Family Weekend because she wanted to stay active in the Fulbright Alumni Association as a mother of three boys. Her twins were born in 2000, and the tradition of the Fulbright Family Weekend started in 2001. It is meant to target everyone who feels part of the Fulbright Family – not only those who have turned into parents. The event takes place on an annual basis in Königstein, near Dresden (Saxon Switzerland). The next gathering will be May 17th-20th, 2012. Registration as early as possible is recommended.

Elke spent three years (1992-’95) as a Fulbright scholar in Michigan and Alaska. She graduated from MSU with a master’s degree in Park and Recreation Resource Management and headed the Visitor Industry Program at the University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau. Her heart has never really left Alaska, thus, she has turned her dedication to this beautiful state into a career, currently as the representative of the Fairbanks Convention & Visitors Bureau in German-speaking Europe. Elke lives in Radebeul near Dresden with her family.

Carsten Kuschnerus Welcome Meeting

The Welcome Meeting coordinator is the first contact to the board of the Association for organizing the annual Welcome Meeting in Frankfurt (Main). One of the greatest benefits of this position is finding new spots in Frankfurt with an American history.

Carsten spent two years (1995-’97) with the Fulbright program at Virginia Tech University pursuing a Master of Business Administration degree.

Holger Schöner Mailing Lists

The task of caring for the email lists has settled to be a relatively simple one, ever since the lists were established and have proven to work well over several years. What makes it interesting is the opportunity to stay in touch with members of the board and occasionally other association members or related people, when helping to sort out issues with posts or list membership.

From 1997-’98, Holger very much enjoyed his stay in Boulder, Colorado, while working towards a Master of Science degree in Computer Science. Since then, he finished his Ph.D. at the Technical University of Berlin and is currently working on data analysis in Austria. He started his Fulbright alumni career as head of the Regional Chapter Berlin. He was Vice President for Communications for two years and is now happy about the opportunity to participate in the Association’s affairs, even from abroad.

Ida Storm Jansen Online Community

The Online Community coordinator is in charge of developing a concept for, building, and maintaining the Association’s online presence, network, and community.

Ida Storm Jansen (Fulbright 1995-’97, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) lives and works in Berlin. She has taught communications in the U.S. and Denmark since 1996 and worked in PR, advertising, and marketing in Germany since 2001.

Julianne McCall Editor FRANKly

The FRANKly’s Editor is in charge of all things that go into the creation of the Association’s magazine, starting with the Call for Articles to assessing every submission to editing each piece of material that contributes to the publication as a whole. She liaises with authors, photographers, graphic designer Astrid Weingarten, VP of Communications, proofreaders, and printers.

Originally from San Diego, California, Julianne spent her Fulbright year (2006-’07) in Lund, Sweden, conducting research on neurobiological therapies for blindness after graduating from Denison University. She is currently a Ph.D. graduate student in Heidelberg, to where her laboratory moved to establish a new research center for spinal cord injury and neuroregeneration. She is thrilled to once again live in Europe and contribute to the inspiring efforts of the Association to further the Fulbright vision.

Stephan Meyer-Brehm Video Project

The idea to document the experience of Fulbrighters on video was born a few years ago. As the concept and goals have evolved, it seemed evident to put a person officially in charge of this ongoing process. Interviews of alumni from a range of backgrounds and exchange years, as well as historical footage, will eventually serve as a professional portrait of the Association’s goals and activities.

Stephan spent his Fulbright year (1985-’86) at the University of Texas at Austin. In tune with his field of study in Communications/Advertising, he went on to work for an advertising agency in Chicago. Today, he works as a self-employed consultant for Marketing Communication and teaches in the same field.



From left to right: Hermes Winands, Wiltrud Hammelstein, Elke Handschug-Brosin, Carsten Kuschnerus, Holger Schöner, Ida Storm Jansen, Julianne McCall, Stephan Meyer-Brehm

The Extended Board

Uwe Koch Webmaster

The Webmaster looks after all technical issues concerning our online presence: email addresses, editor accounts, content management system, and other IT-related aspects. He reports to the board and liaises with designers, editors, regional chapters, and event organizers.

Uwe spent his Fulbright year (1988-'89) in Corvallis, Oregon. After returning to Germany, he completed his degree in Physics at Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen, where he became the Webmaster in 1993. His Fulbright alumni career started as Treasurer of the Frankfurt Regional Chapter. After several years on the board, he enjoys to still be able to contribute as one of the three members of the extended board who currently live abroad.

Dagmar Schreiber Sailing Trip

The coordinator of the biannual Fulbright Alumni Association's sailing trip organizes the trip with operator Clipper – Deutsches Jugendwerk zur See e.V. This entails finding the right ship and determining the route, destination, time, crew, etc. From the invitation to all FAA members, sending packing lists, and managing last-minute changes, the position entails doing sweet work while looking forward to a relaxing and inspiring week on the Baltic Sea with fellow Fulbrighters every other summer.

Dagmar spent her Fulbright year (1991-'92) in Washington, D.C., obtaining a Master of Laws degree in International & Comparative Law from George Washington University Law School. She has enjoyed sailing on old wooden ships ever since her first FAA sailing trip in 1993 and tries very hard to get other Fulbrighters hooked on the same sea adventure.

Susanne Meier Online Editor

The Online Editor manages the content of the Association's website, ensuring that all information is up-to-date and truly represents the current activities of the Association. In order to achieve this, she cooperates with regional chapters and other board members, as well as other contributors to the site.

Susanne spent her Fulbright year (2007-'08) in beautiful San Francisco, where she obtained a master's degree in Marketing from Golden Gate University. She now lives and works in Munich.

Isabelle Boeddinghaus Office Processes

The administrator of the Association's office processes serves as the liaison between the office and Fulbright alumni. This position was introduced in order to create a central contact point for the office administration and to review the organization of the office as well as the established procedures and structures.

Isabelle spent her Fulbright year (1995-'96) at Syracuse University in upstate New York. She spent a second year in the southern U.S. working for a consulting company. After 10 years in Stuttgart, she now lives and works in Frankfurt for a U.S. automotive company.

Other members of the Extended Board not pictured here include **Steffen Schmuck-Soldan**, who organizes the Jürgen Mulert Award, and **Tim Prien**, who coordinates the Diversity Alumni Program with the help of **Han Le** and **Shamaila Ghaffar**.



From left to right:
Uwe Koch,
Dagmar Schreiber,
Susanne Meier,
Isabelle Boeddinghaus

2012

WINTERBALL

SCHWERIN
27. – 29. JANUAR

Wir laden zur Mitgliederversammlung und zum Winterball 2012 ein - erstmalig in Schwerin.

VORLÄUFIGES PROGRAMM:

27.01.12	ab 19:00	Get-together
28.01.12	ab 09:00	Mitgliederversammlung
28.01.12	ab 19:00	Winterball 2012
29.01.12	ab 10:00	Brunch mit anschließendem Programm

Unverbindliche Voranmeldung unter winterball2012@fulbright-alumni.de



Anniversary PowWow in Berlin

Opening Speech at the Bosch Repräsentanz Berlin

Benjamin Becker, President

Welcome to our Anniversary PowWow here in Berlin.

We have called this conference “Shaping a Changing World”. Quite ambitious, one could say. But isn’t it exactly this spirit of ambition that is necessary to truly make an impact?

When Senator Fulbright founded the program in 1946, he was a visionary. He wanted the program to be a means of “waging peace through mutual understanding” – only one year after the end of the Second World War.

Now, while the end of the war certainly marked a huge change, the world compared to today was relatively simple, or let me rather say, “ordered”. During the Cold War era that was to follow, the world was practically divided into two blocks, and this situation persisted until the fall of the Wall in 1989.

Shortly before this event, which marked the end of the Cold War, the German Fulbright Alumni Association was founded. Of course, I wouldn’t go as far as to say that we had anything to do with that. Credit goes only to David Hasselhoff... But both events happened at a time that saw great change. And both events inspired us to choose our conference motto: “Shaping a Changing World”.

When we started planning the conference more than a year ago, we deliberately decided not to focus on a specific topic. Instead, we wanted to cover a variety of developments that had occurred during the last 25 years. As the conference motto indicates, change itself is the topic of our conference.

“Change itself is the topic of our conference”

This may sound fuzzy to some people, and they are right. In a sense, this kind of fuzziness is indicative of the times in which we live. Compared to the relative order of the Cold war era, today’s world has certainly become confusing, sometimes chaotic.

As Fulbrighters, we understand that. We understand that order is, and always was, an illusion. We understand that situations can be contradictory, even paradox. And we understand that in order to solve them, “we must dare to think unthinkable thoughts,” as Senator Fulbright phrased it.

This way of thinking – the “Fulbright spirit”, as it is often called – is what unites us all. Through Fulbright, we have all become different persons, and while we should be thankful for this, it also entrusts us with a great responsibility. As Fulbrighters, we are cultural ambassadors – not only of our respective countries, but also of the intercultural mindset, that is, the Fulbright spirit.

“Waging peace through mutual understanding”

This brings me back to today’s conference. As you can see in the program, we will be discussing a variety of topics with experts from different fields, many of whom are Fulbrighters themselves. These experts will provide us with their individual perspectives, and they will help us understand the relevant developments in their respective fields.

All of these developments bring about challenges. And all of these challenges require solutions.

As Fulbrighters, we know that these solutions can never be too simple. And because we know that, it is our obligation to inform ourselves, to become active, and to shape a changing world. Thank you!

Also, allow me to thank our partners and sponsors, without whom this conference would not have been possible:

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Silver Anniversary PowWow in Berlin

Shaping a Changing World

by Katrin Arnholz

Looking back at the changes in transatlantic relations over the past decades, the German Fulbright Alumni Association celebrated its 25th Anniversary in May in Berlin. The 2011 PowWow, named after traditional Native American gatherings, brought together a wide range of honorable panelists and experts to facilitate discussions on some of the most crucial issues of our time, from politics to economics, multiculturalism to media, and education to technology. “Nobody would disagree that we are living in a changing world – and that this change is impacting all of us,” said Timo Klein, who serves as the Association’s Vice President for Events. “As for us Fulbrighters, we realized that we needed to actively participate in this change, to influence it for the better. So, we decided to organize an entire event around that concept.”

“Great necessities call out great virtues”

Commencing with a reception at the U.S. Embassy, Ambassador Philip Murphy welcomed the conference participants from over fifteen different nations and was the first to officially congratulate the German Fulbright Alumni Association on its Silver Anniversary. Quoting Abigail Adams, the second First Lady of the U.S., Murphy emphasized, “Great necessities call out great virtues.”

Topics discussed ranged from the recent nuclear disaster in Japan and its global implications in energy production to the democratic revolution in the Arab world to the future of healthcare, corporate responsibility, and Germany’s fast developing role as a political, not only economic, leader in the world. The opening panel was moderated by Brent Goff of Deutsche Welle and featured former U.S. Ambassador

John Kornblum and Karsten Voigt, former Coordinator of German-North American Cooperation of the Foreign Office of Germany. The transatlantic relationship of the 20th century, agreed both speakers, no longer exists. Political, personal, and corporate layers of interaction are evolving at dramatically different rates as the U.S.-European context morphs into that of a global one. “The one principle of transatlantic relations,” summed Mr. Kornblum, “[has been] change.” They continued to emphasize how important it is to communicate cross-culturally in a transforming world. “Fulbrighters are destined to lead this talk, as they better understand both cultures,” Karsten Voigt said. “At this point, as the U.S. acts less unilaterally and focuses more on cooperation, it becomes even more essential to discuss different perceptions.”

Later in the conference, participants engaged with the notable members of the subsequent podium discussion featuring Edelgard Bulmahn, former Minister for Education and Research of the Federal Republic of Germany and current member of the German Parliament, Hassan Mekouar from Morocco, Bill Ashcroft from Australia, Stanislaw Kluza from Poland, Gil Carbajal from Spain, and Jürgen Kocka from Germany. Combining vast expertise from a diverse set of fields, the discussion, again skillfully moderated by Brent Goff, revolved around topics such as neoliberalism and the regulation of the financial market, methods of galvanizing people to participatory action in the governmental arena, and improving access to education throughout the developing world as internet access boosts a new generation of global citizens.

Roundtable Discussions, composed of small groups of participants and expert leaders, covered a range of topics, addressing and linking politics of the past and present, brainstorming novel avenues for progress, and sharing information

From left to right: Andrea Möller, Gil Carbajal, Edelgard Bulmahn, Arno Tanner, John Kornblum, Ulrich Littmann, Wiltrud Hammelstein, Karsten Voigt; photos: Christine Tröger, U.S. Embassy, Thomas Weißschnur





From left to right: Brent Goff, Jürgen Kocka, Hassan Mekouar, Sveltana Suveica, Bill Ashcroft, Mary Ellen Schmider, Stanislaw Kluza, and Rolf Hoffmann; photos: Thomas Weißschnur, Christine Tröger, Wiltrud Hammelstein

about young technologies and cutting-edge endeavors. Several discussions are described in more detail on the following pages. The first session of Roundtables was led by members of the German Fulbright Alumni Association, followed by a second session directed by select international experts from Europe and beyond. The discussions were moderated in such a way that encouraged intense cross-disciplinary participation. The conversations were empowered by the breadth of knowledge made possible by the wide stock of talent and the collective spirit of the groups. In doing so, the idea of shaping a changing world was realized in collaborative action.

“We really have the possibility to network on a global level”

One area that was well represented by the Roundtable Discussions was sustainable energy, with four separate sessions offered to participants on the topic. Contributing to many contemporary strategic political decisions regarding economic power, this arena of influence is expanding rapidly. Germany is competitively striving to be the economic world leader in alternative energy technology and has now – in a seeming spur of the moment – decided to abort its nuclear power program altogether. Oliver Steinmetz, co-founder and member of the supervisory board of the Desertec Foundation, presented the Desertec concept together with co-founder Ulrich Hueck. Ulrich reflects on his Fulbright grant in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in the ‘90s to learn more about sustainable energy. “There existed a test site for the utilization of solar energy in Albuquerque, the main reason I went there. But that site was classified for military purposes. Back then in Germany, I was still considered an outsider with my interest in sustainable energy,” he said. The situation has changed dramatically since then, and the Desertec concept, which focuses on generating electricity from solar energy in the deserts and transmitting it to metropolises via high-tech cables, is gaining more and more momentum. “I really became inspired by my meeting with Senator Fulbright in 1991,” the 47-year-old recalled. “He spoke in very simple words about working together,

daring to think the unthinkable, and pursuing innovative projects. And this is what I still believe today: We ought to think new thoughts and develop new ideas that benefit many people.” Ulrich sees enormous potential for this thought process in the Fulbright network, which spans across the world and encompasses people trained in many different areas. “We really have the possibility to network on a global level, develop ideas that could change our world, and bring corresponding proposals to the attention of relevant leaders and decision makers.”

Asked if the conference inspired her, Han Le heartily confirmed. The 19-year-old participated in the Fulbright Diversity Program during high school. The program allows students with migrant backgrounds to travel to Texas for a month of cultural education; vice versa, students from Texas visit Berlin. “I do very much like the idea of thinking the unthinkable and communicating across cultures,” she contributed. “I became motivated for my studies in economics, and I would like to actively participate in international development work when I finish.”

To conclude the day, the last podium discussion was thoughtfully moderated by Gil Carbajal and featured Sveltana Suveica and Hassan Mekouar on the topic of emerging democracies. Both university professors are taking an active role in developing democratic policies in their respective nations, Morocco and Moldova, and were able to shed light on intriguing perspectives regarding contemporary processes of reform. Though spurred by social agitation, they agreed that reform must be fortified by law to confidently translate into stable cultural change. This window into societies characterized by developing constitutions and innovative leaders marked an appropriately dramatic end to the uplifting series of speakers and discussions.

