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FRANK^{ly} ☹️

THE FULBRIGHT ALUMNI E.V. MAGAZINE

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Letter from the Editor



Dear Readers,

It was Senator Fulbright's concept of proactive and personal community engagement that set him apart in the political realm. We realize his vision not by reciting his words but rather by applying our skills, knowledge, and passion toward a better human condition.

Overcoming the primary challenge of devoting time despite busy schedules, Fulbrighters are of a privileged mind to identify and address societal shortcomings, having grown to understand the power of perspective, that one need not be directly influenced by an injustice to stand against it. To counteract ubiquitous inequalities and develop the full potential of peoples everywhere, great hope arises when communities form to galvanize unique talents and foster powerful ideas with the ultimate goal of effecting positive change. How else can we expect tangible progress without contributing to it?

While last year's issue discussed qualities and avenues of Progress, this issue provides concrete and inspiring examples of real efforts by Association members in the name of advancing society through community activism, literally "community action for change". The articles selected for this issue reflect on several aspects of volunteer and service programs, beginning with the thoughtful development of an informed and engaged community by Tilman Schenk and Thorsten Mehnert. Wiltrud Hammelstein gives an endearing account of her introduction and continued devotion to Special Olympics, highlighting how the global movement developed from one woman's concern in the 1960s. Learning from his time in the US, Heinrich Garg discusses the value of facilitating school spirit and extends a compelling proposal to German sports establishments to better serve their youth communities. Jörg Wolf details his work with the first transatlantic online think tank to draw in young perspectives on serious global issues, and Lucian Morariu describes a corporate effort to effectively reverse youth unemployment with targeted mentorship. Lastly, Silke Wolter outlines her contributions to collaborative programs that support

women's professional skills development and suggests everyone pursue their calling in community service.

In addition to the Association's annual national events and Regional Chapter activities, reports can be found on events held around the world. Of special note, many alumni participated in the elegant celebration of the German Fulbright Commission's 60th Anniversary during the Berlin Seminar. This year also witnessed a significant step for collaboration by the founding of the European Network of American Alumni Associations in Rome.

Now, I would like to express my immense gratitude to the gifted authors and photographers whose work upholds the rich value of the magazine. The activities they portray encourage a deeper look at the Fulbright community and its role in social change and community development, and I am proud to feature them as we look toward a brighter future. Hans Christian von Steuber lent his mindful expertise to perfecting the language of many articles, while Andreas Schoberth, as well, gave generously of his time to ensure the high quality of the finished product. Once again, I am humbled by the outpouring of support from the Board, especially Charlotte Horn, and Astrid Weingarten continues to demonstrate her professionalism in both graphic design and project management. Finally, I thank my loving family for their perpetual support. My dad, in particular, will forever be a significant role model for his ability to connect people through his quiet wisdom and graceful leadership. It is to him that I dedicate my efforts as a leader worth aspiring to.

With great hope for our shared future,

Julianne McCall
Heidelberg, October 2012

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Greetings from the President

Dear Fulbrighters and Friends,

It is my great pleasure to introduce to you the 23rd issue of our Association's magazine, the *FRANKly*. Let me thus first take the opportunity to thank all contributors and, especially, Julianne McCall – now in her second year as Editor – for their exceptional dedication and work!

In last year's Greetings from the President, I highlighted our Association's continuing professionalization, reflected by an ever-increasing number of high-level cooperations with agents on regional, national, and multinational levels. Throughout the last 12 months, our members were able to witness these traditional and new ties on many different occasions, among them the Fulbright Commission's 60th Anniversary, our Welcome Meeting at the Boston Consulting Group's Frankfurt offices, a 9/11 talk with the Amerika Haus e.V. NRW, a book presentation with the Hertie Foundation, and our General Assembly at the Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

I am also happy to report that the US State Department-initiated European Network of American Alumni Associations – with the German Fulbright Alumni Association among its founding members – is steadily expanding its outreach and activities: After a very successful founding conference in Rome in December, 2011, we are now approaching an iteration in London in November, 2011, to be followed by two Europe-wide conferences per year from then on.

While these developments clearly show Progress (last year's *FRANKly* theme), they also entrust us with a great responsibility. As Fulbrighters, we know and understand this, as we are cultural ambassadors not only of our own respective countries but also of mutual understanding and intercultural values in a larger sense. One form of promoting this mindset, which is often referred to as the "Fulbright spirit", is Community Activism, this year's timely *FRANKly* theme.

Just as other social approaches in the past, for example, Diversity, Community Activism has its roots in the Anglophone world and can still be considered a rather young concept in Germany. Due to its multifaceted nature, it is difficult to come up with a uniform definition. What all approaches have in common, though, is the joint aim of improving the current state of affairs, of moving forward – that is, of achieving Progress for one or several communities. Despite its negative connotation with some audiences, Activism thus always implies a form of optimism – a value not to be underestimated especially in times of (global) crises.

Ending on this positive note, I wish us all a year of progress, of optimism, and of "giving back" in return.

Have an enjoyable read!

Benjamin Becker
Düsseldorf, October 2012

Meet the Board

Benjamin Becker President

- Current Position held since 2011
VP Members (2009)
- Fulbright year: 2007/08
Fulbright studies:
Foreign Language Teaching Assistant
Host institution: Emory University, Atlanta, GA
- Current city: Berlin
- Academic Position:
PhD from the University of Cologne, 2012

Community Activism that Inspires

Since 2006, the Fulbright Commission's Diversity Initiative has been supporting German high school graduates and B.A. students with a so-called "migration background", enabling them to participate in intense, 5-week summer schools at American host institutions. Many of these inspiring young people would otherwise not have had the chance to participate in a (transatlantic) exchange program, and it is the Diversity Initiative's declared goal to win them for a full-year study in the US. The German Fulbright Alumni Association is proud to be among the largest individual sponsors of this unique program, and it has opened its membership to all Diversity alumni.

Claus Rödiger Treasurer

- Current Position held since 2008
- Fulbright years: 1983-85
- Fulbright studies: Sociology
Host institution: Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo
- Current city: Bochum
- Professional Position: Researcher

Community Activism that Inspires

Upon arriving in Michigan for my Fulbright stay, a local church welcomed me to participate in its various activities. The rich community life came to me as a surprise; having grown up in a country where churches are funded through centralized taxation of their members and whose activities therefore are less based on the local community, I found it inspiring to see all the activities the congregations and non-members (I myself am not religious) were engaged in on a voluntary basis. These activities by the community for the community I valued very much, and they gave me a deeper insight into American society.

Charlotte Horn Vice President Communications

- Current Position held since 2012
- Fulbright year: 2008/09
Fulbright studies:
Journalism and US Foreign Policy
Host institution: American University, Washington, D.C.
- Current city: Hamburg
- Professional Position:
Trainee at Norddeutscher Rundfunk

Community Activism that Inspires

During my Fulbright year, I took part in the Fulbright Enrichment Seminar in New York City. The seminar's topic was "social entrepreneurship", with inspiring speakers who presented creative ideas. Besides, we had the chance to experience social action directly in the city. For one day, I volunteered with a small group of Fulbrighters from countries like Pakistan in a social warehouse in Brooklyn. "Furnish a future" provides donated furniture, plates, sheets, etc to families who are moving out of shelters into apartments, furthermore delivering their selection all at no cost. It was certainly a memorable insight into one idea for community activism!

Meet the Board

Timo Klein Vice President Events

- Current Position held since 2010
- Fulbright year: 2008/09
Fulbright studies: Foreign Language Teaching Assistant
Host institution: Fordham University, New York
- Current city: Leipzig
- Current Academic Position:
Linguistics, PhD student and research assistant

Community Activism that Inspires

During my Fulbright year, I was able to accompany Fordham students who formed a volunteer group to restore some of the smaller parks in the Bronx. These patches of green were not inviting to anyone anymore. After the group cleaned up the parks and even repaired parts of the playgrounds, people from the community and their children were able to enjoy these little oases again. I was very impressed by the initiative these students showed, even though the hours offered up did not translate to credit points. Luckily for the Bronx, there were more simple, yet thoughtful, ideas like this.

Çigdem Yig Vice President Members

- Current Position held since 2012
- Fulbright year: 2009/10
Fulbright studies: TA for German as a Foreign Language
Host institution: St. Louis University, MO
- Current city: Berlin
- Current Academic Position:
MA student in the teacher training program at the Universität Potsdam

Community Activism that Inspires

The area I grew up in (Hesse) used to offer summer camps for children whose parents could not afford to go on vacation with them. I was one of those kids. I remember having a great time at summer camp. When I was old enough, I decided to volunteer as a camp leader myself to give something back to my community. For the following eight years, I spent my summers as a camp leader. My overly positive experiences with the camp children have had a major impact on me. Today, I'm studying to become a high school teacher!



Benjamin Becker



Claus Rödiger



Charlotte Horn



Timo Klein



Çigdem Yig

The Extended Board

Wiltrud Hammelstein International Cooperation

Wiltrud spent her Fulbright year (1986/87) in Charleston, Illinois obtaining a Master of Business Administration degree. She has served as an Officer of the FAeV from 1994 through 2003 and again in 2010 and 2011, including 4 years as President. Managing international relations comes naturally, as she has extensive experience with the global Fulbright community, having attended a multitude of international meetings since 1993 and being a lifetime member of the US Fulbright Association and currently on the board of France Fulbright Alumni. In 2012, she helped organize the 35th Annual conference of the US Fulbright Association in London, for which she used her international network to recruit panelists and prepare a pre-conference workshop for European Fulbright Alumni representatives.

Julianne McCall FRANKly Editor

The Editor of the *FRANKly* directs all process that contribute to the creation of the Association's magazine, from selecting a theme and composing the Call for Articles to collecting and assessing every submission and editing each piece of material that comprises the publication. She liaises with authors, photographers, the graphic designer, 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 PhD graduate student in neuroscience at the Heidelberg University Spinal Cord Injury Center.

From left to right:
Wiltrud Hammelstein,
Julianne McCall,
Simon Balder, Susanne Döring



Simon Balder 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. Additionally, he manages social media outlets to foster the networks of the widespread alumni community. In order to achieve this, he cooperates with board members and other contributors to the sites.

Simon became a member of the Association in 2010 and is currently enrolled at the University of Technology Ilmenau, where he aspires to earn a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering and Business Studies.

Susanne Döring Mentoring

The FAeV is currently establishing a mentorship program to connect young returnees and experienced members of the Association. Field-matched mentors will be available to assist mentees in matters of personal guidance in educational and professional careers. Efforts are being made to most effectively deliver positive outcomes. Reflecting the Association's devotion to this program, mentorship is likely to be a highlighted topic in an upcoming national event.

Susanne received a Fulbright grant to study at Michigan State University in 2008/09 and completed her studies with a Master of Science in Accounting. Since 2010, she calls Mainz her new home.

The Extended Board

Stephan Meyer-Brehm Image Film / Video Project

The idea to document the experiences of Fulbrighters on video was born a few years ago. As the concept and goals have evolved, it seemed evident the program required a principal leader. Interviews of alumni from a range of backgrounds and exchange years, as well as historical footage, serves 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.

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.

From left to right:
Stephan Meyer-Brehm, Uwe Koch, Holger Schöner, Hermes Winands,
Elke Handschug-Brosin, Dagmar Schreiber, Carsten Kuschnerus, Shamaila Ghaffar

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 PhD 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.

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.

Elke Handschug-Brosin Family Weekend

Elke founded the Fulbright Family Weekend because she wanted to stay active in the FAeV 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 9th-12th, 2013.

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.

Dagmar Schreiber Sailing Trip

The coordinator of the biannual FAeV's sailing trip organizes the trip with operator Clipper – Deutsches Jugendwerk zur See e.V. This involves finding the right ship and determining the route, destination, time, crew, etc. From the invitation to all FAeV 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 FAeV sailing trip in 1993 and tries very hard to get other Fulbrighters hooked on the same sea adventure.

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.

Shamaila Ghaffar Diversity Initiative

The liaison for the Fulbright Diversity Program Alumni co-organizes events on the local and national levels to sustain the energy and positive experiences of the 5-week US program. She associates being a Diversity scholar with an unforgettable adventure in the US, during which a group of students came together to realize an opened future of possibilities.

Shamaila was a participant of the Fulbright Diversity Initiative in 2010, when she was immersed in student life at the University of Kentucky. Shamaila currently studies Economics at Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main.

The member of the Extended Board not featured here is **Steffen Schmuck-Soldan**, who organizes the Jürgen Mulert Award.



“We must dare to think ‘unthinkable’ thoughts. We must learn to explore all the options and possibilities that confront us in a complex and rapidly changing world.”

J. William Fulbright

The city and the citizen – rethinking traditional roles

by Tilman Schenk und Thorsten Mehnert

The relationship between the city and its citizen can be viewed from a variety of perspectives. The ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle described the citizen as *ζῶν πολιτικόν*, a natural member of an urban community. Modern social sciences examine urban societies as a whole or in its parts as networks of interacting individuals. Only recently has a new view on the citizen emerged that attempts to understand the citizen as an active stakeholder in shaping the urban form. This implies both new rights and obligations: taking a more active role in urban development, citizens have the opportunity to directly influence the shape of the environment in which they live. For urban administrations however, it is tempting to transfer to the active citizen those tasks that most of us have become used to regarding as public domain. In the following, this new concept of urban planning and development is briefly discussed in general and subsequently embedded in a local context with an example of community activism in Leipzig.

Changing paradigms in urban planning and development

From government to governance, it is this pair of terms that is most often used to describe the changes in the understanding of the citizen's role in urban development. The term ‘government’ refers to the city as a system that is shaped by the decisions of a relatively small group of technicians – the planners – led and controlled by political representatives. Although strictly democratic, this arrangement has in the last four decades been increasingly criticized and eventually challenged for being detached from the will of the citizen as the user of the urban space. Under the impression of growing

resistance, legislators have introduced opportunities for the public to react to plans before they are implemented.

The notion of ‘governance’ is more far-reaching and puts community participation first. Not only the planners but also the residents are regarded as the local experts when it comes to community planning decisions. What's more, the citizen takes a stake in shaping the urban form; community gardening as practiced in a number of large cities worldwide is just one example. These highly motivated citizens not only participate but also take responsibility for their environment as well as providing new options to urban administrations. Tight budgets and low tax bases are forcing municipalities everywhere in the Western world to cut down on expenses for public services – while the citizen is just as glad to take over. This also raises the question of legitimacy: while planners employed by municipalities were often regarded as disconnected from the people, they were at least theoretically under the control of elected politicians. Governance approaches, on the other hand, promise to integrate anybody interested regardless of who they represent. Furthermore, it has never been possible to integrate such a large number of citizens in processes of public concern as under governance principles. The following describes a project in Leipzig, where participation focuses on civil coproduction.

Bürgerbahnhof Plagwitz – Reviving an urban blight

Since the fall of the Wall, the Leipzig-Plagwitz industrial railway terminal has endured an urban blight existence. In its

current state, the site covering approximately 17.5 hectares represents an obstacle to further urban development and implementation of a wealth of ideas for reuse. What's more, vandalism, dumping and other negative implications of disuse and poor social control lead to significant disadvantages for nearby residents.

We – residents, creative artists, traders, home-owners, associations/foundations in the vicinity of the site – want to change this situation. In early 2010, we therefore established the Initiative Bürgerbahnhof Plagwitz (IBBP). Together with the City of Leipzig, we have since pursued the common goal of revitalizing the site, thereby attributing the west end of the city a new impetus for development.

First of all, we supported the City in its negotiations with the site owner, Deutsche Bahn AG. Transferring ownership of the site to the City of Leipzig – something which has already failed several times in the past – is a decisive condition if this site is to have a future. Only with coordinated responsibility for development on the part of the City is it possible to ensure that the social, cultural, economic and urban aspects are synchronized and channeled toward comprehensive development.

Parallel to this and in cooperation with the neighborhood management, we began to interest other citizens in this project. Against the backdrop of two theme nights, approximately 200 citizens were informed of the development plans and possibilities of getting involved. During tours of the site, initial design

ideas were presented. Breakfast organized on the tracks and supported by mini performances enabled those citizens involved to experience the site in an entirely different manner. As a result of these events, other stakeholders joined the IBBP. Work commenced on the concept, culminating in a list of around 50 ideas for utilization in the areas of culture (e.g., summer theater, sculpture park), recreation (e.g., construction playground, climbing rocks, scout camp), education (e.g., history path, green classroom), tourism (e.g., sleeping car B&B, camp site), ecology (e.g., urban forest, citizens' gardens) and business (working & living, workshops). Ten ideas were prioritized from this list and concepts developed by groups of citizens.

But it is difficult to maintain motivation within a citizens' group on the basis of conceptual work alone. We don't want to simply plan – we want to actively implement our ideas. While waiting for final approval, we started actions for a lively urban area in the vicinity of the property: we built a beach volleyball court on another wasteland area, dismantled a Wilhelmian steel construction at the former passenger station for later use, e.g., as a glasshouse in the citizens' gardens, started to restore an old reception lodge, and much more.

Civil coproduction instead of civil participation

These activities were only possible thanks to intensive collaboration with the City of Leipzig – in planning discussions and workshops, cooperation within the City's inter-departmental “Bahnhof Plagwitz” coordination group and thanks to a wil-



The IBBP dismantling the Wilhelmian steel construction; photo: Gunter Binsack



The city and the citizen – rethinking traditional roles

lingness to display open, constructive cooperation on the part of progressive city employees. But why are citizens getting involved here in the first place? The experience gleaned by the IBBP indicates that there are enormous potentials for society when citizens are actively involved, transforming them from consumers to co-producers of urban space:

- **Better solutions:** Those who live in the area are aware of the problems and are often capable of finding more appropriate solutions than an urban planner working alone.
- **Higher identification:** Those involved in design develop a stronger identification with and responsibility for their surroundings. This increases a willingness to get actively involved and appreciate local environments.
- **Wider knowledge base:** Citizens represent diverse professions and can often provide urban planners with support in their work. A multidisciplinary approach often points the way toward more feasible solutions.
- **Easier implementation through local networks:** Many personal connections within a neighborhood can be used for discussing and overcoming obstacles.
- **Stronger local communities:** Working together to develop common surroundings and experiencing personal creative potential strengthens local communities and encourages more self-organization.
- **Great potential:** Municipal budgets are attributed an interesting lever by voluntary involvement. The IBBP generates a value of approximately 10 Euros from one municipal Euro.