This PowWow, Timo Klein hopes, could be the starting point for something bigger. He comments, “Our goal was for the participants to learn, discuss, and apply their ideas to then go out and shape the world.”

Energy Production and Usage – Today and in 25 Years

co-moderated and written by Uwe Koch

About 20 Fulbrighters with diverse backgrounds, ranging from banking to environmental engineering, met with Fulbright experts to discuss challenges and opportunities in energy production and usage.

After introductory remarks, Désirée Doyle provided an overview of the regulatory situation regarding renewable energies in the EU and Germany. This included the current situation concerning energy sources and future demand. Aspects like demographic and climatic developments and their impact on political decisions on market regulations and new energy promotions were discussed, especially the German EEG (the “Erneuerbare-Energien-Gesetz”), which is currently being remodeled for the third time. Joe Kristensen from Siemens Windpower also gave a short introduction on the business side of wind power turbine production.

The challenges of offshore windpower for DONG Energy, the largest Danish energy provider and market leader in offshore wind, was the topic of Markus Laukamp’s presentation. He explained that the initial investment for an offshore wind farm is huge, typically on the order of 1 bn. Euro per farm. Therefore, the cash flow from operating it has to be large enough to cover these costs. This cash flow is determined by the production (wind), the electricity price, and maintenance costs. One of the major problems is forecasting maintenance costs during operation out at sea, due to the early stage of the technology and the lack of a reliable track record. Technical problems to be solved include the impact of sea climate on the generators and providing safe access even in adverse weather conditions.

Johannes Elwardt of Vattenfall explained how a network operator ensures the necessary stability of energy distribution. Originally, German power grids were built reflecting the strategy that energy was produced close to consumers without need for long-distance power lines. A map of Germany today, however, shows several “hills” indicating concentrations of energy production: new locations of nuclear power plants and elevations by the shore of the North Sea. The same map for the possible situation in 2030 after the shutdown of nuclear power stations and the construction of offshore wind farms shows high hills off the coast and deep depressions in the major industrial areas. This demonstrates the need for new power lines. Currently, the public approval process for new power lines takes up to 10 years in Germany. Also, the distribution grid is already witnessing changes in rural areas due to solar power and onshore wind farms.

Uwe Koch’s concluding remarks focused on our responsibility as energy consumers and on how we can influence the energy market. One possibility is to exercise care when choosing a power provider. Decision criteria are the ecological footprint and production standards of your provider. Another option is to produce your own electricity either by solar roofing and heat pumps or by investing in owner-operated power companies, known as “Bürgerwindpark” or “Bürgersolaranlage”.

Stephan Meyer-Brehm, Heinz Neubauer, and Karin-Irene Eiermann, members of the Berlin Chapter PowWow organizing committee; photo: Christine Tröger



A conference dedicated to international relations; photo: Timo Klein



Benjamin Becker delivers the Opening Speech; photo: Timo Klein



Anniversary PowWow in Berlin



Going Global: Media, Communication, and Marketing

moderated and written by Stephan Meyer-Brehm

The idea of this workshop was to evaluate the impact of an increasingly global network of media on our lives in the last 25 years. When the German Fulbright Alumni Association was founded in 1986, CNN was not the global news network it is today, Starbucks had a few shops in the Pacific Northwest, and children in Europe didn't go trick-or-treating on Halloween. The world wide web hadn't even been invented, and it was impossible to imagine how we could access such a source of information, entertainment, and communication with today's slim smartphones in our pockets.

While no one doubted that global media, global brands, and a global culture is here to stay, one of the first issues raised was the implication of those facts. Is it beneficial, in that we understand each other better across various nations and cultures and that we feel more closely connected? Or do we lose our individual cultural flavors, the differences that make our lives significant and diversified?

While there seemed to be some regret among participants over the loss of regional or national idiosyncrasies, there was an overall approval of more open – and thus more similar – societies. If we communicate better, we may be closer to the idea of “mutual understanding” as laid out in the Fulbright

principles. Only faint concern was voiced over multinational corporations leveling cultural peculiarities with their global marketing and communication strategies. Their efforts were perceived rather as results than drivers of a global streamlining, with respect to what we read, watch on TV, or find on our supermarket shelves.

Some interesting remarks were made on social media in a globalized world: while most participants feel mostly enriched and privileged to use these media in a global community of friends, there were some who feel a pressure to constantly communicate. If participation and authorship are expected from the members of a global society, the promise that the “new” media hold may turn into an anathema. One participant even reported his almost physical discomfort for not being able to express himself through a daily blog when he was cut off from his account during a trip to China.

In general, however, media and technology were perceived as helpful in maintaining relationships and cross-cultural ties. Fulbright friendships, especially, seem to prosper with their support, and who would object?

It's not information overload. It's filter failure.

moderated and written by Andreas Schoberth

Setting the tone with a view from an expert, the participants initially watched a thoughtful and entertaining conference talk by Clay Shirky (www.youtube.com/watch?v=LabqeJEOQyI) that also lent the title for this Roundtable. Shirky asserts that information overload is a phenomenon known since the invention of the printing press. Back then, however, publishing still came with a significant cost, so the sender had to scrutinize (or, filter) what to finally print. The internet lowered that cost to practically zero, so everybody can afford to be a publisher now. Outbound filters are economically not important any more, and the filtering responsibility has shifted heavily toward the receiver.

Following the video, each participant shared a personal story or two about that problem. But what to do about it? Surprisingly or not, some did not suffer from overload – au contraire. There was the retired professional (say, a lawyer) who didn't use the internet much during his business days. He now wants to stay in touch with his grandchildren by their preferred means of communication, but he has trouble figuring out how to become a “friend” to be able to view pictures on their social

network site. There was the student from a country with a censoring regime (say, Iran) who just cannot get enough information on what's going on in the world when at home.

Still, these were the rarer cases. Surely more exemplifying of the general situation was the old-school academic who still hasn't figured out how to properly handle his pile of unread newspapers and weeklies (there again, the printing press). And it is not a matter of age, either. It is probably not too speculative to expect that today's so-called “digital natives”, using every new app and device indiscriminately, will end up as “digital naïves” who have surrendered most of their information privacy – and with that, their filtering capability – long before they even know it (well, the outbound filter).

In the end, we all agreed that designing our filters right is inherently a personal challenge that will span our lifetimes. Or, to conclude with a famous quote Clay Shirky referred to in his talk, “If you have the same problem for a long time, maybe it's not a problem, maybe it's a fact.”

A group of participants enjoy some time beneath the Brandenburg Gate before the reception at the U.S. Embassy; photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein

Shamaila Ghaffar and Han Le, coordinators of the Diversity Alumni Program; photo: Christine Tröger

Ambassador Philip Murphy and Association President Benjamin Becker thank Madeleine Mitchell for her performance on violin during the U.S. Embassy reception; photo: U.S. Embassy



Karsten Voigt and John Kornblum open the conference with a panel discussion on the history and future of transatlantic relations; photo: Thomas Weißschnur

Good company at the Kulturbrauerei; photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein



Fulbright alumni and guests fill the Bosch Repräsentanz Berlin conference venue; photo: Timo Klein



Anniversary PowWow in Berlin



International Interdependence: Can we all benefit from further globalization?

moderated and written by Carsten Kuschnerus and Carsten Fischer

Despite the fact that intensifying cooperation between people from different countries is a very old trend, the velocity of globalization has increased significantly over the past 20 years. Further efficiency increase in the transportation and aviation industry, falling political barriers, and further innovation in information technology will fuel this trend of global interconnections (or, interdependencies) even more. Before, the public had focused on the positive effects of globalization; over the recent past, however, it has been discussed more and more controversially and emotionally amongst people and the media. Globalization has a major impact on almost all areas of daily life, including the economic environment, politics, culture, education, values, and languages (phrases like “McDonaldization of food” have become common expressions).

The PowWow offered the perfect setting to discuss the benefits and costs of various aspects of globalization, since many attendees already personally understood and, for

some, embodied a “globalized” perspective. Appropriately so, controversial arguments regarding topics of wealth, fairness, languages, and trade dominated the discussion.

In general, globalization was considered to lead to several positive effects on our lives. The improving standard of living in developing countries, the spread of human rights movements, and the increase in mutual understanding are just some of the more prominent positive results from an interconnected world. Moreover, it was largely agreed that globalization is not the general solution for progress but a tool which must be carefully applied and deliberately controlled. As every coin has two sides, there are also negative aspects that accompany an interconnected world. Diminishing cultural traditions and a tendency towards increasing global income inequality are just two challenges which have to be mitigated in the near future.

U.S. Politics – 1986 to 2011 and into the Future

moderated and written by Barbara Weiten

This Roundtable was designed to offer an opportunity to discuss various aspects of U.S. politics; following the main conference topic, it was open to reviewing the past 25 years as well as to looking ahead into the future, taking into account participants’ interests. After the 25+ attendees briefly introduced themselves, representing different nationalities, age groups, academic disciplines and professions, two main points of discussion emerged, with participants especially interested in current and future developments:

The killing of Osama bin Laden by U.S. special forces in Pakistan just a few days before the conference sparked a controversial debate on the legal and moral implications as well as the consequences for U.S. politics and foreign policy, particularly the fight against terrorism. More broadly, alumni also discussed change and continuity in U.S. foreign policy between the Bush and Obama administrations, especially concerning the Middle East, covering issues such as demo-

cracy promotion, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, drone attacks in Pakistan, and legal standards in combating terrorism.

Secondly, the Roundtable looked ahead to the 2012 presidential election, starting off by viewing two early campaign videos: Obama’s video launching his reelection campaign (“It begins with us”, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-VZLVVFfQ>), focusing on re-energizing grassroots supporters, and a counter-video by the National Republican Senatorial Committee (“President Barack Obama’s First Ad for 2012”, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIA5aszzA18&feature=relmfu>), blasting the president for (supposedly) broken promises. Participants exchanged insights and opinions on Obama’s strengths and weaknesses going into his reelection campaign, prospective Republican challengers, emerging campaign strategies, and the impact of new media, particularly social networks.

Sovereign Wealth Funds and Security Policy: Towards a new era of protectionism?

moderated and written by Michael Vetter

This workshop addressed possible implications of Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs) on security policy considerations. Although SWFs are not a new phenomenon, they seemed to have emerged with rising oil prices and are attracting some attention during the current financial crisis. Developed states fear that their technological leadership is sold out or that SWFs are used for political reasons. As a consequence, many states enacted legislation or used political pressure to protect the national industry from takeovers by SWFs.

The discussion focused on the question of where to draw the line between an open economy that attracts foreign direct investment and the necessary protection with regard to security policy considerations. China was picked as an example –

although, by far not the only state having established SWFs – as it is an active player in investing in companies of developed countries.

Attendees agreed on a focal point: While from the perspective of a developed nation, China’s behavior is most often seen as a threat, China has legitimate interests to build up its own companies to be able to compete in the world market. Its large internal market gives China leverage to benefit its companies and to demand concessions by foreign companies that want to invest in China. The concessions cannot be unlimited because the end does not justify the means; however, the interests of an uprising state are often disregarded by developed nations. As one of the workshop members lived for a few years in China, he was able to share interesting insight into the perspective of the Chinese people.



Oliver Steinmetz and Ulrich Hueck lead a Roundtable Discussion on sustainable energy; photo: Thomas Weißschnur

Bill Ashcroft and Edelgard Bulmahn during the panel “Political Developments in the Past 25 Years”; photo: Christine Tröger



Johannes Elwardt contributes to the Roundtable Discussion “Energy Production and Usage – Today and in 25 Years”; photo: Thomas Weißschnur



Tracing the Allied Powers of the Cold War Era

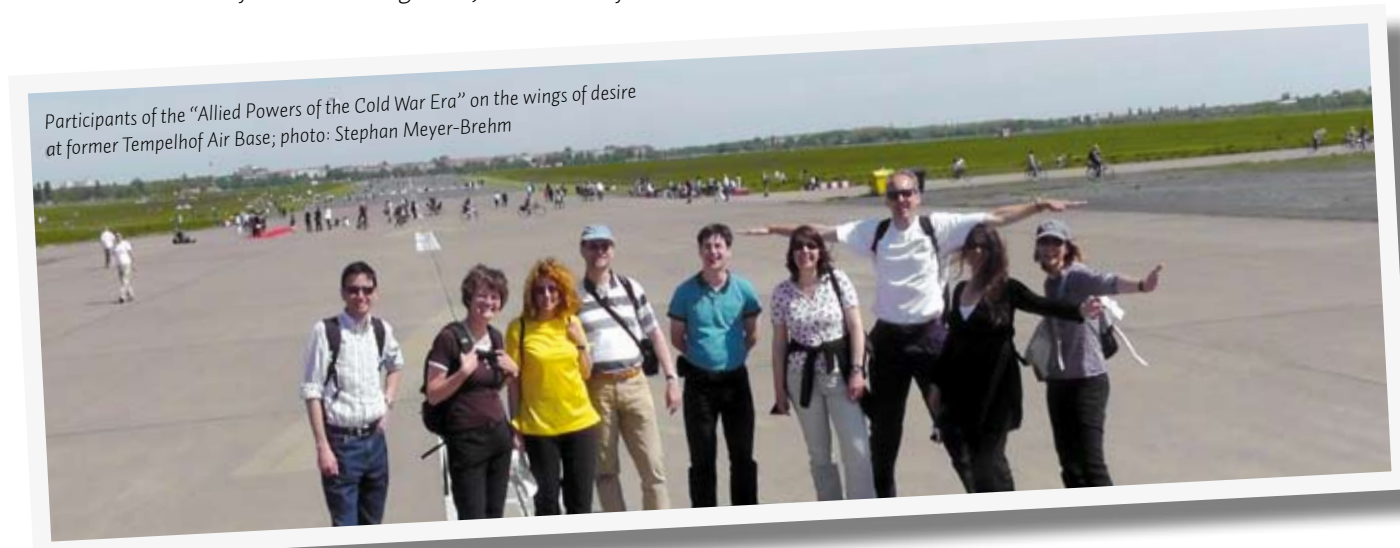
led and written by Stephan Meyer-Brehm

In 1986, the founding year of the German Fulbright Alumni Association, the military presence of the Allied Powers was still a visible aspect of life, especially in Berlin. Because of its significance as the capital of Nazi Germany, the city had been jointly occupied by the Allied Powers (U.S., Great Britain, France, and the U.S.S.R.) in 1945 and divided into four sectors. The three Western sectors became the entity of West Berlin, where the military and political rule of the Allied Powers did not cease to exist until 1991. Only the “Two-plus-Four Treaty”, ratified by all participating nations on March 15th, 1991, ended the nominal military occupation of Germany. Twenty years later, Berlin offers some vivid memorials to those 46 years of the Cold War, and the participants of our tour set out to walk in the footsteps of this period.

Our first stop is Checkpoint Charlie, where today’s humdrum of tourists belies its bleak history as one of the crystallization points of East-West tensions. It received its name from the military alphabet, as number three in a row of Allied checkpoints: Checkpoint Alpha at Helmstedt and Checkpoint Bravo at Dreilinden, today mere historical markers on the Autobahn. Checkpoint Charlie gained notoriety as the location of a highly dramatic standoff between U.S. and Soviet tanks in October 1961, following diplomatic disputes after the construction of the Berlin Wall. In 1962, East German Peter Fechter died near the checkpoint in his attempt to cross the Wall into the West. Shot and wounded by East German guards, he fell a few yards

inside the Soviet sector. There, American soldiers could not rescue him, and he bled to death, his body tangled in a barbed wire fence, in full view of the world’s media. Today, the Haus am Checkpoint Charlie is a private initiative that documents the many attempts of East German citizens to flee across the border, successful or not.