Citizens do not change from consumers to co-producers overnight. A new distribution of roles needs to be designed and tested. There are still many reservations against active forms of citizen involvement as well as doubts concerning its effectiveness and legitimacy. On the basis of reference projects, doubters must be shown that this is not about an inefficient and time-consuming form of citizen involvement but that it has actually been possible to create specific added

value when compared to methods pursued in the past. Such projects should be organized as an “urban laboratory” which develops new forms of division of labor between administrative authorities and citizens in an application-oriented manner. Collaboration on equal terms, sharing responsibility, avoiding duplication of effort, target-oriented and efficiently organized work by citizens for citizens, activation of voluntary commitment – these are only some of the issues in which the IBBP wants to develop practical forms of division of labor between citizens, administrative authorities / politics and business.

Plans for the first construction stage on the Bürgerbahnhof Plagwitz site, the so-called Northern End, are largely complete. Citizens and some initial supporting companies are ready to implement the tasks defined in the planning process (restoring walls, building a bouldering wall, gardening, etc). In March 2012, the IBBP asked Leipzig’s Lord Mayor Burkhard Jung to declare conclusion of this contract a priority and provide a stimulus for a decisive future for the Bürgerbahnhof Plagwitz. The IBBP has already supplied the Lord Mayor with one key instrument for concluding the contract:



Tilman Schenk is a lecturer in Human Geography at the University of Leipzig. His research focuses mainly on civil participation in planning processes in urban as well as rural contexts. He was a Fulbright grantee in 2001/02 at the State University of New York at Albany, where he studied Geography and Urban Planning. Today, he is also the coordinator for the Fulbright Alumni Regional Chapter in Leipzig. Contact: [tschenk\(a\)rz.uni-leipzig.de](mailto:tschenk(a)rz.uni-leipzig.de)



Thorsten Mehnert spent his Fulbright year (1987/88) at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and at Harvard University in Boston. Today he lives in Leipzig and works as management consultant and president of Stiftung “Ecken wecken”. His current voluntary activities focus on enabling local initiatives and piloting civil coproduction. Contact: [vorstand\(a\)stiftung-ecken-wecken.de](mailto:vorstand(a)stiftung-ecken-wecken.de)



National Games Munich 2012:
volunteers escort athletes after their competition;
photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein

Special Olympics

by Wiltrud Hammelstein

*“Let me win, but if I cannot win,
let me be brave in the attempt”*

This is the oath of Special Olympics, which is spoken by an athlete at the opening of every Special Olympic event, be it local, regional, national, or international. I have heard it so many times in the past 18 years since I started as a volunteer for Special Olympics in Berlin. And it still brings a shiver to my spine when I hear it, no matter in what language. It summarizes the very essence of the goal of Special Olympics: the passion and devotion of the athletes to give their best every time they compete. And the pure joy they show and share when they excel seems unprecedented. It draws you in and, once there, one cannot help but return again and again, for the experience elevates the soul.

Special Olympics came into my life as another task at work. In 1994, I was working for Otis in Germany, in the Human Resources Department, in charge of international projects and internal communication. One day, my boss came to me and asked: “Do you want to get involved in community work?”, and I replied, “What do you want to drop on my desk now?” He explained that he had received a letter from our then CEO who asked the countries to get involved with their local Special Olympics programs. The goal was twofold: to see what they needed to get their team to the 1995 World Games, to be

held in New Haven, Connecticut, not coincidentally within reach of the home of Otis Elevator. The second goal was to build “Team Otis”, composed of employees who volunteered their time and expertise to the local Special Olympics organization.

What a challenge! In the US, everyone is familiar with Special Olympics, founded in the 1960s by the late Eunice Kennedy Shriver*. In Europe and Germany, the Paralympics are much better known. While the Paralympics are for elite athletes with physical handicaps, Special Olympics is open for all people with intellectual disabilities (ID), no matter their skill level. It is acknowledged by the International Olympic Committee, granting the coveted use of the word “Olympics”.

At that time, I personally had had no exposure to anyone with ID except occasional encounters in the Berlin streets or subways. And frankly, how do we perceive people with ID: sometimes as loud, sometimes as strange, and sometimes as funny. They may mumble or move about in an uncontrolled manner. At times, most of us look away, feeling awkward upon meeting a person with ID. I admit, I did the same. So I told my boss “I don’t know if I can do it”.

This is a reaction the people of Special Olympics hear often from others and all they say is “Come and see for yourself”. This is what I did when the Executive Director of SO-Deutsch-



World Games Athens 2011: the author and a former colleague from the UK at the old Olympic Stadium before the Opening Ceremony; photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein

land invited me during the Summer of 1994 to a SO event with 3,000 athletes who competed in track and field and motor activities under a blue Bavarian sky in Schweinfurt. I had taken my camera to take photos since I wanted to publish an article on SOD for our internal magazine to present SO to our employees (I had done a random survey among the Berlin employees and no one had ever heard of Special Olympics. So, providing information was key to motivate employees to volunteer). In Schweinfurt, I remember that I walked around the entire day with a big smile on my face, watching the athletes compete, cheering them on, hugging some, sharing the tears of some others after they lost or beaming with joy when receiving their medals. This was the day I became hooked.

Once I was back in Berlin, we contacted the local Special Olympics group to see how we could support them with a team of volunteers. At that time, the Berlin Special Olympics Chapter was already organizing an annual swimming event, which took place on a weekend in a swimming pool in Adlershof. They were delighted to hear that a company wanted to provide volunteers and a bit of sponsoring (our canteen provided the lunch bags). Swimming is a great sport to volunteer at: the action takes place at one site, each heat receives full attention, and athletes compete directly against each other, with coaches, volunteers, teammates, and officials cheering them on heat after heat. While coaches and officials need to be certified according to Special Olympics or sports competition rules, other volunteer positions can be handled by anyone: one – for starters – is accompanying the athlete. This is an opportunity whereby volunteers interact closely with the athletes, since coaches are not allowed within the “field of play” (the pool site and the awards area). It is part of the SO concept that an athlete learns to become more independent, deal with people he does not know, and manage the competition situation on his own. Athletes are accompanied by volunteers who pick them up at staging, walk them to the pool, manage their belongings (towels, credentials, mascots, etc), help them get into the pool, and out again if necessary, and cheer their athletes on when swimming. After competition, all athletes are eager to share their joy or frustrations, and the volunteer is usually the one who receives that first batch of feedback. They also accompany the athlete either to the awards area or hand him/her over again to the coach.

My role today with Special Olympics Germany is to be responsible for the staging of the athletes for the swimming competitions at the Berlin Regional Games (once a year in the pool at Landsberger Allee) and at the SO National Games, which take place every two years (this past May in Munich). This is a wonderful position, as it puts me into contact with all athletes. Plus, the staging is the only time the organization team is in touch with the coaches who bring the athletes when their heat is called. It is a great opportunity to learn more about the athletes and their institutions and further discuss how we as the organization team can improve our work. I have known some of the athletes since I started 18 years ago, and it is such a delight to see how they have developed over the years, thanks to continuous training in their local clubs. Not only do they swim better and better, but they also need coaches less year after year as they foster their sense of independence. The achievement of a Special Olympics athlete is measured in relative terms, and the developments of certain individuals can be truly stunning. Some even qualify to represent Germany at international competitions like the European or World Games of Special Olympics.

World Games take place every two years, with Summer and Winter Games alternating. The last World Summer Games took place in June, 2011 in Athens, Greece, with more than 7,000 athletes from some 170 countries participating. It was the world’s biggest sports event that year.

When the organizers of the Athens Games put out a call for volunteers from around the world, some Otis colleagues applied, along with me. Having run the staging for 3 Special Olympics National Games in Germany with the same amount of participants as Athens would have, I was accepted for staging at aquatics.

We had over 500 swimmers from around 70 countries. The competition took place at the Athens 2004 Olympic pool, which is very impressive. As the competition rules and standards are the same in all larger Special Olympics events



World Games Athens 2011: the author poses with a volunteer from Spain at the farewell party for all volunteers at the aquatics site; photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein



World Games Athens 2011: the author smiles for a souvenir photo with a coach and two athletes from Team Australia; photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein

around the world, it was not difficult to get the staging organized within the first half day. Unlike National Games, language is a big issue in international events. Hardly any Special Olympics athlete speaks another language than his native one, some without any language capabilities at all. Speaking various languages came in handy in my position of calling athletes for their heats. It was such a joy to see their surprised expressions when they heard their names called in a familiar way or when they were greeted in their mother tongue. And some of the coaches were thankful for explanations that I could offer them in their native language as they struggled themselves with English. Most of them had never before attended World Games, so uncertainties about details were rampant.

I was curious to learn more about the situation of people with ID in other countries. While the integration of people with ID has made quite a bit of progress in the past 20 years in Germany, much still needs to be done. The need to improve the lives of people with ID around the world is so overwhelming, and sport is a great channel to help achieve progress.

We as Fulbrighters know that breaking down barriers and overcoming prejudices is easiest on a person-to-person level. It holds true among people from different nations. But it also applies to people from other groups in the same community or society. Special Olympics is a wonderful opportunity for a community activity as it offers thousands of events in communities around the world. Check out the website of Special Olympics Germany to find an event near you: www.specialolympics.de (for the US: www.specialolympics.org). Become a volunteer and join the fun!



After finishing her studies of business at the University of Cologne in 1990, Wiltrud has worked for international companies in Human Resources in Berlin, Cologne, Stockholm, and Paris, where she lives today. Her passion for people and curiosity for cultures is the base for her work, her engagement in various Fulbright Associations, and a volunteer for Special Olympics.

What is Special Olympics:

- It is a Movement of Millions. Special Olympics is not just a sports organization devoted to people with intellectual disabilities; it is a worldwide movement of individuals, families, coaches, volunteers, sponsors, professional athletes, and supportive celebrities.
- It is an international sport organization providing year-round sports training and competitions program for nearly 4 million children and adults with intellectual disabilities in 170 countries. In Europe, we count about 500,000 in 58 national programs.
- The focus of Special Olympics is its athletes, all of whom have an intellectual disability. These athletes are competitors; they want to win. They measure success not only by the medals they win but the steady progress of their best performances.

* Eunice Kennedy Shriver

Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founder of Special Olympics, was a pioneer in the worldwide struggle for rights and acceptance for people with intellectual disabilities. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, she saw little justice in the way people with intellectual disabilities were treated. She saw they were excluded and routinely placed in custodial institutions. They were often ignored and neglected, yet she knew they had many talents and gifts to offer.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver had a sister, Rosemary, who had an intellectual disability. She and Rosemary grew up playing sports together. They swam, sailed, went skiing, and played football together. But in those days, there were limited programs for people with ID. Eunice Kennedy Shriver went on to become an athlete in college. She began to see that sports could be a common ground to unite people from all walks of life. She believed that if people with intellectual disabilities were given the same opportunities and experiences as everyone else, they could accomplish far more than people ever thought possible.

She put that vision into action in 1962 by inviting young people with intellectual disabilities to a summer day camp she hosted in her backyard. She called it “Camp Shriver.” The goal was to explore the children’s skills in a variety of sports and physical activities. The idea behind that first Camp Shriver began to grow. In July 1968, the first International Special Olympics Games were held in Chicago, Illinois, US.

What began as one woman’s vision evolved into Special Olympics International – a global movement that today serves nearly 4 million people with intellectual disabilities in more than 170 countries.



Haverford, Pennsylvania and the Enlightenment of a German Soccer Coach

by Heinrich Garg

Besides teaching College-level Latin for Juniors and Seniors at Haverford Preparatory School in Pennsylvania, US, it was the obligatory coaching job (in my case, soccer, naturally) which fascinated me most during my time in that wonderful community. At the beginning, I was surprised at the impressive number of alumni, family members, and classmates who turned out regularly to watch our games and cheer on my students. Three newcomers, two Korean students and one German boy, had qualified for the varsity team. Since they met in my Latin class 5 times per week, shared soccer practice 5 times per week, and competed locally or traveled for games every week, they were integrated into team, class, and school at an amazing speed. This was based, very obviously, on three different occasions and levels of interaction, each serving a special psychological purpose: academics, soccer practice, and weekly competitions. No need to add how fast and gladly they acknowledged school as their second home and how they enjoyed being carried through their ordinary schooldays by the Haverford school spirit.

I also coached soccer at MacArthur High School in Irving, Texas, in the mid-Seventies. By that time, I had not yet become fully aware of the impact of athletic teamwork on integration, mutual respect, and academic achievement. However, I can still remember my Mexican and other Latino immigrant students as great athletes with good characters and the great contributions they made to the development of my soccer team. It was remarkable how readily, as though by instinct, they embraced sports as a fluid way of integration and social acceptance. Upon looking deeper into sociological studies, my observations are largely supported, with sports involvement demonstrating positive effects on self-esteem, social skills, and students' engagement with their greater community.

Through extensive personal experience as a teacher and coach in both the US and Germany, I have become fully convinced of the value of the US college and high school sports concept. Thus, I have come to consider a similar academic and athletic implementation in my own country. Of course, this is a Sysiphean task that requires perseverance, strong voices of numerous leaders, and creative ideas to convince a society deeply rooted in a sacrosanct German tradition of Verein- and Verband structures, so far unshaken without having ever been placed under honest scrutiny.

As many will have noticed, Germany was poorly represented in the most prestigious event in sports, the recent London Olympic Games, where teams were nonexistent in the most popular sports: handball, basketball, volleyball, water polo- not even soccer! How does this happen in such a fit nation?

Sport and athletic exercise are one of the key factors to the physical, emotional and intellectual development and integration of kids, especially necessary for underprivileged and immigrant families, as practiced for ages in the otherwise heavily downtrodden US school system. Of its two columns, the academic, on the one hand, and the athletic and cultural (extracurricular activities included) on the other, it is the latter which fascinates young people most, boosts self-esteem, and results in proactive identification with their social environment. They come home to lure their parents, families, and neighbors to attend their games, their shows, concerts, even their athletic practice periods. They tell their immigrant parents to learn English fast and minimize their accents for their own pride. These are the bridges which lead to proud adoption of American traditions, like participating in Thanksgiving dinner, Halloween parties, Native American powwows,



Students prepare for a Prep School league boat race on the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia



The opposing soccer teams shake hands after the game



An amazingly high turnout of alumni for a celebratory reception at such a small school

political-historical parades, and community fund-raising events. They enjoy regular school choir practice, bands, theater education, etc and actively become members of their flourishing networks.

I am approaching this issue also from my own experience and firsthand knowledge as a concerned parent, that is, about my own two children in Irving, Texas, elementary and high schools and two other kids with German parents. It took the four kids a mere few weeks to adjust to and love their new Texan environment through interaction in all-day schools, especially in sports, cultural activities, and field trips. Once we returned to Germany, however, it cost months to reluctantly accept their German school realities. There is much to learn from the style of American engagement in the name of children's happiness and communities.

German youngsters, particularly from immigrant families, would profit enormously from similar athletic and cultural challenges and interactions in schools, solidifying their sense of belonging with avenues of engaging with their classmates. Sports and regular cultural activities in schools and colleges are the main integration factors of all disciplines and social or communal activities. These must be followed by weekly team games against similar and equal competitors within an academic league.

Village and small-town Vereinsport and its Verbandspolitik may still be sufficient for adults and should be supported. However, their financial and social dependence on beer-brewing companies, often unengaged coaching staff, and little, if any, support by the organization's support staff are not good enough and too inefficient for the growing population of youth; an ambience like this is not at all conducive to talent support, character education, respect for other cultures, and identification with one's own institution and country.

A change of paradigm is an absolute must: It is the schools and universities which should assume command over community sports.

In basketball, the Alba Berlin team managers recently seem to be going out of their way to sponsor school basketball, but their efforts are heavily staunch by surprisingly little willingness of inner city schools. It is clear that their highly appreciated ways will never be successful unless they are

granted priority over the Vereins- and Verbandspolitik in attracting talent support. In The Netherlands, similar activities of pro-clubs and academic institutes have been launched, demonstrating a growing realization of this need.

My suggestions to the German and, perhaps, other members of the European sports establishment confronted with similar problems are the following:

- Introduce daily school sports and weekly team events.
- Establish academic leagues for the main and worldwide most popular team games in schools and universities.
- Recruit the most talented students from daily sports lessons and establish regular school teams.
- Allow schools and universities to control sport facilities and to request and raise funds for the building and maintenance of new athletic centers on campus, rather than giant but empty stadia beyond the campus.

Academic institutes should be encouraged, not hindered, to raise money from alumni, parent associations, and partnering community institutions, such as banks, media outlets, insurance companies, and industry. Established pro-clubs and poorly managed clubs must be excluded from taxpayers' money and lottery funds in favor of school and university leagues. Rather than stifling academically or publicly organized sports activities, the German DFB is strongly encouraged to shift a portion of its extensive resources away from bolstering enormous personal salaries and clubs' wealth to our youngsters' sports education and integration, especially for the sake of immigrant and disadvantaged kids. The British campaign "Schoolsport Matters", established at the time of the awarding of the 2012 Games to London, is a worthy example, launched and sponsored by The Telegraph and Aviva. It is at least a beginning on European ground to transfer sports education and athletic development to natural and worthy youth communities. To support this proposal or learn more, visit <http://schuelerfitness.blogspot.com>.



After his enlightened Fulbright experience in 1994/95 in Haverford, Heinrich continued teaching at Göttingen Gymnasium until he joined the University of Jena to teach English. He holds Masters degrees in Latin and English from Philipps-University of Marburg. Since retiring in 2009, his greatest joy is spending time with his seven grandchildren, spread across three nations.



Your Ideas, Your NATO: A New Generation Goes Transatlantic

by Jörg Wolf

Atlantic-community.org is the first online foreign policy think tank and is primarily focused on issues affecting transatlantic relations. Launched in 2007, its mission is to encourage open and democratic dialogue on the challenges facing Europe and North America, taking the view that these challenges can only be solved through close cooperation.