Boarding the U-Bahn line 6 that once ran as a “ghost train” underneath East Berlin during the times of the divided city, our group of time travellers now takes a short ride to “Platz der Luftbrücke”, where a striking memorial today honors the 101 people who lost their lives in the Berlin Airlift between June 1948 and September 1949. In an effort to coerce concessions from the Western Allies, the Soviets had effectively sealed off Berlin’s Western sectors. In response, the Allies launched an unprecedented airlift operation delivering a total of over 2.3 million tons of supplies, nearly two-thirds of which was coal, on over 280,000 flights to Berlin. The planes flew over 92 million miles in the process, the distance from Earth to the Sun. At the height of the Airlift, one plane reached West Berlin every thirty seconds. Tempelhof Airport, where the memorial is fittingly located, was the major hub for this feat that helped transform the conquerors into guardians in the eyes of post-war Berliners. Generations later, Tempelhof Air Base would be the location of air shows steeped in American folklore, providing early and significant cultural impressions to the author of this article.



From top to bottom: Checkpoint Charlie; Allied Museum Zehlendorf; Rosinenbomber; Tempelhof Eagle; All photos: Oliver Steinmetz

Today, the airfield is closed and serves as an inner-city park, awaiting urban renewal that still lacks ideas and funding. Trodding along the old runways, our group proceeds to the next train station, taking them towards their final destination. Along the way, the mindful observer can spot the former building of RIAS – the “Rundfunk im Amerikanischen Sektor”. Set up after World War II, the station’s importance rose during the Blockade and Airlift, when it carried the message of Allied determination to resist Soviet intimidation. Dubbed “Free Voice of a Free World”, it became an important source of information to listeners in East Germany, broadcasting news, commentary, and cultural programs that were inaccessible in the controlled media of the German Democratic Republic. Jointly funded and managed by the U.S. and West Germany, the station was staffed almost entirely with Germans, working with a small American management team. After reunification, its mission became obsolete, and the station evolved into its successor, DeutschlandRadio Kultur.

Our group soon arrives in Zehlendorf, near the former U.S. Headquarters. Built originally for the German Luftwaffe in 1936-’38, the imposing complex became a nerve center of post-war American policy in Germany. Today, the U.S. Embassy in Berlin still uses parts of the facility, while the majority of the buildings lie dormant and in decay – awaiting a new purpose.

Eventually, we arrive at our destination, the Allied Museum that documents the political history and the military commitments and roles of the Western Allies in Germany – particularly Berlin – during the Cold War era. The museum is located on Clayallee – named after General Lucius D. Clay, post-war commander in chief of U.S. Forces in Europe, military governor of the U.S. Zone in Germany, and “mastermind” of the Berlin Airlift. Our knowledgeable guide at the museum presents various aspects of Western Allied presence, such as the transition from strict rules against fraternization towards re-education and eventually partnership and cooperation. An original plane from the Airlift serves as an illustration of this crucial period, and visitors can test their own ability to haul sacks of coal. We learn about Airlift pilot Gail Halvorsen, who became famous for dropping candy attached to handkerchief parachutes to hungry children waiting below. First, his commanders were skeptical but eventually approved of the gesture and expanded it into “Operation Little Vittles”. Other pilots joined in, and the “Candy Bombers” became a major propaganda success. In the 1970s, Halvorsen served as commander of Tempelhof Air Base, and today, at age 90, still visits Berlin regularly to see the friends he has made in the city. We guess Senator Fulbright would have approved.

Bringing Progress Down to Earth

Why We Need an Honest Conception of Scientific Answers

by Jakub Limanowski

If you've ever worked on a long-term academic project, chances are that you have encountered one question more than often enough, posed by colleagues, friends, and parents: "Are you making progress?"

My parents could just as well rephrase their inquiry as, "Are you sure you're not simply wasting our money?" This rendered the question relatively easy to answer: Well, of course I was making progress! However, answering the same question on scales other than a parent-offspring level turns out to be much more complicated.

You may have noticed that, very often, asking a researcher (or even a whole branch of science) whether progress is being made is likely to produce, at best, semi-satisfactory, and probably confusing, answers, which might even make you regret asking at all. Over the course of a career, scientists may have to change their definition of progress, or at least their expectations. Progress can well be measured by the number of publications or thesis supervisions, certainly. But whether the fundamental questions were proven is less simple to quantify in distinct, linear terms. It would seem that "progress" in science is surprisingly hard to define.

To illustrate this, let me present an example of a traditionally controversial problem, on which – one could, of course, argue about this – barely any advancement has been made in the past several thousand years: the nature of the relationship between what we call the body and the mind (or the "self", or the "soul"). Countless well-known arguments testify that this problem has occupied mankind at least since the ancient Greeks.

Looking to solve the mystery of the nature of a thinking being made out of matter, the French philosopher René Descartes found no other way than to introduce substance dualism, claiming that the mental and the physical were of two different realms. Of course, this postulate raised many other questions, for instance, if and how the mental and the physical realms could interact. For now, however, I want to skip the three and a half post-Cartesian centuries – the interested reader might consider an introduction to the philosophy of mind – and focus on where science stands today in relation to Descartes' dualism.

Particularly among modern-day neuroscientists, materialism has found widespread support, its ultimate goal being the reduction of the mind to the brain, or, in Cartesian vocabulary, the mental to the physical. However, there is an ongoing debate among philosophers and neuroscientists about the validity of this concept and whether its application can sufficiently represent the seemingly intangible relationship. The American philosopher John Searle, one of many critics of reductionism, holds that most of the problems that Descartes raised about the mind and the body are still with us today.

If only physical reality exists, why are we conscious at all? Why and how does the brain produce the mind? Is the mind an epiphenomenon, without any causal relation to the physical world? And why and how is there a self bound to our body? These questions are asked by recognized scientists today but would not particularly strike Descartes as novel.

An outside observer might (perhaps reasonably) assume that we have long since developed the means to address the question in a more promising way. The most striking advance may be technical innovation, particularly the invention and development of sophisticated brain-imaging devices. The end of behaviorism and the advent of so-called "first-person methods" have been praised as invaluable theoretical and methodological developments. These and more have culminated in the birth of cognitive science, a study of minds.

Interdisciplinary research has since examined various intriguing phenomena related to the mind-body problem, like the Rubber Hand Illusion. In a 1998 experiment by Botvinick and Cohen, participants saw a fake hand being stroked in synchrony with their own hidden hand. After just a few seconds, the simultaneous stimulation led participants to self-attribute the artificial limb: they reported that the fake hand felt like a part of their own body. Using slightly more complex experimental designs, similar illusory experiences have been induced for the whole body. The most intriguing fact about these illusory experiences may be that a lifetime of unified experience of the body

and self should be so easily disrupted by a relatively simple experimental manipulation. The Rubber Hand Illusion and its variations have since been used as a model paradigm to investigate the subjective experience of "body ownership", the feeling of having (or "owning") a body.

This, not surprisingly, has sparked the interest of philosophers, psychologists, and neuroscientists – not least because the study of body ownership touches upon many of the traditional questions mentioned before. But note that, in its very definition, it entails something owning a body. Despite proposals to speak of a "lived body", most researchers refer to the "embodied self". And doesn't the notion of a self inside a body sound strikingly Cartesian?

A careful observer will notice that it is not only present-day cognitive scientists and religious people that still tend to think in Cartesian categories. Wellness programs and popular culture refer to "body and soul", psychologists and psychiatrists speak of "mental illness" as compared with physical illness, and most people find it challenging to accept that one's mental states – the famous "free will" – do in fact not cause the physical body to act.

In one of my own studies, participants were asked to indicate a physical location of their self. Almost all of them located it in either the head or the heart, and a great majority agreed that the self could be located at a specific location inside the body. Whereas this may not come as a surprise to anyone who has a general idea of philosophy since the Greeks, it is interesting that many people are still holding certain beliefs about their self that appear somewhat outdated in light of modern science. Of course, this may be grounded in the fundamental flaws of Western monotheistic religions, which have always defended the notion of an immaterial soul against all naturalism. Also, let me add that a thorough understanding of how the brain works is still something of the future and will undoubtedly constitute a milestone in the history of science. But, chances are that even a comprehensive map of the brain's countless mechanisms would not fully satisfy all of our questions.

In any case, it is safe to say that the relationship between the mind and the body is, at present, still mysterious to us. Is it not strange that we still do not know the nature of this relationship or that we cannot fully accept materialism despite scientific support? It seems difficult to counter the argument that the science of the mind has

not progressed since Descartes. But, is not the very existential justification of science to solve mysteries and explain the world in which we live – including ourselves?

Following common sense, I would say that a fair definition of scientific progress takes into account which and how many of the “grand questions” science has been able to answer. In this way, scientific progress is easily quantifiable; whenever new insights are gained and old beliefs abandoned, progress has been made in the respective field. Concordantly, many philosophers of science have claimed that scientific progress is discontinuous, happening step-wise. The revolutionary moments at which old ideas are replaced by new ones are referred to as “paradigm shifts”, a term coined by the American physicist and philosopher Thomas Kuhn.

There is nothing generally wrong with this idea. However, much too quickly are “new insights” equated with answers to existing questions. We humans are curious, but we still prefer a good, plain answer over a question. It does consequently not surprise that we would measure a science’s success or value applying the same criterion. I find it convenient and strangely rewarding to look back at the historical timeline of a specific science and tag the moments at which important questions have been answered with the label “progress made here”. Think of the advent of Newtonian physics, the groundbreaking effect of Copernicus and Galileo on our cosmological understanding, or the still not fully penetrated implications of Darwin’s idea that species evolve. These were memorable moments that have shaped the course of history. But is the number of questions answered really a suitable unit for scientific progress? I believe not.

With such a definition of scientific progress, nobody could really speak of progress (and most certainly, not of any “revolution”) in the study of the mind. To me, the mind-body problem is still one of the most intriguing questions of our time. Not because the question has not yet been answered. Rather, the problem remains fascinating because so many new questions have been raised – questions that would have probably blown Descartes’ mind.

Judging by the numerous internet blog sites maintained by scientists to facilitate sustained dialogues on exploring such subjects, there seem to be many more important questions that occupy these researchers than get incorporated into scientific journals. Publication is a competitive process

dependent upon continually demonstrating something concretely new. But if we are only to consider published work, the role we assign to science in our lives dangerously approaches a religious one: science is supposed to give us clear answers, to explain from where we originate, where we are headed, and, optimally, why we are going at all. In the scientific study of the mind, present-day research employs new methods and paradigms that provide ever more factual evidence, leading us further toward a complete understanding. And yet, when looking back at the original question, it is sometimes hard to determine where and how exactly progress has been made.

Maybe scientific progress could be quantified in terms of how much we know that we did not know before. This also applies to being mindful of so far unanswerable questions. Awareness of this relation of knowing and not knowing was advocated by Socrates, who famously remarked in Plato’s “Apology” that he considered himself wise only insofar as he was aware of his own ignorance. Thus, the point is not whether or not science can tell us what’s objectively true (this is another interesting question, of course), but that we need to establish an honest relationship between “questions”, “answers”, and “progress”.

As a psychology major, I had some hard times explaining to my parents the value of the projects I was working on and to what end all of that was leading in the long run. And yet, even though the track record of the past few hundred years of science may not seem particularly encouraging, I chose to pursue the quest about who we are. Naturally, I would very much like to have the question answered in the end. My personal comfort is that I believe science can bring us there. The essence of the mind-body relationship – although still mysterious to us – may perhaps one day be unveiled. But this will most probably not be achieved by a sudden, final advance. If we keep our expectations and definitions down to earth, we will see that the revelation lies in the course of continuous scientific progress.



Aware of his own ignorance, Jakub Limanowski studied Psychology and Cognitive Science at Heidelberg University and Cornell University and is currently trying to ask the right kind of questions as a junior researcher at the Berlin School of Mind and Brain. His belief in scientific progress, unwavering, helps him to chug along.



A Brief History of <Online> Time: how www.fulbright-alumni.de was born

by Andreas Schoberth

Remember 1995? The web was still young, mainly present in Germany at universities. Some newspapers had also begun to experiment with their online presence, struggling with – from today’s perspective – the primitive means of HTML 1.0 and browsers like Mosaic and Netscape and, of course, glacial download speeds. Your own “.de” domain came at a high price, around 1,000 Deutsche Mark per year!

I had just finished my stint as Beisitzer for the paper-based Fulbright Alumni Internal Newsletter. Issues were released after every board meeting to circulate the latest minutes to subscribed members. Information flow in the regional chapters worked by more or less periodic paper newsletters, with the occasional phone avalanche for urgent matters. These were the pre-1996-style standard means of communication in associations like ours. But then, things changed fast.

At that time, I had completed the first website for my company, FAST GmbH, and my boss was open to sponsor our Association’s homepage by dedicating a subdirectory on the FAST website. Thus in December 1996, our first internet address read <http://www.fast.de/FulbrightAlumni/> (still working today!), and the pages looked just great.

Soon, discussions about acquiring a unique web address arose. This was clearly a topic for the upcoming strategy meeting in Böblingen in 1997. Personal experience with digital media was pretty scarce for many, and arguments flew. Of all people, I must add whimsically, they were the strategic management consultants among us who opposed the purchase of our own internet domain most vehemently. Then, a true Fulbrighter, someone with a vision for the future, an architect by profession, stood up and pledged to cover the domain cost for two years from his personal funds. So, we finally got our own domain, fulbright-alumni.de, and on September 1st, 1997, www.fulbright-alumni.de saw the light of day.

After three years as Webmaster, I handed that duty over to Steffen Rodig, also a computer scientist, which helped quite a bit back then since there were hardly any user-friendly website tools available. Joe Kristensen and Uwe Koch followed in later

years, introducing interactive features and TYPO3 for the content management system, among other improvements, altogether with the usual overhaul of design and content of the website. At the moment, a lively discussion about how to make sensible use of social media for the Association is in full swing.

As a computer scientist by profession (and a Fulbrighter at heart :-), I consider myself a digital native, someone who has witnessed – and contributed to – the establishment of a communication revolution based on an actually not-so-new technology, a native with a sense of history and a thorough understanding of what’s going on behind the smoke screens of social media that purport many things users should know, but often do not – perhaps voluntarily. Back in 1995, there was serious thought about some kind of driver’s license for the internet. This idea has been drowned out completely by the



The development of the Association’s website

onslaught of economic interest. In the years to come, one can expect to witness the rise of a generation of digital naïves. If you ask me, it’s not Orwell who got it right, it’s Huxley; indeed, it is a brave new world.



Andreas Schoberth supplemented his Informatik-Diplom with a master’s degree in Computer Science during his Fulbright year (1989-’90), just to make up for all the events he missed back home during that historic year of German reunification. Establishing a business field for web technologies at FAST GmbH since 1994, he is managing the web team, customers, and projects alike at Cirquent GmbH today. Of course, every once in a while, he needs a break from all things digital and fathoms the ends of the world as a high-altitude mountaineer.

An Arab Spring Lesson on Cooperation

by Julian Fuchs and Matthias Pauthner

The value of cooperation is something rather self-evident in our globalized world. We recognize that the endeavors of people working together surpass individual efforts in almost all spheres of society. Management seminars are brimming with strategies to enhance cooperation among the work force. Similarly, the entire academic arena relies on shared knowledge and collective research. Politicians, too, constantly talk about bridging gaps and collaborating to tackle problems, although they do not always walk the talk. People work together to make progress on the most pressing issues; and yet, despite its accepted importance, cooperation still appears to be fairly underestimated and is often subject to partisanship and rivalry. Too often, the ‘realities’ of life and the status quo are assumed irrevocable.

This year’s events in the Middle East constitute an impressive testimony of what actually can be accomplished when a magnitude of people start collaborating for a common purpose. The revolutionary upheavals this spring brought down an order that had persisted in the region for decades, an order hardly anyone – including the region’s specialists – anticipated to fall anytime soon. Millions of people took to the streets and demonstrated against their autocratic rulers, risking their lives as they stood up for change.