Atlantic-community.org encourages everyone, whether or not they form part of the Atlantic community in a geographic sense, to have a say on the issues. The online think tank publishes op-eds on a wide variety of topics relating to the transatlantic partners, which are then debated and refined by members of the 7,000-strong community. The editorial staff condenses the debates into Atlantic Memos – executive summaries that harness the collective intelligence of the community and present the best solutions and policy recommendations. These memos are sent to policy-makers in over 27 countries in Europe and North America.

A particular goal of atlantic-community.org is to provide a voice for a new generation of thinkers and young leaders. As part of this effort, atlantic-community.org's recently completed "Your Ideas, Your NATO" policy workshop provided a unique forum for young people to connect to the transatlantic debate and to present their policy ideas directly to influential decision makers.

In contrast to efforts to use the internet for campaigning or protests, atlantic-community.org invited young people from all over the world to come together to form collaborative, constructive policy recommendations. Entrants submitted a short article in one of three debate categories on the agenda of the recent NATO Summit in Chicago: Values and Community, Partnerships after the Arab Spring, and Smart Defense.

The competition had two broad aims: to give young people a voice in the international security debate, to increase their identification and feeling of ownership with NATO, and to develop concrete policy suggestions that could be implemented and would help improve NATO and its existing programs. With the focus of each of the topics on policy recommendations for the future, and tied in with current hotly debated topics such as the Arab Spring and defense budgets, the competition also emphasized the modernity of the issues on NATO's agenda and provided a forward looking forum, especially important to get young people "thinking transatlantic", moving away from a Cold War focus of NATO and into the modern value of the Alliance.

On both counts, the competition was a great success. Atlantic-community.org ultimately received over 200 policy proposals from students and young professionals in 47 countries, including NATO member states and NATO partners in Europe, Asia, North Africa, and the post-Soviet

states. By providing extensive language editing and an open contact policy where we directly answered participant queries, the editorial team was able to encourage a broad range of participation. Of the submissions received, 150, or nearly 70%, were from participants in countries where the first language is not English. In conjunction with online background materials and provided links, atlantic-community.org secured high levels of participation on the more difficult and technical topics of partnerships after the Arab Spring and Smart Defense.

The authors of the top 5 articles in each category were then invited to collaborate to form a joint policy paper. Using online Wiki software to write their policy paper, the finalists needed to find common ground and compromise on solutions to difficult international issues. The resulting memos are a testament to the power of this unique approach and are full of innovative policy ideas, including creating a "point system" to quantify member participation in NATO and "NATO Academies" to allow soldiers from different Alliance countries to train together in a multinational format.

Atlantic-community.org's editorial moderation was a significant factor in forming each of the policy memos. For teams made up primarily of students, guidance on how to write a policy-focused, as opposed to an academic paper, was essential. In striving for think tank-quality work, this competition produced far more robust output than an unmediated and unregulated online competition would. In addition, guiding participants through the complexities of NATO operations and

programs introduced them to many NATO projects they were not previously aware of and led to a greater understanding of overall NATO outlook and strategy and the difficulties of coming together on unanimously agreed-upon proposals to difficult issues.

Just as importantly, atlantic-community.org worked hard to put these policy proposals in the hands of decision makers from throughout NATO. One winner in each of the three categories came to Berlin to present the memos directly to the US Ambassador to Germany Philip D. Murphy and Parliamentary State Secretary for the German Minister of Defense Christian Schmidt. Additionally, the Canadian Minister of Defense, Peter MacKay, the Deputy Minister of Defense of Albania, Arian Starova, and members of the national assemblies of Canada, the Netherlands, and Norway evaluated the responses and gave their feedback on atlantic-community.org.

This project was just one example of atlantic-community.org's ongoing mission to encourage open, independent, and democratic dialogue on the challenges facing Europe and North America. Specifically, by promoting the participation of young people in the foreign policy debate, they are given the opportunity to publish and debate side-by-side with established experts and to have their policy ideas considered by senior officials, while decision makers benefit from the next generation's fresh ideas.



Jörg Wolf works for the Atlantic Initiative e.V. in Berlin as Project Manager and Editor-in-Chief of atlantic-community.org, an open think tank on foreign policy with more than 7,000 members worldwide. Jörg studied Political Science as a Fulbright Scholar at Johns Hopkins University in 1999/2000. He enjoys hiking and blogs at atlanticreview.org.



During the award ceremony in Berlin, US winner Samuel Erickson and German winner Stephanie Baulig stand with Germany's Deputy Defense Minister Christian Schmidt, US Ambassador Philip D. Murphy, and Jörg Wolf; photo: Jörg Wolf

US Ambassador Murphy congratulates the winners of the "Your Ideas, Your NATO" essay competition; photo: Jörg Wolf



JOBLINGE— together against youth unemployment

by Lucian Morariu

Three hundred and fifty thousand young people in Germany are mired in the “transitional” period between school and career. Their job applications are rejected due to insufficient formal qualifications, and in internships and qualifications programs, they get stuck in holding patterns without achieving their real goal: an apprenticeship or a job that suits their needs and abilities. While Germany, as a high-wage country, needs more and more workers who are better trained and educated than ever, opportunities for low-skill job-seekers continue to evaporate. The non-profit initiative JOBLINGE is devoted to helping exactly these young people.

JOBLINGE supports young people looking to get a foot in the door to a job. The program combines practical qualification with personal, individual mentoring and concrete opportunities to get an apprenticeship or a job on one’s own. To make this possible, JOBLINGE bundles the dedication and competence of highly diverse partners and institutions from business, government, and society. Their shared objective is to place youths with difficult starting conditions into apprenticeships and jobs that last. Many of the young people participating in the project have already given up on themselves and lack a support system in their personal environment. Like 22-year-old Tom from Berlin: “I just thought I messed up, and that was the end of that. But none of that mattered – they insisted on looking to the future, and all of a sudden it was worth it for me to try again. In my apprenticeship as a logistics expert, I finally have the opportunity to show what I can do!” The program gives young people a boost and provides them with a new outlook and prospects.

Bundling local forces – across the country

Up to now, the initiative has guided over 850 low-skill young people along the path to a job or to professional training, with better-than-average referral rates: Around 60% of participants find a job or apprenticeship on the regular employment market. The results are lasting, too: Over 90% of the young people referred are still in their jobs or apprenticeships after 12 months.

The JOBLINGE initiative was launched in 2007 by the The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and the Eberhard von Kuen-

heim Foundation of BMW AG. Five years later, the program has spread to six locations, and further locations are in preparation. The goal is to take the initiative nationwide.

The program: Hands-on experience from day one and individual mentoring

JOBLINGE gives young people the opportunity to prove themselves in practice – far from school grades and classic job application interviews. In a six-month program, they learn key practical skills, hone their social competence, and work towards their own apprenticeship or job – both in pragmatic group projects and with various company internships. They are supported by JOBLINGE personnel who work with them on a daily basis. Each program participant also has his or her own mentor, a trained volunteer with life and professional experience to provide support over the course of the entire program – someone to listen, motivate them, and help them keep their eye on the ball, especially when the going gets tough. JOBLINGE now has around 600 volunteer mentors acting as role-models and confidants. Many program participants come from disadvantaged backgrounds and often do not have the orientation and backing that other youths do, or people at their side to help them and listen during difficult phases. This is the role of JOBLINGE mentors. They help the young people to get a fresh perspective and navigate the path to a career. The goal is to find an apprenticeship or a job that is a perfect fit for each and every program participant. JOBLINGE personnel and mentors also remain available to the participants as valuable contacts after they have completed the program.

For more information, see www.joblinge.de.



With a Masters degree in Organization Design, International Management, and Marketing from the University of Mannheim, Lucian works as a Project Leader at Boston Consulting Group in Munich in the fields of Financial Services and Industrial Goods, with a focus on Mining and Building Materials. As a Fulbright grantee in 2004/05, he achieved an MBA from the Pepperdine University Graziadio School of Business and Management.

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

by Silke Wolter

We needn’t look far to find issues to care about. Though women in Germany are highly qualified, and they decide on 80% of consumer goods purchases, they are still underrepresented in the management of German businesses. The numbers: 51% of college graduates, 31% of leaders, 11% of upper management, and 2.5% of boards (DIW 2010). These quotas have not changed much over the last 10 years, and furthermore, German women with full time jobs still make 22% less than men, on average. Most neighboring countries (e.g., Norway, Belgium, Greece, Italy, and Spain) have lower income discrepancies (source: stern.de).

As a professional graphic designer, with my own business and three children to care for, I find this pervasive unfairness effectively working against the goal of a justice-centered, ambitious society. As I pursued the issue further, I learned ever more disturbing facts about women’s conditions around the world and, further, hopeful avenues to personally contribute to improving the situation. With Zonta International, an organization that aims to remediate both local and global injustice to women, I have been able to engage in many projects. Similar to the wonderful outcomes of the Fulbright spirit, this group, which primarily consists of women of all generations and professions, has built a community where inspiration, understanding, and service meet to produce real-world progress.

In Europe, women’s issues are often geared toward financial fairness, but far more dire problems compose the challenges that are sadly present in many parts of the world. For example, women and girls are uniquely and disproportionately affected by armed conflict. In modern warfare, an estimated 90% of casualties are civilians, and 75% of these are women and children (source: amnestyusa.org). Hindering most efforts to build systems of justice and stability is the fact that women make up 70% of the 1.3 billion poor in today’s world (source: zonta.org).

Closer to home, many female immigrants do not speak the German language, sometimes for reasons including their husbands’ disapproval or time constraints due to family chores. Our Zonta Club Bad Soden-Kronberg supports initiatives such as “Mama Lernt Deutsch” that provide the infrastructure but lack the funds for childcare while mothers study German language and culture.

Thanks to the non-profit organization “Musik Hilft” and others, donating time, funds and resources, we recently collected 6,000 Euros for a club project in Tanzania, which



The inspired women of Zonta Club Bad Soden-Kronberg; photo: Silke Wolter



“Mama Lernt Deutsch” program gathering; photo: Silke Wolter



Young women in Tanzania, supported by fund-raising efforts to facilitate education and job training; photo: Zonta International

leverages existing infrastructure to help train young women in skills to find work and support themselves in their home countries.

In a joint effort with the Frankfurt Club II, we are dedicated to the issue of forced marriage in Germany, considered a crime here. Approximately 3,000 women were forced into marriage in 2008 alone, 30% of whom were under 18 and 44% of whom were holding a German passport. At our awareness and fund-raising event, victim and activist Sabatina James read from her book at the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek in Frankfurt, and the subject of forced marriage in Germany was discussed by an expert panel, all in all helping to facilitate the on-the-ground efforts and identify ways in which we can all help mitigate the problem.

Seeking out issues and deciding to devote my efforts to such meaningful projects has been wonderfully fulfilling, and I would encourage anyone to consider committing themselves to these worthwhile causes. There are plenty!



Silke is a self-employed graphic designer in Bad Soden am Taunus focusing on corporate, interactive and print design, and consulting. She enjoys time with her husband and 3 children and actively supports the FAeV, the Gewerbeverein Bad Soden, and Zonta Club Bad Soden-Kronberg. In 1989 as a Fulbright grantee, she achieved a Masters degree from the University of Minnesota College of Design.



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:

- 2012 Fulbright Berlin Seminar
- 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:

- 2012 Fulbright Associatons 34th Annual Conference in London
- 1st ENAM Annual Conference in Rome
- 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.

Advisory Board

- Prof. Dr. Jürgen Kocka
- Dr. Ulrich Littmann
- Dr. Georg Schütte
- Hans-Burkhard Steck
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- Ulrich Wickert

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- board(a)fulbright-alumni.de
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president(a)fulbright-alumni.de
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vp.finances(a)fulbright-alumni.de
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vp.communications(a)fulbright-alumni.de
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vp.events(a)fulbright-alumni.de
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vp.members(a)fulbright-alumni.de

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- coordinators(a)fulbright-alumni.de
- International Cooperation** – Wiltrud Hammelstein
international(a)fulbright-alumni.de
- Jürgen Mulert Memorial Award**
Steffen Schmuck-Soldan
mulert.award(a)fulbright-alumni.de
- FRANKly** – Julianne McCall
editor.frankly(a)fulbright-alumni.de
- Online Editor/Social Media** – Simon Balder
editor.online(a)fulbright-alumni.de
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mentoring(a)fulbright-alumni.de
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video(a)fulbright-alumni.de
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webmaster(a)fulbright-alumni.de
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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** – Shamaila Ghaffar
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 Handschug-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

Frankfurt am Main, Germany's central metropolis and Europe's financial headquarters; photo: Timo Klein

Welcome Meeting 2011

by Carsten Kuschnerus



The Welcome Meeting crowd enjoys the late night festive atmosphere; photos: Timo Klein

On a sunny November weekend, over 100 "Fullies" met in Frankfurt am Main once again for the annual Welcome Meeting. The year's motto was "Building Bridges". True to the Fulbright spirit, there are countless opportunities to build bridges, for example, across frontiers, cultures, to the future, and to one another.

The Get Together on Friday, however, began with the opportunity to build a bridge to the regional culture of Frankfurt. At a local apple wine bar, everybody started sharing stories and experiences of their time in the US while enjoying freshly brewed apple wine and some local dishes.

On Saturday morning, the Welcome Meeting continued at the historic site of the former IG-Farbenhaus, which was used as the European headquarters of the US armed forces and is today home to the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University. A lively interactive session by Stephan Meyer-Brehm on "Living the Fulbright Spirit" opened the conference, sparking interesting discussions among all participants. The participatory component was followed by a presentation from Nikolay Diney (who had only returned from the US in 2010), which provided a new angle on the economy. Have you heard of the Maslow Pyramid and real inflation? Many people may be familiar, but only attendees of this talk could offer such clever insight using metaphors of a ketchup bottle and a hangover.

Around noon, everybody made their way to the Frankfurt landmark "Die Welle". Following lunch, participants were invited to join a number of creative workshops. Bryan Baker's workshop "How to survive Germany" built a bridge to the German culture and provided an interesting perspective on the existing prejudices and on the reality of the German way



Informational workshops, creative seminars, and busy networking opportunities abound at the Welcome Meeting; photos: Timo Klein

of life, not only for US Fulbrighters. The workshops "Solar Energy" by David Wedepohl and "Designing Life" by Silke Wolter also granted insights on how to approach building bridges with innovation, either via new technologies or to an alternative perspective to the different stages of life. The 4th workshop, "How to become a Management Consultant", offered a view on how the experiences gained during a year abroad can be applied from a consultant's point of view.

The official part of the program ended with the keynote speech, which again afforded a new perspective for all present, this year relating to the infinite complexities of US politics. In his talk "Making Sense of the US Presidential Election Process", Professor David T. Canon from the University of Wisconsin supplied a detailed analysis of the process, history,

and implications in today's society. The presentation was followed by a lively discussion on potential improvements. The California and Maryland plans were two of the possible procedures emphasized here.

The day's program ended with the traditional Saturday night dinner and party. Not surprisingly, the participants of the party followed the motto of the weekend with true allegiance in building connections among each other until the early morning hours.

On Sunday, everybody had a chance to recapture the weekend at brunch and later, during a tour to the famous Goethe Haus, before it was finally time to bid one another a great year until the next time together in Frankfurt am Main.



Winterball 2012

by Gail Taylor

Delicious food, good company, and castle turrets rising from a snowy winter landscape – what better setting than Schwerin for a memorable Winterball! Fulbright Alumni members from all over Germany gathered on a cold clear Friday evening to dine at the Restaurant & Weinhandel Krömer. Anne Schmidt, Ursula Mich, and Claudia Detje, our intrepid organizing committee, came early to check arrangements and welcome arrivals.



After the evening snowfall, an ambitious group enjoys an after-midnight stroll at the foot of the castle; photo: Timo Klein



Fulbrighters enjoying the beautiful event; photo: Timo Klein

Glass doors on one side of the formal dining room gave us a view of children ice-skating on the adjacent court outside. As members checked in and found their nametags, the sound of friends greeting each other filled the room. Our dinner started with a choice of mixed salad or chestnut cream soup and offered entrees of Bandnudeln with Gemüse Bolognese, Buntbarschfilet gebraten auf Rahmwirsing, or Medaillons vom Schweinefilet and Putenbrust. Some Fulbrighters had traveled as long as seven hours to arrive, and everyone brought a good appetite.

Saturday morning, the General Assembly of the Association in the elegant Schwerin Schloss opened with a rousing chorus of “Happy Birthday” to President Benjamin Becker. Next, our special guest, Silke Gajek, Vice President of the Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern welcomed us to Schwerin with

humor and enthusiasm. The presentations that followed recalled the activities of the past year: the Winterball in Heidelberg, the Silver Anniversary PowWow in Berlin, the Welcome Meeting in Frankfurt am Main, the sailing trip, family weekend, Diversity Alumni, FRANKly, and the international and regional connections that keep the Fulbright Alumni Association engaged and involved both within and beyond Germany. We were reminded of the vital infrastructure that makes all of this possible: the website, databases, communications, and financial management. Lively discussions ensued as members exchanged questions and opinions concerning future plans. Then, we embarked on the election of next year’s executive board and extended board, adjourning early enough to grant everyone time to explore, rest, and prepare for the evening.

The Winterball awaited. A glass of champagne welcomed each guest

into the well-appointed ballroom of the Hotel Elefant. The high windows and ceiling were draped with swaths of dark green velvet and gold shimmering over tables made festive with flowers and candlelight. Friends found each other anew in ball gowns and evening wear, talking excitedly and deciding where to sit.

Inmi Patterson, Consul General of the US in Hamburg, opened the evening ceremonies. Originally from South Korea, she told us she was inspired by Senator Fulbright’s commitment to international educational exchange and had always wanted to be a Fulbrighter. Next, Dr. Rolf Hoffmann, Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission, reminded us that 2012 is the 60th anniversary of the German/US Fulbright Program. Celebrations to encourage networking and collaboration filled the Fulbright calendar for 2012.



The Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern served as an elegant venue for the General Assembly; photo: Timo Klein

Anne Schmidt and Ursula Mich presented the 2011 Executive Board members with gifts of gratitude for their service and welcomed the new board. President Benjamin Becker presented Christopher Janosch Delcker with the prestigious Juergen Mulert Memorial Award on Mutual Understanding on behalf of the Fulbright Alumni Association, followed by a striking film from the Berlin segment of Delcker’s multi-media photo journal, “Urban Observations.”