In most countries of the Middle East, the autocratic order was already in place by the 1950s and '60s. These regimes systematically ignored popular demand and democratic values, remaining in power by means of repression and bribery. Although institutions of power-sharing and political participation were established over time, they were no more than democratic window-dressings. The notable amount of personal freedom in some countries like Egypt or Tunisia had its limits; if any-

body stood up against the existing order, he or she became acquainted with an intricate system of repression, including torture and arbitrary imprisonment. Autocratic rulers and their cronies set the political course with themselves solely as the major beneficiaries. Rampant corruption, vast socioeconomic inequalities, and a lack of governmental accountability were the consequences of the unbalanced distribution of power.

And the order persisted: While in other parts of the world, like Eastern Europe, authoritarian regimes were gradually overthrown by popular unrest and became a thing of the past, the Arab rulers remained the exception, resisting every wave of democratization. The negative repercussions of political dissent appeared to outweigh the prospects of freedom and a political voice. As a matter of fact, individual efforts were not only unsuccessful, they seemed to provoke more violence by the power-holders to silence the initiator and discourage possible imitators. Autocratic rulers coupled repression with positive incentives, like job guarantees for university graduates or basic rent packages, to ensure that regime opposition was not a palatable option.

Observers of the region recognized the longevity of the Arab regimes and their resilient character. Their verdict was that the political order in the Arab world was rather unchangeable in the foreseeable future and almost impregnable to public overthrow. Popular cooperation was not going to alter the authoritarian reality – or so we thought.

Yet, suddenly, starting in December 2010, people began to lean against the order. After the act of self-immolation of a Tunisian fruit seller, which appallingly depicted the political and societal grievances in the region, people started to gather to

demand their rights, arranging demonstrations through personal and online networks and circumventing the autocratic means of observation. Gradually, protest emerged, and eventually, hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets to change their current situation for good. One person alone would not have altered anything. The abundance of people pressing for change, however, made everything seem achievable.

The authoritarian reality was not that shatterproof after all: The Tunisian dictator, Ben Ali, had to escape the public protest and flee the country. Demonstrations subsequently spread, challenging the region’s other autocratic regimes. The people in the Arab world finally found the courage to stand up for their rights, work together for change, and defy the status quo. At the Tahrir place in Cairo, protesters assembled en masse and developed a sophisticated system of cooperation with different tasks for every participant. By maintaining the high level of demonstration and showing their dissent, the protesters were able to occupy the place in a matter of weeks. When the Egyptian autocrat Mubarak stepped down, a second authoritarian regime was toppled, and protesters’ spirits all over the Arab world were unleashed, though cooperation against Arab authoritarianism still faced serious resistance. In Bahrain, Syria, and Libya, protesters, no matter how great in number, were suppressed by the regimes’ security forces. The post-revolution developments in Tunisia and Egypt are likewise not certain at this point in time.

The Arab Spring upheavals are a breathtaking example of what obstacles can be overcome through cooperation. As the visionary anthropologist Margaret Mead stated some time ago: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” The Fulbright program essentially follows the very idea that there are hardly any limits to what people can achieve through cooperation. All our experiences with Fulbright were somehow related to the ideas of challenging the status quo through cooperation and addressing seemingly perennial problems. A Fulbright enrichment seminar in Nashville, which we both had the honor of attending, focused

on social entrepreneurship, looking for unprecedented, sustainable, and fair means of conducting business in areas from education to global health. The winning project, called “Soapeace”, outlined the sustainable and cost-efficient production and distribution of hand soap in Afghanistan to take up the fight with maternal lethality and other hygiene-related pathologies. All of the proposed business ideas were the result of the interdisciplinary cooperation of a group of young Fulbrighters. Some of these ideas – like rehabilitating prisoners into society (the “Freehab project”) – became reality.

While social entrepreneurship might seem like a small issue at first sight, it is actually about means of altering the mechanism of our economic system to benefit everybody, not only the companies’ stake holders. As another example, the annual conference of the Fulbright Academy for Science and Technology (FAST), an independent, non-geographically based alumni network, took place in Heidelberg this year to consider the ambitious theme of “Changing the World with Social Sciences”. One of the major ideas discussed was how to spread knowledge to the lesser developed parts of the world, for example, through digital libraries, which promise to supply the compilation of global wisdom to every corner of the world. These endeavors tackle the current realities and status quo which can be overcome through effective cooperation. As Fulbright alumni, being part of one of the most resourceful, wide-spread, and influential networks in the world, we should be encouraged by the recent events in the Arab world. Having witnessed what cooperation under the most unfavorable circumstances can achieve, imagine what might be possible if Fulbrighters and other leaders around the world start collaborating more intensely and in a more interdisciplinary forum. We need suitable platforms and ways of communicating effectively, like through FAST and the German Fulbright Alumni Association, to name just two, in order to foster and expand collaboration among Fulbrighters. Like Victor Hugo once said: “There is nothing more powerful than an idea whose time has come.”



Julian Fuchs is a graduate student in Political Science and Middle East studies at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg. He recently finished his master’s thesis on the political role of the army in Algeria and Egypt, in which he analyzes obstacles and catalysts of regime change. He spent his Fulbright year at Georgia State University, Atlanta, in 2009-’10.



Matthias Pauthner is a Ph.D. student in Immunology conducting research on adaptive immunity within the DFG Graduate School at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg. He was a Fulbright scholar in 2009-’10, during which he obtained a master’s degree at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Together with a team of fellow Fulbrighters, Matthias co-founded the Soapeace project during the Fulbright enrichment seminar on social entrepreneurship in Nashville in 2010.

A New Approach to Integration

by Özden Sevimli

Integration

If you live in Germany, you are likely familiar with the term “integration”. Perhaps you associate it with photographs of women in veils walking through a metropolitan city center. Maybe you recall Thilo Sarrazin, that former Finance Senator of the State of Berlin, SPD politician, and member of the executive board of Deutsche Bundesbank (at that time) who, in 2010, fueled an intense public discourse advocating his eradivative opinions on integration, specifically offending Muslim immigrants. Afterwards, he wrote a bestselling book about this topic, “Deutschland schafft sich ab (Germany abolishes itself)”.

Integration is an intriguing, multi-faceted, and emotional topic, thus inviting many different people to become involved in its process and influence its outlook: sociologists define and study broad areas for research, politicians garner attention by proclaiming strong opinions, the media invests in a great propaganda topic, and the tactless neighbor from across the street takes advantage of an unhealthy public opinion to rail against “all those immigrants who have many kids, make a lot of noise, and clearly don’t want to be integrated.”

But what does integration really mean? Merriam-Webster defines it as “the incorporation as equals into society or an organization of individuals of different groups (as races)”. The Oxford Dictionary similarly describes it as “the act of mixing people who have previously been separated, usually because of color, race, religion, etc”.

My understanding of integration has always been the process of adaption of immigrants into the local (e.g., German) “code of living”. Growing up in a very multicultural environment, I’ve thought deeply about immigration, integration, and intercultural communication ever since my childhood, when I was constantly observing and analyzing customs and obstacles, usually enjoying the process all the while. (As a side note, most discussions about integration typically omit one important point: It is not different cultural backgrounds that often make immigration so difficult, but rather low educational and socioeconomic backgrounds.)

Integration and myself

My parents are Turkish, and they’ve been living in Germany for more than 40 years as honest and diligent citizens. Thanks to their support, I did what, unfortunately, only very few of the children of Turkish immigrants in my close environment were doing at that time: I went to the Gymnasium and proved a good student, I participated in the school theater group, and I attended university and lived abroad. I have almost always been the only “non-German” among my colleagues, but I would describe my childhood as being very

“German”. I grew up reading “Löwenzahn” books and “Die 3 Fragezeichen” and later the magazine “Bravo”, listening to the Backstreet Boys, writing “Willst du mit mir gehen?” notes, eating “Brezeln” and “Pommes”, watching “Winnetou”, “Knight Rider”, “Bud Spencer” – and also classic Turkish movies with my Dad. All of my important social units were German – except the one that is probably the most sustainable, the family. At home, I primarily lived a Turkish reality. Among the defining characteristics were Turkish food (delicious!) and emphasized traditional values, such as respect for parents and the elderly, hospitality, honor, warm-heartedness, love for children, and also melodrama and emotional discussions rather than rational ones, just to name a few.

Integration has never played a major role in my life, much less, a hindrance; my situation was simply natural, nothing I had to think about. How could I possibly not be integrated? I love travelling and living in different cities and countries. I adapt fairly quickly to different environments while upholding my characteristic traits, plenty of which habitually manifest my cultural origin. Some of those traits would classify as German, while others Turkish.

Living in San Francisco during my studies (where, by the way, German bread was the only thing I really missed), I was stunned by how naturally people would claim to be “American”, and without contention. In Germany, we’re not quite there yet. People refer to me as “the Turkish girl”, and my colleagues ask me how it was “back home” after a holiday in Turkey. I observe all of this with great sociological interest, rather than with resentment. After all, I’ve asked myself very often whether I was, indeed, Turkish or German, and in the end, I always opted for both. In other words, “German with some Turkish” or “German in the head, Turkish in the heart.” But, in fact, I cannot really define it. It’s not so black and white. I speak German better than Turkish, and home has always been in Bavaria. But on the other hand, I can’t resist cuddling people’s babies on the street or feeling touched when someone calls me “canim” (a Turkish expression for “sweetheart”, literally meaning “my life”).

“Extegration”

A while back, a new thought arose that relates to the concept of integration, which I would like to finally share. Please let me introduce a new vocabulary term: “extegration”.

Let me explain: I first considered the concept of what I now call “extegration” when I visited my parents a few months ago and my mother said: “You’re too ‘Germanized!’” I don’t recall what behavior of mine caused this accusation. Maybe I hadn’t shown the appropriate amount of respect and heavily

disagreed with her on something or I had tried to convince her that she really didn’t need to drive herself mad cooking a 5-star menu for every visiting family, when just a cup of tea and some snacks would be equally, if not even more, appropriate.

So, I began down an introspective pathway to better understand the situation. Was it possible that I had not only moved away from my parents’ Turkish lifestyle, but that I could be leaving a great deal of “Turkishness” behind?

Yes, in the process of integrating into a German lifestyle, apparently I had diverged from more of a Turkish lifestyle (as my parents live it), at least more than I thought. My “extegration” took place subtly over the years and had left me with the strange feeling of not belonging. I get bored during conversations about the newest developments in dramatic Turkish operas that I never watch, I can’t contribute anything to conversations about recipes and cooking tips, and I have different thoughts on marriage, sexuality, and self-fulfillment, for instance.

It’s true, I’ve moved and I’m somewhere else now. But what I know to be true is not that I have abandoned certain qualities for the sake of achieving others. I haven’t become poorer, but richer. “Extegration” might sound negative, like the opposite of the more positive term, integration, with “ex” meaning “out” and suggesting the end of something. However, “extegration”, as I’ve described it here, certainly does not refer to anything adverse. The results of my path have been that I know myself better, I am aware of the consequent choices I’ve made, and I realized that I have gained much from the cross-cultural experience. I am still Turkish and will always be; there were just some traits that didn’t fit me so well, and those I abandoned while adopting German or even San Franciscan traits along my journey. It’s not about giving up anything, but finding out and defining who you are – beyond cultural borders. It’s about leaving unnecessary luggage behind in order to pursue a journey for what suits you best. I believe that every step of “extegration” provides us with more insight into ourselves and every subsequent integration with more insight into others.

In the end, “extegration”, just like integration, simply means one thing: showing understanding and respect – for yourself and others.



Who am I?

Integration:
I am German.

Extegration:
I am not part of this.



Özden Sevimli is a 2009 alumnus holding an MBA from California State University and an International Business Diploma from ESB Reutlingen. Besides working as Brand Manager for Henkel, she also enjoys philosophizing and, amongst others, discussing cultures, migration, and integration issues. She encourages interested readers to share their thoughts or questions: [oezden.sevimli\(a\)gmail.com](mailto:oezden.sevimli(a)gmail.com)



PowWows / Focus Conferences

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

A selection of past events:

- 2011 The German Fulbright Alumni Association at 25: Shaping a Changing World, Berlin
- 2009 change@crisis, Munich
- 2007 Climate Change, Erlangen
- 2005 J. William Fulbright Centennial, Frankfurt
- 2004 EU Enlargement, Berlin
- 2002 Quo vadis USA, Berlin
- 2001 Nutrition, Calw
- 1999 Biotechnology, Frauenchiemsee
- 1998 Intercultural Communications, Frankfurt
- 1997 Managing Public Organizations, Frankfurt
- 1996 A Chance for Global Understanding, Berlin
- 1995 Environmental Strategy, Heidenheim
- 1994 Where is our New Frontier? Stuttgart
- 1993 Market Leadership and Brand Names, Böblingen
- 1992 Health, Cologne
- 1991 German Reunification and the Future of German-American Relations, Berlin
- 1990 Signs for Tomorrow's Architecture, Landscape, and Urban Development, Darmstadt
- 1989 The French Revolution in American and German Perspectives, Regensburg
- 1988 The United States and Germany: Corporate Cultures in Comparison, Mannheim

History and Purpose

The German Fulbright Alumni e.V. was founded in Frankfurt in 1986 by former Fulbrighters and now has over 1,200 members. The Association is guided by the ideas of the program's founder, Senator J. William Fulbright, to bring together people of different nations to contribute to world peace through better international understanding.

The Association gathers globally minded students, scholars, and practitioners of a wide range of academic fields and professional expertise. Most of our members have spent a Fulbright year in the United States, and the Fulbright Alumni e.V. serves as the platform for which former grantees can continue to promote and work toward global understanding. We are committed to diversity, acceptance, and true internationality and perpetually strive to encourage further education regarding others' customs, histories, and challenges.

Based on personal and academic experiences and insights gained through participation in an international exchange program, the fundamental tenets of the mission of German Fulbright Alumni e.V. members are the following:

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

In promoting its political support for the Fulbright program, our Association maintains close but independent contact with the Fulbright Commission in Berlin to support the German-American Fulbright program.

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

Activities

Based on a young, lively, and broad-based membership, our Association organizes a diverse range of regional and nation-wide events. Admission is reduced for members of the Association, but all events are open to guests and members of partner organizations.

National Events

The Fulbright Alumni e.V. organizes a series of national events every year in order to realize the goals mentioned above. Equally important are the exchanges fostered among our members and interdisciplinary discussions on current issues.

General Assembly & Winterball

Every year, all members are invited to the 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.

After the General Assembly, the Winterball takes place to mark another year in celebration. The weekend event is held in a different city every year and is one of our annual highlights.

Welcome Meeting

Each Fall, the Welcome Meeting offers an exciting opportunity for contacts and networking. Our main goal is to welcome back German returnees as well as get to know American Fulbrighters just embarking on their Fulbright experience in Germany. The meetings foster discussion forums to address issues relevant to those newly returned from a year abroad and jointly serve as an introduction to the Fulbright family beyond the exchange year.

Strategy Meeting

At the Strategy Meeting, the most devoted core of our members gather to discuss the present and future of the Association we all hold so dear.

Sailing Trip

"Bright People under Full Sail": International sailing trips on the Baltic Sea have been organized every two years since 1991.

Family Weekend

Our yearly summer event, which has been held in Saxony since 2000, is primarily geared towards families with children – however, anyone is welcome to join as a member of the Fulbright family!

International Activities

Our Association places emphasis on strengthening personal contacts among Fulbright alumni from around the world. Some core activities are listed here:

- 2010 Fulbright Association 33rd Annual Conference, Buenos Aires
- 2008 Fulbright Association 31st Annual Conference, Beijing
- 2006 Fulbright Association 29th Annual Conference, Marrakesh
- 2004 The International Interdisciplinary Fulbright Conference, Olympism and the Fulbright Spirit: Humanism in Action, Athens
- 2000 3rd European Fulbright Alumni workshop, Toledo
- 1998 European Fulbright Alumni Workshop, Strasbourg
- 1993 European Fulbright Alumni Convention, Brussels

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 coordinators listed to the right. Other typical events open to everyone include movies, outdoor activities, and cultural events. Of course, we also celebrate American holidays, such as Independence Day and Thanksgiving.

Our Services

The Association publishes the national journal, the FRANKly, every Fall, as well as 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 here.

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Karsten Voigt
Ulrich Wickert

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president(a)fulbright-alumni.de
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Vice President Communications – Thomas Wagner
vp.communications(a)fulbright-alumni.de
Vice President Events – Timo Klein
vp.events(a)fulbright-alumni.de
Vice President Members – Susanne Döring
vp.members(a)fulbright-alumni.de

Coordinators

coordinators(a)fulbright-alumni.de
Office Processes – Isabelle Boeddinghaus
office.mgmt(a)fulbright-alumni.de
International Cooperation – Wiltrud Hammelstein
international(a)fulbright-alumni.de
Jürgen Mulert Award – Steffen Schmuck-Soldan
mulert.award(a)fulbright-alumni.de
FRANKly – Julianne McCall
editor.frankly(a)fulbright-alumni.de
Online Editor – Susanne Meier
editor.online(a)fulbright-alumni.de
Online Community – Ida Storm Jansen
community(a)fulbright-alumni.de
Image Film – Stephan Meyer-Brehm
video(a)fulbright-alumni.de
Webmaster – Uwe Koch
webmaster(a)fulbright-alumni.de
Mailing Lists – Holger Schöner
mailinglists(a)fulbright-alumni.de
Member Database – Hermes Winands
datamanagement(a)fulbright-alumni.de
Family Weekend – Elke Handschug-Brosin
familyweekend(a)fulbright-alumni.de
Sailing Trip – Dagmar Schreiber
sailing-trip(a)fulbright-alumni.de
Welcome Meeting – Carsten Kuschnerus
welcomemeeting(a)fulbright-alumni.de
Diversity Alumni – Tim Prien, Shamaïla Ghaffar, and Han Le
diversity(a)fulbright-alumni.de

Regional Chapters

regional.chapters(a)fulbright-alumni.de

Berlin

Karin-Irene Eiermann
rc.berlin(a)fulbright-alumni.de
http://www.fulbright-alumni.de/regional-chapters/berlin.html

Bremen

Ingeborg Mehser, +49 421 3760080
rc.bremen(a)fulbright-alumni.de

Dresden

Elke Brosin, +49 351 4272607
rc.dresden(a)fulbright-alumni.de

Franken

Désirée Doyle, +49 172 8346629
rc.franken(a)fulbright-alumni.de
http://www.fulbright-alumni.de/regional-chapters/franken.html

Frankfurt am Main

Mario Reichel, +49 6101 825358
rc.frankfurt(a)fulbright-alumni.de
http://www.fulbright-alumni.de/regional-chapters/frankfurt.html

Hamburg

David Patrician
rc.hamburg(a)fulbright-alumni.de

Hannover

Dana Müller-Hoeppe
rc.hannover(a)fulbright-alumni.de

Köln/Bonn

Ulrich Götz
rc.koeln-bonn(a)fulbright-alumni.de

Leipzig

Tilman Schenk, +49 341 97-32974
rc.leipzig(a)fulbright-alumni.de

Mannheim/Heidelberg

Benjamin Pflieger, +49 172 6147635
rc.mannheim-heidelberg(a)fulbright-alumni.de

München

Florian Kühnel, +49 171 2477727
rc.muenchen(a)fulbright-alumni.de
http://www.fulbright-alumni.de/regional-chapters/munich.html

Rhein/Ruhr

Johannes Schulz, +49 162 1317731
rc.rhein-ruhr(a)fulbright-alumni.de
http://www.fulbright-alumni.de/regional-chapters/rheinruhr.html

Stuttgart

Jan Makowski, +49 151 56141235
rc.stuttgart(a)fulbright-alumni.de
http://www.fulbright-alumni.de/regional-chapters/stuttgart.html

Fulbright Exchanges – Inspiring Innovation

The 33rd Annual Fulbright Conference Buenos Aires, Argentina

by Timo Klein

After an estimated 27 hours of travel time from Frankfurt to Buenos Aires, the change of climate immediately redeemed the physically demanding trip. Leaving on a cold and rainy German November morning just to be blinded by what was obviously only Spring in Argentina (at a low 30°C) took some getting used to, but I really couldn't complain! What I had to get used to, though, was the world's widest street, which usually took five minutes, a keen sense of strategy, and death-defying courage to cross. Fulbrighters embrace the danger!

The 33rd Annual Fulbright Conference took place in the NH Hotel, adjacent to the Plaza de Mayo with its famous 'Casa Rosada' (you might remember that Eva Peron/Madonna tune). After a welcoming panel at Pontifical Catholic University, close to the beautiful harbor, we returned to the Plaza de Mayo for a reception with Vilma Martinez, Ambassador to the U.S., in the City Hall. She took her time to welcome every guest individually while snacks and beverages facilitated first encounters as well as long-awaited reunions with Fulbrighters from around the world in this historical building. However, since most participants had only arrived recently, everyone was also happy to catch up on sleep in anticipation of an early start to the conference the next day.

The opening lecture by Helena Hammond of Surrey University addressed "Spectacular Histories: the Ballets Russes, International Cultural Exchange and the Historical Imagination",

and while I have to admit that dancing is not one of my strong suits, it was an interesting take on how it impacted history. This demonstrates perfectly the overall greatness of Fulbright conferences: one becomes acquainted with the most diverse areas of study. Afterwards, I went with a group of people I had met the day before to add our own roundtable to the existing set on the spot because we realized we had a lot of cultural experiences to share about our respective stays in the U.S. and Argentina. This day ended with a nice banquet dinner and a lecture by Carlos Rosenkrantz, the Rector of the University of San Andrés, who pointed out a few - what he believed to be - problems of the Argentinian mindset in the context of a globalized world. The ensuing debate was about as hot as the food being served!

The third day, a Saturday, was reserved for various panels. After an interesting discussion about "Environment and Technology", I was given the opportunity to represent the Alumni Association on the "Innovative Practices for Fulbright Alumni Associations" panel. It was my impression that the Fulbright alumni world actually looks up to us because, after I introduced the audience to our practices and events, there were a lot of questions of the kind, "Why does it work so well in Germany?" Luckily, Wiltrud and Juliane were also among the listeners and could chime in with some details predating my membership. Our general impression was that the German alumni are on the right track, and not just by comparison with others.

Buenos Aires Harbor;
photo: Timo Klein



Youth of an urban music and achievement program perform a concert; photo: Timo Klein



"Innovative Practices for Fulbright Alumni Associations" panel; photo: Timo Klein



Atlantic Sunset; photo: Timo Klein



Casa Rosada; photo: Timo Klein

In the evening, we were treated to the most affective event of the conference. Néstor Tedesco, a professor of cello at the National Art Institute University, conducted an orchestra of young children from various low-income neighborhoods of the city. He devised this musical refuge as an opportunity to accomplish something as a group, an experience most of the children (some not older than five!) rarely make otherwise. Some people might also claim it was even more moving to watch me make my first tango steps in the free lesson afterwards, but that is an entirely different story.

The final Sunday was comparably shorter in terms of the program. Two 'task force' plenaries (which appeared to have been recruited half an hour before ☺) gave us insight into more recent political events in Argentina as well as an overview on the development of education in the country. With a distinct sense of being well informed, everyone felt they deserved the abundant final lunch. During the dessert, Saúl Sosnowski of the University of Maryland gave his keynote speech on the Argentinians in general, making everybody laugh heartily throughout the presentation. This was definitely a successful conference, and I can only recommend a trip to Buenos Aires, city of sun, good humor, and wonderful hospitality!



Temple;
photo: Barbara Weiten

Visit of Fulbright Alumni Associations to the Republic of China (Taiwan)

by Barbara Weiten



Taipei 101; photo: Barbara Weiten



participants and Mofa representatives at the Flora exhibition; photo: Barbara Weiten

Nightmarket; photo: Barbara Weiten

I was quite surprised when I answered a call from the Taipei Representative Office in Berlin inviting me to visit Taiwan. As it turns out, Dr. Kwei-Bo Huang, a former Fulbright scholar and currently the Director of the Center for Foreign Policy

outstanding professionals to meet the needs of the global society (cf. <http://english.moe.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=11981&ctNode=10632&mp=2> and <http://ccs.ncl.edu.tw/ccs2/MOFA/english/regulation.aspx>).

During a five-day program in Taipei, Taiwan's capital, Dr. Keimi Harada, President of FAA Japan, Francis McGoldrick, President of FAA Ireland, Dr. Anne Pakir, President of FAA Singapore, John Swinson, Vice President of FAA Australia, and myself, then President of FAA Germany, had the opportunity to meet with various members of the Taiwanese policy, education, and exchange communities, among them our host Dr. Kwei-Bo Huang, Dr. Se-Hwa Wu, President of National Chengchi University and President of FAA Taiwan, and Dr. Jih-Chu Lee, Fulbright alumnus and Political Vice Chairperson of Taiwan's Financial Supervisory Commission. When discussing various exchange

programs and alumni activities, we were struck by continuing national differences: Due to an appreciation for seniority, our Taiwanese hosts were amazed at my age – I was the youngest attendee by quite a few years and, now a “retired” former FAA president in Germany, would have had to wait about thirty years to be eligible for “potential future board member status” in Japan.

In addition to official meetings, we enjoyed an amazing cultural program, offering us insights into various facets of Taiwanese history, politics, economy, and culture. Among other activities, we visited Taipei 101, until 2010, the world's tallest building,

and the CKS Memorial Hall, dedicated to Taiwan's controversial former president/dictator Chiang Kai-shek, learned about Taiwanese export strength at a renowned glass and ceramic manufacturer and at the International Flora Exposition, viewed highlights of Chinese culture at the National Palace Museum, and attended an astonishing vocal performance by aboriginal singers Kimbo Hu, Inka Mbing, and Nger-Nger at National Chengchi University.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Dr. Kwei-Bo Huang and the Taiwanese Ministry for Foreign Affairs for inviting us, Yushan Liang, our escort officer from MoFA in Taiwan, for her friendly and engaging company, Li-Ling Chu and Director Karl Cheng from the Taipei Representative Offices in Berlin and Munich for all their help, as well as my fellow Fulbright alumni delegation members for great conversations and five memorable days.

After the end of the official program, I was lucky to be able to spend a few extra days to further explore Taiwan, such as Taroko Gorge and Yangmingshan national parks, Buddhist and Confucian temples, crowded nightmarkets, quiet gardens, and hyper-consumerist neon-lit shopping streets. As an example of the incredible friendliness of the people I met, some nice Taiwanese girls (pictured here) gave me a ride through Taroko Gorge national park, took the time for photo stops, and later even emailed me pictures.

I definitely recommend visiting Taiwan if you get the chance!



Taiwanese girls kindly giving Barbara a ride in Taroko Gorge national park; photo: Barbara Weiten



Fulbright Alumni Association delegates, from left to right: Keimi Harada (Japan), Barbara Weiten (Germany), Anne Pakir (Singapore), John Swinson (Australia), and Francis McGoldrick (Ireland); photo: Barbara Weiten

Studies at National Chengchi University and Chairman of the Research and Planning Committee at Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), had decided to invite a delegation of Fulbright Alumni Association (FAA) presidents from Europe and the Asia-Pacific region in order to discuss diverse national experiences with the Fulbright program and to incorporate them into further expanding the Taiwanese Fellowship program. Modeled after the Fulbright program, the Taiwanese Fellowship aims to promote knowledge, understanding, and friendship between people in Taiwan and in countries around the world, to increase academic and educational links with international institutions of higher learning, and to develop



Karin-Irene Eiermann and Cambodian Fulbright alumni in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, January 2011; photo: Karin-Irene Eiermann

Meeting Fulbrighters in Cambodia

by Karin-Irene Eiermann

That Fulbright alumni truly do compose a global community is proven again and again... When our Association member Karin-Irene Eiermann, now the coordinator of the regional chapter in Berlin, was traveling in Cambodia in early 2011, she met with the members of the newly founded Cambodian Fulbright Alumni Association in Phnom Penh.



Reichstag by moonlight;
photo: Timo Klein



Official Opening;
photo: Julianne McCall



Concert Hall of the University of the Arts;
photo: Katie Ferguson



Music Gala Reception;
photo: Timo Klein

Fostering Fulbright Connections Among So Many Fulbrighters In So Little Time

by Gil Carbajal

The Berlin Seminar is unique within the Fulbright world for bringing together a varied and large representation of people of different ages and backgrounds. Married couples are encouraged to bring their children, and attendance by senior scholars and alumni raise the median age average. Organized originally to bring together Fulbright grantees in Germany for a midterm retreat to evaluate their experience living abroad, the Seminar soon extended invitations to Fulbrighters in neighboring countries.

An innovative initiative was added to its program in 2009 by including some 200 Germans on their way to spend the academic year in the U.S. Gathering together more than 500 Fulbrighters within a culturally dynamic and diverse Berlin, the Seminar offers extraordinary possibilities for encounters and networking on the basis of personal and professional affinities. The program is designed to enhance those possibilities. This year, it was organized under the theme of “Connecting Fulbrighters”. The American and German Fulbrighters share activities for just four days, and finding colleagues in the same academic field or from the same city or region is often simply due to serendipity. With such a brief period for encounters while attending conferences and workshops and partying until the wee hours of the night, it is no wonder that some get the feeling that there are “so many Fulbrighters but so little time!” This year, the program included an event specifically aimed at facilitating networking between Germans and American grantees. And, given the Seminar’s talent for innovation and improvement, coming years will provide even greater in-person networking opportunities for the Facebook generation!

Since it was first held 57 years ago amid the war-charred remnants of Berlin, the Seminar has added a series of elements that help create an unforgettable experience. These include tours of the city, a gala concert performed by Fulbright musi-

cians, and a disco night farewell party. Another ingredient added in recent years has been the active participation by the German Fulbright Alumni Association. An address by the President of the Association now seems to be a fixed part of the program. And for the past three years, alumni have organized panels to talk about life after the Fulbright Grant and about the support offered by the growing network of Fulbright alumni associations throughout the world.

It was thanks to tapping Fulbright connections that I myself first found out about the Berlin Seminar. While still at Stanford University but due to go to Spain, I got in touch with two returning Fulbrighters at neighboring Berkeley University to get an idea of what might be in store for me as a Fulbright Fellow. I don’t remember now much of what they told me except for a glowing report about the Berlin Seminar and a strong recommendation that I should by all means try to attend. That information proved invaluable because the Spanish Commission at the time didn’t publicize the event. Two grantees were simply chosen to go each year, and by expressing my interest, I was one of those chosen in 1975.

The Berlin Wall by then was firmly in place, and the Seminar lasted much longer than its current four-day extension. In recent years, I have been able to return several times and to appreciate how it has evolved along with the city, which has long since ceased to be divided into East and West.

But my appreciation of the Seminar’s evolution is superficial compared to that of Rainer Rohr, who is in charge of the American Programs of the German Fulbright Commission. He has been organizing the Seminar since the 1980s and recalls the emotions evoked by the sight of the heavily fortified wall with Communist soldiers menacingly peering over it as Russian tanks stood by. Those emotions have been replaced by ones

inspired by the freedom of a reunited city; and, he says you have to be forty or older to remember what it felt like to live in a divided city. While the Wall was up, the issues discussed in the Seminar dealt with a divided Germany and Europe. Since its fall, the focus has been on the role of a united Germany in uniting Europe.