The room was filled with people greeting one another, visiting from one table to the other, and just as we retrieved our Rote Grütze (a light sweet dessert of custard and berries), the music kicked in with a Strauss waltz. The dance floor filled quickly and the music merged without pause into Sinatra’s “New York, New York.” There were occasional cha chas and sambas for the more schooled dancers among us, and the music never stopped, flowing from “Thriller” to “Tales from the Vienna Woods” and onwards. It was fun and a little crazy with our interpretations of “YMCA” and “Let’s Twist Again”, and the dance floor was full until at least 2 a.m. Silently, outside our music-filled ballroom, the snow was falling steadily through the night.

The next morning, groups of Fulbrighters walked through the fresh snow to the Restaurant Manet for a bountiful Sunday brunch. Overnight, Schwerin had become a winter wonderland, and we enjoyed seeing more of it, choosing between an historical tour of the old town and a tour of the castle with its glistening bridges and towers. Some bade farewell in the mid-afternoon and others enjoyed an extra day in Schwerin, but there was no doubt we had all shared an unforgettable Winterball.



Excited for the evening’s celebration; photo: Timo Klein



Fulbrighters welcome fellow participants to the lovely Winterball venue; photo: Timo Klein



Moments from the evening: top, the 2011 Board is recognized for their outstanding efforts; bottom left, Winterball Co-Coordinator, Anne Schmidt, hosts the night’s entertainment program; bottom right, One of many portraits of happiness; photos: Timo Klein

Following the Opening Ceremony, the hundreds of participants network in the House of World Cultures; photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein

Building the German-American Fulbright Network for 60 Years

by Kirstin Meyer

If we heard it once, we heard it a hundred times: network. We heard about the value of the ‘Fulbright family’, about the opportunities opened up by one’s own personal web of colleagues and friends; we attended social hours named ‘networking opportunities’. And tired of the word as we may have been, many of us put into the practice what we were being told. We networked.

Commemorating 60 years of the German-American Fulbright program, this year’s Berlin Seminar was hosted by the German Fulbright Commission at the Park Inn Hotel in Berlin’s Alexanderplatz. In part due to the invitation and participation of Fulbrighters studying in European countries other than Germany, the conference took on a very trans-European character. During several different panels and a government welcome at Berlin’s “Red Town Hall,” discussion centered on European politics, the future of the Bologna process, and the challenges still facing a reunited Germany. Some grantees also shared their personal experiences in the panel “Networks in Europe” – from learning glass-blowing in Sweden to navigating the nuances of British English.

The seminar’s annual musical gala, organized by conference veteran Joe Nykiel, was a great success and included a variety of music, from Spanish opera to Steve Reich. In a multi-movement work for solo tuba, Gabriel Sears pushed the audience into overwhelming laughter during his rendition of “6-Pack”.

To me, a student grantee to Germany, the Berlin Seminar achieved legendary renown. Veterans spoke of what sounded

like a life-changing event, and I’ve got to admit it: when interesting people from diverse backgrounds are gathered in one of the most eclectic and historical cities in the world, some good things are bound to take place. As a marine biologist, I spend a lot of time on ships or in a lab. My world is full of specimens and spreadsheets, so I had no idea what an archive was or that historians could tell such epic stories about having to register every pencil they brought with them to view a 3,000-year-old document. Some English Teaching Assistants stationed in northern Spain informed me that Basque is the only language on earth that is completely unrelated from every other language, and I even met a German who had studied for her Fulbright in my home state. You see, a network is deeper than a group of people with whom one is acquainted; it’s more than an avenue by which one can pull strings to secure a new job and favors for friends. It’s a rich tapestry of people with interesting stories to tell, new perspectives to share, and some pretty impressive photo albums. In a network – and especially one like the Fulbright family – we can learn so much from each other.

This wide variety of topics and personalities represented at the Berlin seminar seemed only fitting in a city as diverse and storied as Berlin. The Fulbright network extends across multiple generations and includes everyone from English teachers to historians to physicists. The Berlin Seminar serves as an annual celebration of this network by doing exactly what the Fulbright program is supposed to do: bring people together, carry the tradition of inspired and thoughtful bilateral exchange into the next 60 years of progress.



Speakers and Guests of Honor gather onstage at the German Federal Foreign Office; photo: Timo Klein



A quiet corner of Berlin's Museum Island; photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein



Speakers and participants pause for a moment at the House of World Cultures; photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein



Celebrating the German Fulbright Commission's 60th Anniversary at the Federal Foreign Office; photo: Timo Klein



Minister of State Cornelia Pieper addresses the inspired audience at the Federal Foreign Office; photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein

Meeting Fulbrighters in Qatar

by Alice Adams



Travels of two German alumni to Qatar sparks an occasion to gather regional Fulbrighters; photo: Alice Adams

Two members of the German Fulbright community, Alice Adams and Julianne McCall, traveled to Doha, Qatar in April, 2012, to attend the first ever TEDx-Summit in preparation for TEDxFulbright. While in Doha, they organized a gathering of Fulbright alumni for coffee and discussion at the Kempinski Hotel. The meeting strengthened ties among Fulbrighters in the region and brought together alumni from the US, Germany, Egypt, and Lebanon.



An evening view across the harbor toward the Islamic Cultural Center in Doha, Qatar; photo: Lawrence Wang

International Conferences in Washington, D. C. and Rome

by Benjamin Becker

International Fulbright Alumni Association's 34th Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

With great appreciation for an alumni community that is as much international as it is “plugged in” to social media, I met two American friends on a moment's notice upon posting my travel announcement online in November, 2011 for the Annual Conference of the International Fulbright Alumni Association in Washington, D.C. With a couple days in town before the conference commenced, I had also scheduled a meeting with the US State Department's Alumni Coordinator, Jason D. Haserodt, who informed me and Paul Donnelly (the Irish Fulbright Alumni Association's President, who was also in town) about the State Department's alumni initiatives. Being a Fulbright alumnus himself, Jason (who had spent his Fulbright year in Germany!) also expressed appreciation of our own alumni activities, and on his suit jacket, I could spot the German-American lapel pin of the US Embassy in Berlin.

The conference started with a Happy Hour of the Young Professionals Network, a kind of virtual chapter within the Fulbright Association. Its initiator, Keisuke “K” Nakagawa, had invited Fulbrighters who felt “young at heart” to a nice bar on 14th Street, which even had its own Kölsch brew on tap. Though still in its early phase, the Young Professionals Network already seemed promising – and necessary, judging by the age structure of the conference's attendants.

The regular conference program included a fantastic Selma Jeanne Cohen Fund Lecture on Tribal Fusion (a dance format that combines traditional Arabic and modern western elements), meetings for members of the Fulbright Association, a tour of the US Institute of Peace (lead by Fulbright alumnus Dr. David J. Smith), and roundtable sessions moderated by the conference attendees. I myself offered a roundtable on “Social Media for Alumni Associations”, with fruitful discussions on best practice approaches between the Fulbright representatives from the UK, the US, and Pakistan.

I had also signed up for an optional Diversity Luncheon, during which the US State Department's Senior Program Manager and Diversity Coordinator David N. Levin spoke on his government's diversity initiatives. From a German perspective, it was interesting to learn that the current US approach to diversity does not solemnly focus on ethnicity, but also includes other features such as (dis)ability, socioeconomic status, and geographic origin (addressing possible disadvantages in remote regions).

Besides the conference program, the definite highlight of the week was the formal reception at the private residence of the Taiwanese Ambassador to the US, H. E. Jason C. Yuan. After an exceptionally interesting briefing on the current state of affairs of US-Taiwanese-Chinese relations, we were served a 7-course meal, granting enough time for discussions with the Ambassador, his staff, and other attending Fulbrighters.

The conference provided ample opportunity to network and talk to representatives of the various Fulbright Alumni Associations, all of whom seemed to be very interested in the German Fulbright Alumni Association's activities. It made me proud to represent such an active and well-respected organization. However, I also realized that while we are excellent at promoting intercultural understanding, we still lag behind in terms of professional networking and fundraising. Hence, the most valuable experience of the conference was to understand that we can all learn and benefit largely from each other, which renders such international conferences key to the alumni experience.



Washington, D. C. and Rome



The founding of the European Network of American Alumni Associations in Rome

Based on discussions during the US State Department's 2010 enrichment workshop for alumni leaders in Paris (see Barbara Weiten's report in the 2010 *FRANKly*), the European Network of American Alumni Associations (ENAM) was finally founded in December, 2011. To duly celebrate this occasion, the Italian umbrella alumni association AMERIGO (which also comprises the Italian Fulbright Association) had agreed to organize a Constituent Assembly, as well as the 1st ENAM conference. Thanks to the US State Department's travel grants, all alumni organizations were once again given the opportunity to send a representative, and it was my great privilege to follow the invitation to the Eternal City. As this was my first trip ever to Rome (and to Italy, as well), I took the opportunity to walk the city, do some cliché sightseeing (including the Colosseum, the Forum Romanum, and the Vatican City), and enjoy the exquisite Italian cuisine.