Mr. Rohr points out that the Seminar, after being confined by the Wall for years, took advantage of the freedom of a united city by moving the center of gravity of its activities from Kurfurstendamm in the West to Unter den Linden in the East in 1994. The Fulbright Commission followed suit by moving its headquarters to the former eastern sector in 1999.

Another veteran of the Seminar is pianist Joe Nykiel, who has been organizing the gala music concerts for well over twenty years. He recalls how musicians would cross the Wall to take advantage of bargain prices. Since they were obliged to change 25 marks at an artificial 1-1 exchange rate, they spent all their Eastern German marks, practically worthless in the West, buying stacks of sheet music, which made them especially suspicious looking when they passed inspection on their way back to West Berlin. Some of the participants in the gala concerts, such as Renee Fleming, have gone on to be major performing artists. Joe vividly remembers a musical spoof of the year he participated in the Gala Concert, based on Pachelbel’s “Canon in D”. “We did different versions of it,” he recalls. “We did a Baroque version, a new music version, and Renee, who used to sing in jazz clubs, did a Scat singing version.” Especially impressive in this year’s Gala Concert was a multimedia evocation of Marlene Dietrich by mezzo soprano Jennifer Julian Johnson and a violin-piano rendition of Saint-Saens’ “Introduction et Rondo capriccioso” by husband and wife, Daniel and Shelby Sender.

A contribution by the German Alumni Association to the Seminar this year was a panel titled, “The Value of Networks”. We all emphasized that, as former grantees, we were willing and able to be of service to new members of the Fulbright family. For those who chose to stay on in their host countries after their grant, alumni can provide valuable leads and contacts for continuing their work. And for those undergoing the culture shock of reentry after having lived in a foreign country, we can serve as a sympathetic support group, since we have all been through that experience before.

To illustrate my comments on the importance of the Fulbright network, I pointed to a number of alumni who had attended the Berlin Seminar in recent years, such as Cristobal Ramon, the son of Salvadoran immigrants to the U.S. whose project in Spain focused on that country’s immigration policy and who now works for the Federal Trade Commission; Rachel Yingling, who studied International Relations in Madrid and now works for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture in Washington; Jon Fougner who studied the microeconomics of public education in Norway and is now a marketing executive for Facebook; Haroula Rose, a former Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Madrid who is now a singer-songwriter; and Dave Larson who had an English Teaching Assistantship in Pamplona, Spain and is now finishing Medical School at the University of Southern California with a specialization in Integrative Mind-Body Medicine. I focused on how the Fulbright connection had affected their lives after their Fulbright Fellowships. In an email answering a questionnaire I had sent him, Dave Larson summed it up succinctly: “Just having the name Fulbright on my CV has opened so many doors – getting into great med schools, scholarships, residency positions, and on and on....”



Winterball 2011

by Chris Dietl

This year's annual Winterball took place in the romantic town of Heidelberg. It was the first to be organized by the relatively young chapter Mannheim/Heidelberg in the Rhine-Neckar region. I had been looking forward to this weekend - I had not yet attended a nation-wide gathering of Fulbrighters since I had returned from studying abroad in Tucson, Arizona earlier in the year. Having the opportunity to meet other Fulbrighters from a variety of backgrounds at such venerable places around the globe is certainly among the greatest benefits of the grant program.

The Winterball weekend started with a lively get-together at Das Boothaus, a nautical-themed restaurant nicely located along the Neckar River. After collecting some lost people in the labyrinthine city (the U.S. grid system certainly has its advantages), the introductions were non-stop as we all became acquainted, each of us with a unique story to tell.

The General Assembly claimed the majority of the next day, and despite following a rather short night, the attendance was impressive with new and old members alike. The organizing committee went above and beyond with the breakfast and lunch spread, supplying ample provisions for the many presentations and discussions about the status and future of the Association. Elections took place for each of the Board positions, adding some fresh faces to the leadership team.

Evening came, and it was time to iron the shirt, polish the shoes, and prepare for the actual ball, the event everyone was looking forward to. The venue was none other than the prominent "Stadthalle", a conference center and concert hall with old "Gründerzeit"-type architecture. The ball started with a round of sparkling wine as each entered through the doors to the ballroom, brightly decorated with magnificent ornaments. The speakers Edward M. Alford (Consul General, Frankfurt), Rolf Hoffmann (Executive Director, Fulbright Commission, Germany), and Jeanine Collins (Public Affairs Officer

at the General Consulate, Frankfurt) presented interesting and inspiring thoughts to the audience of over 180. Mayor Wolfgang Erichson provided the visitors with a brief history of Heidelberg and a heartfelt welcome to the famous city during its year-long celebration of the 625th Anniversary of Germany's oldest university. Soon after the speeches, the gourmet dishes were served, and the crowd engaged in fostering the network many respect as a family. And there it was again, a typical Fulbright moment: We found ourselves sitting amongst people from different countries, talking freely with one another, and fully realizing the magnitude of the talent that filled the enormous room. I could not help but consider how much more peaceful the world would probably be if more people could experience this. Naturally for this group, the concept of mutual exchange was transferred spiritedly to the dance floor.

Sunday began perfectly with a delicious brunch in the Altstadt at a local favorite, Havana restaurant, with the entire group together one last time. To satisfy the interest in local culture, various guided tours were organized. As a local, I did not expect to learn much, but my tour turned out to be very interesting: Did you know that Mark Twain lived in Heidelberg for an extended period of time and that a part of the "Neue Universität" in Heidelberg was sponsored by American entrepreneurs like P. Chrysler and John D. Rockefeller in 1928? Unfortunately, Mark Twain was not very fond of the German language, but this resulted in the hilarious chapter "The Awful German Language" in his highly recommended book, "A Tramp Abroad".

As is typical for a group known for its fast pace and diverse involvements, events are always too short and farewells come all too quickly. Fortunately, the internet makes it easier to continue the conversations that should never end. As a final note, many thanks are due to Benjamin Pfleger and the Mannheim/Heidelberg Chapter for organizing this event. I am already looking forward to the next Winterball in Schwerin!



Heidelberg Hauptstrasse;
Photo: Thales Gutcke

Winterball Opening Speeches,
Heidelberg Stadthalle;
photo: Julianne McCall



Heidelberg Old Bridge;
photo: Julianne McCall

Guests of honor; photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein



Several of the newly elected board
members, with strong coffee at the ready,
prepare for an ambitious year ahead;
photo: Julianne McCall



Recent alumni enjoy brunch at
Havana Restaurant in Heidelberg;
photo: Julianne McCall



First workshop venue,
Goethe University,
photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein

Returnees and Current Fulbrighters Celebrate the Alumni Network at the Welcome Meeting in Frankfurt am Main

by Charlotte Horn

Fulbrighters conquer Frankfurt: Anyone wondering why some 120 students were flocking to the Goethe University on a Saturday morning would have come to an unexpected answer: The Fulbright Alumni Welcome Meeting 2010! The Frankfurt “Fullies” welcomed participants from all over Germany – returnees, American scholars, and German Fulbrighters – to reign in the special Fulbright spirit for the fourth annual Welcome Meeting, which took place from October 22nd to October 24th, 2010. The event was organized, among others, by German Fulbrighter Carsten Kuschnerus, who added, “Fulbright does not only mean networking at the Stammtisch. The fact that I received so much while a Fulbrighter in the U.S. has inspired me to be a part of that support network here in Germany. I see the Welcome Meeting as being a perfect opportunity to get to know other Fulbrighters.”

The Welcome Meeting offered a pleasant mixture of small talk and workshops. The event began on Friday evening with a get-together at a local apple wine restaurant, Lorsbacher Thal. The program highlights followed on Saturday with American Fulbrighter David Patrician opening the conference

with an entertaining workshop “Living the Fulbright Spirit”. Following the subsequent presentation of the German Fulbright Alumni Association (FAA), the participants went off despite the cool weather to discover the campus area (which was the former HQ of the U.S. Military Administration before being converted into a university campus). German Fulbrighter Nina Rehage recalls her American experience quite vividly: “I came to the Welcome Meeting to get to know people and to exchange experiences. In my American dormitory, there were people from all over the world. I miss that here”. German Fulbrighter Özden Sevimli, who missed her own Welcome Meeting the year before and was all the more happy that it worked out this year, added, “I think the Fulbright events are great because you always meet old friends and are able to make new ones.”

The program continued at the offices of The Boston Consulting Group, located on the 12th floor of the landmark building Die Welle, offering a wonderful view of Frankfurt’s skyline. With a brief lunch, the Fullies warmed up for the workshops:

- How to become a management consultant (Markus Lorenz)
- How to survive Germany? (Bryan Baker)
- Mastering your reverse culture shock (Claus Binder)
- Synergetic Scenery – Production among strangers (Cem Yüçetas; article following)
- After Copenhagen – Adjusting to climate change (Nadia Manasfi)
- Documercial Web Campaigning – Let your own people speak (Dirk Hendler)

‘Diplomacy Disneyland’, because within the colony, everything is Americanized, almost like living in a bubble. In his work, he misses the normal contact to locals that he experienced as a Fulbrighter in Rostock.

The keynote speech was followed by a change of location to Frankfurt’s first craft brewery Zu den 12 Aposteln. The rustic location was the perfect backdrop for excellent food, drinks, and discussions, and not only about the U.S. “The opportunity



Angelina Toscani



Rolf Hoffmann



Nightly impressions; all photos: Wiltrud Hammelstein

Ursula Mich, FAA, has attended many Welcome Meetings, commenting, “The great thing about it is to meet the new Fullies and see the old Fullies again. Despite the ever-changing agenda, I notice every year that everyone has, in essence, had the same experiences. The FAA is unique in that you see year after year what you experienced – culture seen from both directions. Attending the Welcome Meetings, I often think about my own Fulbright scholarship to the U.S. The funny thing is, people are always telling me that my friends are continually getting younger. That’s a great side-effect of the Fulbright network.”

American Fulbrighter Dolissa Medina had arrived in Germany just a few weeks prior and mentioned, “It felt great having the opportunity to get to know other Fulbrighters from both Germany and the U.S. I attended the workshop “How to survive Germany?” and found it full of good information. I really enjoyed the cross-cultural dialogue between German and American Fulbrighters about the differences between both cultures. For me, it’s the first time living in another country. So, I feel like a guest in another people’s nation. This Welcome Meeting is a good start for a good year in Germany.”

After a coffee break, Thomas Scott Brown from the U.S. State Department gave a very intriguing keynote speech about his life as a member of the Foreign Service – an unsettled life due to the change of location every five years, but also very exciting because of this. Soon, Mr. Brown will be transferred to Islamabad. He described the colony of the U.S. Embassy as

to see old and meet new Fulbrighters is what makes the Welcome Meeting so special,” commented American Fulbrighter Bryan Baker. His German counterpart, Ingeborg Cleve, who joined FAA during its foundational phase, added, “Being part of the Welcome Meeting is like experiencing a flashback, when I see people from the beginnings of FAA and especially when I see the young Fulbrighters. To me, my Fulbright year was a gate into a wide world and the time when I started to think international.”

Towards the end of the evening, the DJ was asked to play Udo Jürgens’ “Ich war noch niemals in New York”, which surely expressed the nostalgia that many people were feeling. Afterwards, a small group of people tore up the slopes of Frankfurt’s night life ‘til dawn.

The Welcome Meeting 2010 came slowly to an end with Sunday brunch at Café Extrablatt. FAA board member and German Fulbrighter Benjamin Becker offered a positive conclusion to the weekend, “This has been my third Welcome Meeting, during which the event has moved towards a more interactive format.” While the FAA board members were already planning the upcoming year’s events, Carsten Kuschnerus took the rest of the group on an entertaining sightseeing tour, including the sky scraper Maintower’s viewing platform, downtown, and the stock exchange. Already that evening on Facebook, new friends were added and comments posted that undoubtedly summarized what everyone had been thinking of that weekend – “Thank you J. William Fulbright!”

All's well that ends well:

An ambitious photography project in teamwork

by Ursula Mich

Five long-time Fullies and one fresh returnee thought Cem Yüceas' "Synergetic Scenery - Production among Strangers: An Introduction into the Process of Photography" workshop title and description to be very promising, giving them the courage to attend. Cem had a reason to view the participants as courageous; he explained that such a project is normally planned for one or two days, but today, he wanted to experiment and see if they could complete a project from start to finish in just 90 minutes. After a brief induction, Cem explained project solutions used in the advertizing and communications industry, and we were tasked with considering the following questions:

- Which characteristics do we share?
- Are we challenged by similar problems?
- How do we solve the problems?

Below are the results of our fruitful discussion, for which Cem had to function as a strict moderator to productively funnel the vast verbal proliferation!

Commonalities	Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Happiness• Curiosity• Openness• Intelligence• Interest in culture• "Do-ers"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Community- Lobbying global village (formal solution)- Quota system by sanctions- Compulsory education- Focused learning- Fundamental sanction- Environmental politics- Medicine- Revision of life expectations- Coffee (to cure the symptom)- Sleep- Deceleration
Problems	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fatigue• Fulbright adieu• Environmental problems• Identity/Life Crisis	

Cem Yüceas documents the final result;
photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein

The participants chose to pursue "Fulbright adieu", representing the issue of what will happen to the Fulbright program in its partner countries should the U.S. lose its leadership position in the world. The discussion began with visualizing the problem. Key words, like the globe, the peace dove, "The Adventures of Tintin", and the portrait of Senator Fulbright, were mentioned, among other symbols and mottos.

Finally, an abstract developed: we would create a world map incorporating a hand-made backpack, representing the global Fulbright expansion, passport photos, and crumpled paper, symbolizing the broadening of one's horizon. The project was transformed into a forceful abstract that Cem photographed at the very end, titled "Fulbright goes global".



Mulert Award 2012

Call for Papers



In memory of Jürgen Mulert, the initiator and founder of the German Fulbright Alumni Association, the Association grants the annual "Jürgen Mulert Memorial Award on Mutual Understanding". The Mulert Award goes to the author of the best paper presenting research, professional, or volunteer projects which effectively foster William Fulbright's idea of "waging peace through mutual understanding".

The application period for the Mulert Award 2012 is now open until November 20th, 2011. Papers from all academic fields authored by Fulbright returnees to Germany 2009, 2010, and 2011 are eligible. Applications must include the relevant paper and the applicant's CV. Additional material may be added. Please send your applications to [mulert.award\(a\)fulbright-alumni.de](mailto:mulert.award(a)fulbright-alumni.de). For further information, refer to www.fulbright-alumni.de/mulertaward.

The prize package for the Mulert Award winner includes the following:

- recognition during the award ceremony at the Association's annual Winterball in January 2012
- presentation during the Fulbright Commission's Berlin Week in March 2012
- publication of the paper and author's CV on the Association's website
- paper abstract and short author biography in the 2012 FRANKly
- reference in the Wikipedia article on Jürgen Mulert
- reimbursement of travel expenses



Daniel Köhler receives the Mulert Award from Barbara Weiten;
photo: Steffen Schmuck-Soldan

Mulert Award 2010/'11

The winner of the Mulert Award 2010/'11 is Daniel Köhler, with a paper on poverty reduction in the Middle East. Daniel holds a master's degree from the Freie Universität Berlin and is currently enrolled in the Master of Peace and Security Studies program of the ISFH Hamburg. He received a Fulbright scholarship for the academic year 2008/'09 at Princeton University. Daniel's research focuses on Religion and Economics ("Market of Religions", Economics in and Economics of Religion, Economy as Religion, Religious Theory of Economics). His honors and scholarships include those from Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes (German National Academic Foundation), Princeton University Graduate School, Columbia University, and the Schwarzkopf Foundation.

Abstract of the Mulert Award paper 2010/'11 by Daniel Köhler:

Why we still bother: some theoretical remarks on poverty reduction in the Middle East.

In a time of global economic downturn and political crisis in the Middle East, the very ideas of development aid and poverty reduction have been seriously challenged. The classical arguments for poverty reduction (to fight violence and terrorism, democracy promotion, moral obligation, etc) seem not to be adequate any more to prevent an identity crisis within the endeavor of global development policy. The question is: Why do we and should we engage in development aid and poverty reduction? Regrettably, the answer is not as clear as it used to be. This essay tries to engage the devil's advocate and to find appropriate responses to the onsets brought against poverty reduction and to make way for a new "Why" of development policy.

Contact:
Steffen Schmuck-Soldan
[mulert.award\(a\)fulbright-alumni.de](mailto:mulert.award(a)fulbright-alumni.de)



Halloween Queen; photo: Sabine Brambach

Regional Chapter Berlin

Berlin, Berlin

by Karin-Irene Eiermann

We must admit that the Berlin Chapter has a certain advantage with the close proximity to the U.S. Embassy, the Fulbright Commission, all kinds of institutions dedicated to transatlantic understanding, and most importantly, such a large number of Fulbright alumni in the city. We had another year of diverse and well-received events. Here is a brief chronology of events that took place in Berlin, in addition to our regular monthly Stammtisch.

As is customary, we celebrated the traditional American fall holidays. A Halloween party took place at Joe's Bar with scary decorations and plenty of artificial blood. For Thanksgiving, about 20 of our Fulbright alumni gathered at the New Orleans House near Görlitzer Park, where they devoured the original turkey and numerous pot luck delicacies.

Thanks go to Stephan Meyer-Brehm, who represented the Berlin Chapter at the Welcome Meeting 2010 in Frankfurt in November and introduced recent returnees to the Berlin Chapter and its activities.

Our list of events continues with a guided tour of the Berlin Neues Museum (New Museum) in January. It is common knowledge that Berlin is well-endowed with world-class museums. But it is another familiar fact that locals tend not to make much use of them. So, we received many registrations when the guided tour was announced, with more than 20

people gathering to see this new highlight of Berlin's museum landscape. The Neues Museum has been open to visitors only since October 2009. Built in the 19th century (1841-1859) as a major museum of art and technical history, the museum suffered significant damage in WWII and was resourcefully restored by British star architect David Chipperfield between 2003 and 2009. Today, the museum houses the Egyptian Museum and Papyrus Collection and the Museum of Prehistory and Early History as well as artifacts from the Collection of Classical Antiquities.

As usual, the Berlin Regional Chapter was represented at the Berlin Seminar (also known as the Berlin Week), which took place from March 20th to the 23rd, and traditionally brings current American Fulbright grantees from all over Europe to Berlin each year (the article on page 38-39 describes the event in more detail). One panel was dedicated to the Fulbright alumni network. Among the panelists were Gil Carbajal, an American living in Spain who has long been a member of the international Fulbright alumni network, long-time board members Uwe Koch and Stephan Meyer-Brehm, and Irene Eiermann. While Stephan introduced the Berlin Chapter and its activities, Irene talked about the upcoming PowWow that was scheduled a mere two months later, also in Berlin.

Clearly the highlight of the year, Berlin was the venue for the Anniversary PowWow, which took place May 6th-8th on the occa-

sion of the 25th Anniversary of the German Fulbright Alumni Association. You can also read about the PowWow elsewhere in this edition of the *FRANKly* (pages 14-23). The volunteers of the Berlin Chapter played an important role in its preparation and during the event and also had a lot of fun along the way. Special thanks go to Heinz Neubauer, Stephan Meyer-Brehm, and Sabine Brambach for their support.

As usual, we met for a 4th of July BBQ, which took place at the Mauersegler, a beer garden at the Mauerpark, located at the former border between East and West Berlin. We even had an honorary guest, Jacob from Washington, D.C., the former organizer of the "Wandervögel" during his time as a Fulbright grantee in Berlin in 2008/'09, who happened to be in town for the weekend. Not only did we barbecue and enjoy the delicious pot luck dishes, we also used the occasion to elect a new coordinator for the Berlin Regional Chapter: Karin-Irene Eiermann. Sabine Brambach had been the coordinator for the last four years. We are sure that her dedication to the job will be remembered by many for a long time. Thank you, Sabine! Irene is looking forward to continuing Sabine's great work and keeping the Berlin Chapter alive and thriving.

We will continue to organize the Stammtisch, which takes place the first Monday of each month, attend English movies, celebrate American holidays, and overall strengthen the Berlin Fulbright alumni network.

The local organizing team compiling PowWow conference materials; photo: Sabine Brambach



Thanksgiving Dinner at New Orleans House in Berlin; photo: Sabine Brambach



Fourth of July BBQ at the Mauersegler in Berlin; photo: Sabine Brambach



Regional Chapter Cologne/Bonn



by Ulrich Götz and Timo Klein

Traditionally, the Regional Chapter Cologne/Bonn meets every other month for a special event. While the 4th of July party and Thanksgiving dinner are booked events, the other four events each year vary based on the interest of the crowd (suggestions welcome).

In November, Thanksgiving 2010 was organized by the Freundeskreis Köln-Indianapolis and the Deutsch-Amerikanische Gesellschaft zu Köln. We were delighted to be invited to this great event.

In March, we were able to go “behind the scenes” of the Haus der Geschichte in Bonn. This museum covers the history of Germany from 1945. As the general exhibition was closed for renovation, they opened their archives instead. Their collection showed a wild mixture of exhibits. At any one time, it is not clear what is going to be of historic relevance, so they make the conscious effort to collect more than is currently required.

In May, we supported Lena at her second performance for the Eurovision Song Contest. In Düsseldorf, the crowds gathered close to the Rhine to follow the event on the outdoor screens. This offered a good view, but also a frigid chill. Nonetheless, the amazing atmosphere and the Alt (local) beer made up for it.

In July, the Amerikahaus NRW e.V. invited 300 guests for their first 4th of July Party. The event included hamburgers, hotdogs, spare ribs, and brownies. The highlight of the event was the big fireworks display. We were so close, we could feel and smell the smoke.

By now, you might have recognized that I skipped January. It was our highlight of the year, so I would like to elaborate a little bit on it now. According to the famous children’s song “Wieso, weshalb, warum, wer nicht fragt bleibt dumm!” (and the “Sendung mit der Maus” comes from Cologne), we made a trip to the Cologne Cathedral. It would not have been a true

Fulbright experience if we had not adopted several perspectives; therefore, we climbed to the roof of the Cathedral to behold the stunning view of the expansive city.

In the Middle Ages, Cologne became an important city as it achieved the “acquisition” of the mortal remains of the three holy kings. From the German perspective, it was understood to be a gift, while Spain interpreted this as theft (while ignoring their own means of “acquisition”). Based on the ensuing pilgrimage, a great and representative church was required.

Back to the roof: Going inside, a modern steel construction presents itself, looking quite similar to the structure of the Cologne main station. Whoever is under the impression that the Cathedral has been there all along is misled. During the Middle Ages, only parts of the main nave and one spire were completed. Lack of money stopped the construction for 300 years, which is why the architecture could remain purely Gothic.

The protestant and Prussian (!) King Friedrich Wilhelm IV believed that the Gothic architecture was a German invention and ignored any French examples. In 1842, the construction was continued based on original drawings, found in Paris. A Prussian eagle can be found beneath the roof, symbolizing this special event.

At present, up to 45 workers are busy restoring the Cathedral. This is going to be an endless job, not only due to the complexity of the church but also due to the belief that, should the Cathedral ever be completed, the world would cease to exist.

Our regional chapter, however, will continue to exist; our next events are already in preparation. Soon, we will go for a hike through the marvelous valley of the Ahr, which naturally includes wine tasting. Furthermore, our next Thanksgiving dinner is already booked for November 27th. Why not join in?!



Regional Chapter Franken

4th of July BBQ in Erlangen: how night turned into high life

by Désirée Doyle

It was my first time hosting the Franken group in my garden for our 4th of July BBQ, and I must admit that I was a little nervous when I sent out the invitations. As only two people replied by email, I thought, “At least there will be no fuss with the big Weber smoker – we’ll use the small electric grill instead!” and I relaxed.

All of my initial impressions turned out to be totally wrong. Everything went quite smoothly. The first Fullies reached my garden fence, and after a warm welcome and a little bit of small talk, we decided to switch on the electric grill while sipping our cocktails. Everyone helped themselves to salad and appetizers, but we were anticipating the succulent flavors of those Franconian sausages lying on the grill. We had to be patient! It was quite the celebration when they were finally done! Everyone was fond of my homemade coleslaw, and the red wine perfectly complimented the steaks and garlic bread.

Around 10 o’clock, a new couple turned up, apologized for being late, and asked whether they could join the group. Of course they could! Meanwhile, it became a little chilly outside, so we moved inside to the winter garden to continue the party.

About a quarter to midnight, the last two guests appeared and asked what I would think about some midnight snacks! For the time being, I forgot all about my hopes of going to bed early and accepted my fate, that this night would be an awfully short one! The last guest left the party about 3 a.m., and I was nearly tired to death!

Nevertheless, it was a humorous and stimulating party. To those who did not show up, you really missed something!

See you next time, probably for Thanksgiving!

Regional Chapter Frankfurt

Fulli Gatherings in the ‘Global Village’ Frankfurt am Main – Offbeat, Young, and Creative

by Ursula Mich

Since the founding of the German Fulbright Alumni Association in Frankfurt in 1986, the Frankfurt Regional Chapter has always been one of the largest and most inventive chapters due to its interesting mixture of both new and long-term members, ranging in age from early 20s to late 50s. Many young members, particularly from the Fulbright Diversity Initiative, which we actively support, and the scholars about to board the plane to the U.S. (how cute it was to see their nervous faces before heading out for their Fulbright year), attended the August Stammtisch, demonstrating how we are truly getting younger and more international every year!

For several years, our chapter has been managed by the skilled Mario Reichel, with his more than capable deputies Isabelle Boeddinghaus and Carsten Kuschnerus as well as our talented web designer, our “Infocenter Man”, Reinhard Koch and last but not least, Aline Klingberg, our excellent treasurer.

Still, the core remains the Stammtisch, taking place each first Thursday of the month and always offering a different location covering international and local cuisine from African to Frankfurt Äbbelwoi restaurants. At our monthly gatherings, we do not only eat and drink but also discuss and plan special activities, typically considering cinema, theater, concerts, museums, indoor and outdoor opera performances, sporting events, and so on. We still combine our Stammtisch with that of the German Studienstiftung twice a year, and sometimes, we are

able to combine the Stammtisch with an event organized by the U.S. Consulate, such as the lecture by Michael Scott Moore on surfing, held at the English Theatre in October 2010.

Last year, Reinhard Koch organized another famous Thuringia travel event at the Harz, which was held in high esteem by all participants. This was followed by our efforts to support Carsten Kuschnerus’ organization of the Welcome Meeting 2010, which is covered in a separate article in this edition of the FRANKly.

Enjoying a Thanksgiving dinner that is specially prepared for us at the Arche Nova has already become a highly praised tradition and is always well attended by American and German members. The year-end highlight was the December Stammtisch, including a fairytale-like visit to the Christmas market in an historical setting with the abundance of snow giving the impression of the Christkind twinkling around the corner.

2011 started out with a crash course in dancing in preparation for the charming Winterball in Heidelberg. The year continued with another highlight, the very well attended second annual Art Wine Social at Cem Yüceltas’ downtown Frankfurt studio, which offered Italian wines and homemade dishes. Thanks to Cem for hosting this again!

Isabelle Boeddinghaus, who takes care of our physical fitness, organized a beautiful bicycle trip along the Hohe Straße, a



Enjoying the simple pleasures;
photo: Isabelle Boeddinghaus

well-documented historic trade route. Naturally, it was not as difficult as originally planned, and we never hesitated to make a stop at a friendly inn.

At Uwe and Anne Geis’ wonderful place in Darmstadt, we celebrated this year’s 4th of July with a barbecue – a big thank you to both of them. Springing from that event, a new one was born: a Labor Day Barbecue held on September 3rd, 2011, hosted by Doris Ammon in Frankfurt Dreieich, offering returnees and American scholars alike the opportunity to get to know the Frankfurt Regional Chapter.

Carsten Kuschnerus was exceptionally busy organizing this year’s Welcome Meeting, entitled ‘Building Bridges’. In addition, some current and relocated Frankfurt Fullies are working together to organize the next Winterball, with Anne Schmidt leading the effort and presenting to us her new hometown of Schwerin.

Being new in Frankfurt is all about making new friends, exchanging experiences, and getting to know the city and region. Feel free to have a look at our website, <https://www.fulbright-alumni.de/regional-chapters/frankfurt.html>, or simply come and visit us. We are always glad to welcome you to our chapter and happy to receive new input!

Roasting marshmallows on the 4th of July;
photo: Knut



Regional Chapter Leipzig

Two years old and counting!

by Tilman Schenk

The Regional Chapter Leipzig has made it through its sophomore year! Just like any college student, we have now reached a certain stage of routine and are beginning to feel established.

The second 4th of July BBQ in our history was a success, this time in the exciting atmosphere of an old industrial yard in Plagwitz. We also followed the tradition of a Thanksgiving turkey feast, enjoyed Glühwein at the picturesque Leipzig Christmas market, and – for the lovers of modern technology – gazed at the giant printing machine of the Leipziger Volkszeitung. Due to the unfortunate absence of American movies in local theaters, we decided to attend a staging of Shakespeare’s legendary “Much Ado About Nothing” at Schloss Ammelshain, solely for language training purposes, of course. More events are to come, and we still meet once a month for a Stammtisch, so anyone living in the Leipzig/Halle area is welcome to join us! You will find all scheduled events in the calendar on the Association website.



Gathering for a Summer BBQ;
photo: Tilman Schenk and Judith von Falkenhäusen

For the year to come, we hope to once more welcome new arrivals of American Fulbrighters to Leipzig to share their and our experiences, and we are always open to new ideas for things to do in our area. To get in touch, email Tilman Schenk ([rc.leipzig\(a\)fulbright-alumni.de](mailto:rc.leipzig(a)fulbright-alumni.de)).



1st of May Bike Tour;
photos: Isabelle Boeddinghaus



A highlight of the Art Wine Social;
photo: Isabelle Boeddinghaus



The Josephskreuz, a look-out in the shape of a huge iron cross;
photo: Reinhard Koch



Regional Chapter Hannover

Back with a new name

by Dana Müller-Hoeppe

After some inactive years while Gabriele Launhardt, former coordinator of (what was then) the Lower Saxony Chapter, temporarily moved to Berlin, a small group of people decided at the Winterball in Bonn 2010 that Fulbrighters are just too great not to meet on a regular basis. So back we are, renamed the Hannover Chapter, as we decided that nobody is taking the trip from Emden for a beer on a regular basis (although anyone is heartily welcome to do that!). We are still a fine, small group with sustainable growth. Our regular meetings mostly take place in the bar Treibhaus, however, we are always up to whatever comes along: outdoor movies, concerts, or meeting at our homes to take advantage of common interests in cooking and good homemade food. Nienburg asparagus with a mountain of strawberries for dessert at Gabriele's is a favorite, and of course, we would never go to Burger King for Independence Day!

If you want to join us on a regular basis or because you happen to be in the area, you are welcome to contact Dana Müller-Hoeppe ([rc.hannover\(a\)fulbright-alumni.de](mailto:rc.hannover(a)fulbright-alumni.de)).



Enjoying good food and great company; photos: Dana Müller-Hoeppe

Regional Chapter Dresden

Are you around?

by Elke Handschug-Brosin

Dresden is a jewel of culture, history, and art, and we would love to share it with more fellow Fulbrighters from near and far. However, we are missing the main ingredient – you!

The area seems to foster ambitious, young talent because it is seldom that folks stick around for more than a couple years before moving on to continue their career or education in a new city! Those who have stayed seem to have developed a different focus – raising children. This motive contributed to the establishment of a great tradition, the Fulbright Family Weekend, held annually here in our region. Most participants travel quite a distance, some across national borders, once in a while even across whole oceans! We always welcome newcomers and, in case you're wondering, you need not be accompanied by a child. We have plenty to share!

This year's event took place June 2nd to 5th. Seven families (14 adults and 14 children) gathered in the Natur- & Familienoase in Königstein (Saxon Switzerland), which is scenically located on the banks of the Elbe River with beautiful views of Königstein fortress and the surrounding sandstone formations. Creative minds unfolded in Königstein and produced a marvelous song to the tune of "Auf der Festung Königstein", represented here by an excerpt:



Preparing for a river cruise; photo: Elke Handschug-Brosin

Naptime on the boulders; photo: Elke Handschug-Brosin



Same procedure as every year, jupeidi, jupeida, Ascension Day we are all here, jupeidi heida, some of us prehistoric rock, others freshen up the lot, jupeidi jupeida jupeidi tirallala jupeidi jupeida jupeidiheida.

Lovely different every time,..., kids growin' older all the time,..., Lilienstein once the only walk turns out to be a daily start....

Little kids can play alone.... on the playground with a stone.... simply have to lift their head when hearing big boats on the left.

Other kids tend to relax, ..., in the playroom on the mats, ..., best thing for us parents is the fighting seems to be dismissed.

Peaceful coffee afternoon, ..., chatting, talking, having cream, ..., waiting for the dirty lot who tried to climb the mighty rocks.

Hiking in the mountains is, ..., well accompanied by a bliss, ..., some like singing and the flute the others tend to change the route...

Best of all is meeting you, ..., year after year or completely new, ..., kids are tired the parents too, let's have a rest and a glass or two...

New this year! Upcoming dates for a bimonthly "Stammtisch" are planned for January 5th and March 1st (the first Thursday of every two months, starting at 8 p.m., location to be announced).

Next year's Fulbright Family Weekend in Königstein is scheduled for May 17th-20th, 2012.

Contact Elke Handschug-Brosin at [rc.dresden\(a\)fulbright-alumni.de](mailto:rc.dresden(a)fulbright-alumni.de).

We look forward to hearing from you!

KÖNIGSSTEIN- HYMNE 2011

1. Ein kleiner Blick nach Königstein, jupeidi, jupeida, voll von Wandern wird es sein, ..., s is Feiertag im deutschen Land manch einer sich auch hier einfand.
2. Himmelfahrt in Königstein, ..., müssen immer Fullies sein, ..., von weit her komm' sie angekart, die Elke sie sich um sich scharrt.
3. In Königstein 2011, ..., sind Wanderer aus aller Welt, ..., aus Kiel komm wieder Viere her, das freut uns alle mächtig sehr.
4. Mit dabei in Königstein, ..., ist der Martin mit sein zwein, ..., doch statt des Christophs das ist klar, sind Timon und Johannes da.
5. Erstmals mit in Königstein, ..., Christoph, Jana, Kinderlein, ..., Bettina nervt die Eltern sehr, ein Mittagsschlaf muss dringend her.
6. Petra ist in Königstein, ..., so wie wir ein Urgestein, ..., und der Paul, das ist wahr, ist mit dabei sein fünftes Jahr.
7. Petra bringt nach Königstein, ..., neuerdings Berlinerlein, ..., dieses Jahr sind es schon acht, womit sie den Rekord gemacht.
8. Zehnerboot organisiert, ..., fast die Zahl schon reduziert, Christopher ging über Bord, die Elbe zieht ihn mit sich fort. (wieder gerettet!)
9. Geißen sind wir, das ist wahr, ..., im Zweitberuf die Bardenschar, ..., wir sing' und texten überall, die andern renn' weg mit Krawall.
10. Kinderbetreuung ist hier toll, ..., die Flöte spielt, ne große Roll', ..., in Schluchten, Tälern, oder Höhn, kann man die Anne flöten sehen.
11. Ein enger Weg in Königstein, ..., sollte diesmal drinnen sein, ..., der Uwe führt uns zügig hin, ganz in des großen Sohnes Sinn.
12. Die Leitern, Eisen und so fort, ..., bringen Freude hier und dort, ..., die Keira oft sich müht und wand, doch hier sie allen fortgerannt.
13. Der Gruppe gebührt großes Lob, ..., keiner stürzte sich zu Tod, ..., der Höllenschlund ganz offen stand, wir einfach durch ihn durch gerannt.
14. Einmal hoch zum Lilienstein, ..., muss jedes Jahr drinne sein, ..., dieses Jahr zu unsrer Schand ihn nur ein Teil von uns fand.
15. Für nächstes Jahr in Königstein, ..., machen wir schon Pläne fein, ..., mal sehn wer dann noch mit uns reist, es gibt hier auch ganz leckres Eis.



Climbing down the rocky road; photo: Elke Handschug-Brosin

Day trip to Sigmaringen;
photo: Jan Makowski



4th of July;
photos: Andreas Eisele



Winterball plannig Stammtisch;
photo: Julianne McCall



Regional Chapter Mannheim/Heidelberg

Regional Chapter Stuttgart

Fully Loaded by Jan Makowski

Stuttgart is not only the center of Germany's car industry but also home to a very active local Fulbright Alumni Chapter. Over the course of the last two years, we have enjoyed each other's company within the established group of Stammtisch regulars as much as we have happily welcomed new members every month. Beyond the regular meetings, there is usually another monthly event as well, often planned, occasionally impromptu.

Last September, the chapter extended an invitation to all newly arrived American grantees in the Southwest for a trip to Sigmaringen. The quaint town on the Danube River boasts a large castle which to this day still belongs to the Hohenzollern family. During a guided tour, we learned much about the history of the family and its impact on German politics. Afterwards, the grantees took the opportunity to stroll through the town with its picturesque houses and sample the local cuisine.

Our annual Thanksgiving celebration always draws a lively crowd from Stuttgart and the surrounding region. About 20 people gather every year for a potluck dinner, which has all

the Thanksgiving favorites: turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, and stuffing! We are especially grateful to Dirk Lindennau for cooking the turkey to perfection last year. And to mark the end of our annual event calendar is a visit to the local Christmas market in December.

2011 presented some unique gatherings to add to our list, such as sampling genuine Cincinnati Skyline Chili, taking in the musical intensity of Wagner's Parsifal, and exploring the Stuttgart bar scene. In April, we attended the local Spring Fair, a carnival with thrilling rides, tasty fair food, and pleasingly large beer tents. The recent renaissance of traditional German clothing could again be witnessed: all the women came wearing a dirndl, and the foreign men followed suit in lederhosen. The 4th of July barbecue is another popular summer event; this year, we celebrated with a relaxed potluck.

The calendar for the rest of the year is, as usual, filled with events: a visit to the Wasen, a private tour through the Staatsgalerie, and the Thanksgiving potluck. So, there's always something in store in Stuttgart, not just cars!

Growing BIG!

by Benjamin Pfleger

Not even one year after the founding of the Mannheim/Heidelberg Chapter, we have already had the honor of hosting our Association's General Assembly in Heidelberg – including the legendary Winterball. We were extremely proud to present our region to the Fulbright Alumni Association and to invite Fulbrighters from all over Germany to picturesque Heidelberg.

In March 2010, we started out as a tiny regional chapter, and we are now growing BIG! With two top-ranked universities, it is not a surprise that American Fulbrighters choose to study abroad in Mannheim/Heidelberg and that German students from this region are regularly among the new classes of Fulbrighters leaving for the States. Thus, it is always a pleasure to welcome Americans to our Stammtisch or to gather to wish German students from the area farewell as they prepare for their experience Stateside.

Usually, we meet either in Mannheim or in Heidelberg. At least, that was the original plan. After a year now, it has become clear that Heidelberg is definitely the more popular site for a Fulbright Stammtisch. One good reason might be

that Heidelberg's riverside is unbeatable. Of course, we make ample use of it for our BBQs and picnics.

Unfortunately, the presence of U.S. military personnel will soon come to an end around Mannheim and Heidelberg. The withdrawal of all U.S. Military will finalize a significant era in this region's history. In the past decades, the resident Americans often became good friends and neighbors, and their presence influenced and enriched our region. For example, we observed our first Thanksgiving in an authentic diner in Mannheim, Benjamin's American Diner (no formal relation), with many Americans and their family and friends. We also attended the traditional German-American friendship concerts, performed by The U.S. Army Europe Band & Chorus. They always perform around the 4th of July and just before Christmas. As long as the U.S. Military is around, we want to take those opportunities to celebrate U.S. music and culture in Mannheim and Heidelberg.

As the youngest of all regional chapters of the Fulbright Alumni Association, we want to grow even BIGGER. Spread the word or better, come and join in!



Weihnachtsmarkt;
photo: Katie Ferguson



4th of July, Mja has a lucky day and wins at trivia quiz; photo: Benjamin Pfleger



Neckarwiesen;
photo: Julianne McCall



A Fulbright landscaping team, volunteering to improve a garden for a nonprofit Munich hospital guest house.; photos: Florian Kuehnel

... and also enjoying the great outdoors

written by Andreas Schoberth



above left: A fleet of floats;
photo: Andreas Schoberth

Getting wet – a little;
photo: Andreas Schoberth

Regional Chapter Munich

Gardening for a good cause

by Florian Kuehnel

Whenever two Fulbrighters meet for the first time, they usually start with the “when” and “where” of their Fulbright year. Then, they share some of their favorite memories and experiences of their time in the States.

Some would tell about their experiences with on- and off-campus volunteer organizations, engaging in community projects like teaching about Germany in local schools. It comes as no surprise, then, that while making my rounds at various national and local Fulbright gatherings during the past year, I often heard the wish to organize something similar in Germany as well.

Toward this goal, the Fulbright network was applied to develop a great partner for a community project. SKF München is an organization that maintains a guest house for family members of sick children that are treated at Munich hospitals. They needed help with their garden, so on a day in early May, the Munich Fulbrighters went to work.

A morning rain had softened the earth, so pulling out weeds and adding new soil to the flower beds was made simple. We continued to rake leaves, repair the fence, and tie back some encroaching shrubs. Finally, we donated and planted a climbing hydrangea and a colorful clematis to make the garden more cheerful.

The day in the garden was completed with a brief lunch of strawberries, coffee, and chocolate cake. In the end, gardening for a good cause was deemed a great success, not only for the participating Munich Fulbrighters but also for the guest house staff.

This was a very special activity of the Munich Fulbright alumni, but just one of the many events we organize. Beside our monthly Stammtisch at diverse restaurants all around the city and celebrating American holidays, we do have various cultural and outdoor activities over the course of the year, a couple of which are described in the following article. We hope you will join us next time!



Your stairway to heaven;
photo: Anna-Luisa Uhlitz



Another stairway to heaven;
photo: Sabine Pallas

Who says that 2011 did not offer a season formerly known as “Summer”? At least the Munich RC caught it at all the right moments! Contrary to popular belief – but strictly in sync with the weather forecast – the bike trip in early August from Gauting to Herrsching did not result with us getting wet from above. Instead, the 35 km of pedaling through the Upper Bavarian countryside whetted our appetite for the mandatory stop at Andechs to savor the renowned Klosterbier together with Steckerlfisch and Obatzda. The recently refurbished Benedictine monastery also proved a sight in itself.

The next field trip had more potential to make us wet from below rather than from above: a traditional raft ride on the Isar river from Wolfratshausen down to Munich. The 5-hour cruise had 50 people floating on 20 tons of raw “log power”, accompanied by a live band and an MC that had more raunchy jokes to tell than you could bear – that is, if you hadn’t already had a bit too much of the free beer. Along the way, we encountered three giant slides, among them Europe’s longest, measuring 365 meters, giving us a Disneyland-like thrill. But beware: You can easily end up on the wrong raft, as one of our hanseatic alumni proved...

As our chapter tries to keep in touch with local Fulbright families, we offered a trip suitable for children of ages three and above. On another lucky sunny day, we went to the Skywalk Allgäu, a canopy walkway in the foothills of the Alps. Also on offer were a bare foot path and similar “natural” experiences, so the grown-ups had as much fun as the kids. That said, we are already planning a trip to Legoland in 2012...

Regional Chapter Rhein/Ruhr



Tamilisches Fest;
photo: Johannes Schulz

4th of July BBQ;
photo: Johannes Schulz

A Fresh Start

by Ines Winkler and Johannes Schulz

As the Regional Chapter Rhein/Ruhr was missed in last year's *FRANKly*, we are now happy to update other Fulbrighters on our recent developments and activities.

In April of this year, Johannes took over the chapter coordination from Ulrich, who had filled this position for the last five years with great passion. Since then, we have reactivated chapter activities in Düsseldorf and are working on motivating other Fulbright alumni in and around the city to contribute to this growth.

After establishing the Stammtisch in Düsseldorf with changing locations, we are now holding two local meetings each month in Bochum and Düsseldorf. In addition to this, we might also offer local meetings in Münster, as a so-called "Satelliten-stammtisch". As the Rhein/Ruhr area is rather large, a third Stammtisch will give even more Fulbrighters the opportunity to meet up.

Over the past months, we have held quite a few outstanding events. In May, Düsseldorf became the capital of music for a couple of days when Lena tried to defend her title at the Eurovision Song Contest 2011. For this occasion, Fulbrighters from Chapters Cologne/Bonn and Rhein/Ruhr came together for



Ölberg; photo: Timo Klein

a BBQ on the lawn alongside the Rhine River before meeting American Fulbrighters for the main public viewing event in Düsseldorf.

In June, we visited the Sri Kamadchi Ampal Temple in Hamm (Westfalen) during its annual festival and met spontaneously with other alumni from Cologne and Berlin to watch the lunar eclipse in Cologne and hike around the Siebengebirge. Our summer activities continued with the 4th of July BBQ, which was again held in Essen at Doris' wonderful home. Thanks again to Doris for hosting us this day.

Also in July, we had the first lecture of the year given by a fellow Fulbrighter, Arshinda Kaur, founder of Eco & Agro Resource Management, India, on "Efforts in rural India to transit to low carbon economies".

For the rest of the year, we're looking forward to some great events, like the famous Thanksgiving dinner and a bike ride along the Rhine. Our goal is to grow our active membership and continue to develop fun and creative activities. If you would like to contribute or to be added to our mailing list, please email Johannes Schulz ([rc.rhein-ruhr\(a\)fulbright-alumni.de](mailto:rc.rhein-ruhr(a)fulbright-alumni.de)).



Strasbourg 2013

In times of economic crisis, countries seem to fall back into a withdrawn attitude.

The French Fulbright Alumni Association feels that the transatlantic community's cultural values need to be strengthened. As Senator J. W. Fulbright said, "Bring a little more knowledge and a little more compassion in world affairs to increase the chance that nations will learn at last to live in peace and friendship."

Eager to promote such a vision, the French Fulbright Alumni Association invites all European Fulbrighters to a conference in

June, 2013 in Strasbourg, the city of the European Parliament.

Our conference will be hosted by the French National School of Administration, Center of European Studies.

Key topics are:

- Energy and civic responsibility
- Global warming and food production
- Politics and media
- Democracy, terrorism, and corruption

Each panel will be followed by related workshops.

Details of the organization will be announced by the end of 2011. Fulbright Associations from the following countries have already agreed to participate: Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxemburg, Poland, Spain, and Turkey.

A European conference is planned to be held every other year.

The Polish Fulbright Association has volunteered to organize the next conference.

Come and join us! Together, we can envision a better Europe.

Catherine Gaudin
Vice President, French Fulbright Alumni Association
Coordinator of the European Conference
([catherine.gaudin\(a\)gmail.com](mailto:catherine.gaudin(a)gmail.com))



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