The brief two-day event started with a reception on the first night, followed by the ENAM conference and the constituent assembly the next day. For the conference, we were invited to the Italian Chamber of Deputies, where the US Ambassador to Italy and other high-ranking officials addressed us. We were all impressed by the prestigious character of the whole event, which also included our accommodation in the 5-star-hotel of the Boscolo Group. Following the conference motto, “Who's Who – Identity in a Changing World”, participants were both encouraged to network and to discuss changing identity concepts in today's interconnected world. This included binary oppositions, such as offline vs. online and transnational vs. national identities, and concluded with a panel discussion on “The Politics of Identity in a Changing World”, where I presented the German interculturality paradigm from a political and an educational perspective. The other panelists

from Macedonia, Moldova, Italy, the Netherlands, and the UK talked about comparable approaches in their respective countries (e.g., British multiculturalism), and it was fascinating to learn about the differences and commonalities.

At the Constituent Assembly, which took place in the former mansion of a Roman cardinal that now houses one of Italy's largest law firms, ENAM gave itself a constitution and a mission statement. The 34 present alumni leaders then elected the event's head organizer Massimo Cugusi as ENAM's 1st Secretary General and, during a later online vote, ultimately decided on the following European Board of Directors:

- Vicente López-Ibor Mayor (Spain)
- Jeyhun Karamov (Azerbaijan)
- Katarina Kohen (Serbia)
- Benjamin Becker (Germany)
- Faten Saleh (France)
- Paul Donnelly (Ireland)
- Muddassar Ahmed (United Kingdom)

The German Fulbright Alumni are thus officially represented in ENAM, and I am very excited to see what this new kind of interconnectedness will bring about for our national network as well as for the newly formed international association. Since the founding event, two board meetings have taken place, one in Barcelona and one in Sardinia, and the General Assembly in London in November, 2012. The first international conference will take place most likely in Azerbaijan in 2013.

More information on the network and its upcoming activities can be found on the ENAM website (americanalumni.eu) and on its Facebook page (facebook.com/americanalumni).

Engaging with an orphan community outside of Belgrade; photo: Simon Balder



SERBIA WORKSHOP

Alumni United: Together We Can Achieve More

by Simon Balder

Freely adapted from Senator Fulbright's statement that "there is a multiplier effect in international education and it carries the possibility – the only real possibility – of changing our manner of thinking about the world, and therefore of changing the world", it is imperative that alumni associations work together and share ideas to continue upholding that vision with intelligent use of time, resources, and energy.

For this purpose, an alumni meeting in Serbia in June, 2012 was designed with the theme "Together we can achieve more!" Located in Sremski-Karlovici, the small town near Belgrade is home to the oldest and most respected high school in the country.

The first day's guided tour of Belgrade offered views of the embassy district, Town Hall, parliamentary complex, the impressive Orthodox Church of the Balkans, and the Belgrade fortress. Moreover, the chance to immerse myself in the exciting and famous night life of Belgrade served a further opportunity to experience Serbian culture.

The official part of the working-weekend began with presentations about the work of the hosting alumni organization and its sister alumni organizations, our German Association and the Bulgarian Association. Over the course of the weekend, intense conversations about the current political situation and sociocultural issues ensued.



The small group of participants and superb presentations led to transformational connections over the course of the weekend; photo: Simon Balder

The last day's schedule included a visit to a village for orphaned children and youths. In my opinion, this was among the most important items on the schedule. By participating, we participants of the seminar placed special emphasis on engaging with local communities, in this case, sport activities with the youths. Our involvement was met with beaming expressions, and I took the experience as a powerful symbol of the necessity of my academic generation to work toward better integrating those populations on the fringes of society for the moral reason that our global humanity depends on the commerce and health of its most disadvantaged populations.

In the end, this seminar was characterized not only by fruitful discussions and workshops but also by meaningful connections with attendees and community members. The aim was clearly realized, in that large proposals can only be undertaken and successfully implemented via collaborative and genuine efforts.

Celebration of the 5th Anniversary of the Swiss Fulbright Alumni Association

by Thomas Heinis, Uwe Koch and Karl Safft

On September 28th, 30 members of the Swiss Fulbright Alumni Association (SFAA) celebrated the 5th anniversary of their foundation on July 4th, 2007.

Whereas the foundation of the SFAA was celebrated at the residence of the US Ambassador in Bern, which was built in the 19th century, the anniversary celebration took place at an estate of similar historic importance, also built in the 19th century: "Belvoir", Zurich home of Alfred Escher, the constructor of the Gotthard Tunnel. Through building the tunnel, Escher contributed significantly to bringing the people of northern and southern Europe closer together. Therefore, we considered his former home an appropriate place to celebrate a scholarship program that aims at connecting Americans with people from around the world.

After the apéro, Karl D. Safft (Fulbright 1993, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, Chicago), President of the SFAA, officially welcomed the guests and speakers and gave an overview of the evening program. He was followed by Alexander N. Daniels, Press and Cultural Attaché of the US Embassy in Bern. The Attaché thanked the SFAA for its engagement and assured the continuing support of the US Embassy. He also asked the Fulbright Alumni community to support Embassy events promoting the Fulbright Program.

In the first of two presentations with the overriding theme "sustainability", Markus Hess (Fulbright 1989, Clemson University, South Carolina; business consultant and owner of "Schoggimail") used the picture of an airplane and the process of taking off to explain what he understands as sustainability in the context of entrepreneurship: Without a good landing, i.e., good customer relationships and continuous revenue, a business cannot be sustainable.

He was followed by Markus Schaefer (Fulbright 1995, Harvard Graduate School of Design, Boston; microbiologist and architect), who introduced his concept of a city as an "organism". Starting from the first ancient civilisations inventing the division of work, he showed us where the biggest cities of each era were and probably will be in the near future. He also showed the evolution of functional areas within cities and how change can be planned and managed. But in the concept of an "organism", a city can never be sustainable in its literal sense.

The second part of the evening included musical recitals by Elvire Tornay (Fulbright 2009, Jacobs School of Music of Indiana University, Bloomington; Piano) and Edward Deskur (Fulbright 1984, University of Liège, Belgium; French Horn).



After different piano pieces from Schumann, Elvire was joined by Edward on the French Horn to play some blues. Blues interpretations on the French Horn are Edward's passion.

At the end of the recitals, Uwe Koch, member of the SFAA and the extended board of the German Fulbright Alumni Association, took the floor to forward greetings from the German President Benjamin Becker.

The evening concluded with a traditional Swiss menu from the Canton of Graubünden, grisons wedding soup followed by stuffed rabbit loin, which was generously sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the US Department of State.



Villa and Park "Belvoir" at the north-western shore of Lake Zürich; photo: John Gibson



July 4th, 2007: The founding members of the Swiss Fulbright Alumni Association with Ambassador Peter Conewey (in the middle) at his residence in Bern; photo: John Gibson

The Fulbright Family Weekend – Not Just For Families!

by Karin-Irene Eiermann

Without children, it had never occurred to me to attend the Family Weekend, but as it happened, a dear faraway Fulbright friend also considered going. We were delighted to plan the reunion in Königstein and join this year's Fulbright Family Weekend.

From May 17-20, the picturesque surroundings of Königstein served as an enchanting backdrop to the gathering, often called "Saxon Switzerland" due to the beautiful mountainous landscape found only a half hour's train ride from the wonderful city of Dresden. From all over Germany, forty-three people, big and small, gathered for the occasion at the "Familienoase Königstein". Many brought their own children, some also "borrowed" their nephews and nieces, and we even enjoyed the company of an exchange student from Sweden.

We soon learned that not only were my friend and I the only first-time participants, we were also the only to come without an accompanying child! Some families had been participating for several years, and I found myself meeting so many people for the first time. Caring for a family can occasionally make attending the national events quite challenging, so it was a great experience to witness and take part in this unique gathering of alumni!

The three days were filled with long and pleasant hikes with stunning vistas matched only by the interesting conversations. We visited the spectacular Bastei rock formation, crawled through exciting, dark caves in the so-called "Devil's Canyon", attended a play at the Rathen Open Air stage (which is built into the rocks), crossed the Elbe River by boat, visited the famous Königstein Fortress, and rode the Bad Schandau elevator (built in 1904) to enjoy beautiful views over this historic spa town. Evenings at the "Familienoase" were spent playing ping pong, watching the Champions League Final soccer match, singing songs, and relaxing with a few beers and wine while catching up with old friends, getting to know new ones, and exchanging stories of Fulbright, work, and life experiences.

I encourage all Fulbrighters to join the Fulbright Family Weekend, whether you have children or not. It is an outdoor adventure of a special kind in one of Germany's most beautiful natural surroundings. For me, it was a wonderful experience, and I felt very welcome among all of the families and children. It may have been my first time, but it definitely was not the last!



Like one big family; photo: Elke Handschug-Brosin



Malte's weekend art; photo: Elke Handschug-Brosin



Searching for adventure; photo: Elke Handschug-Brosin



refined cuisine; photo: Elke Handschug-Brosin

Regional Chapter Berlin

Berlin, Berlin

by Karin-Irene Eiermann

We had another great year in the Berlin Regional Chapter. Although competition for crowds is fierce in Berlin, our *Stammtisch*, held on the first Monday of each month, continuously draws a lively group!

In October, the Berlin Regional Chapter, joined by several participants of the Stanford in Berlin program, visited the Blindenwerkstatt Otto Weidt Museum. Otto Weidt was one of the few German entrepreneurs who tried to save his Jewish workers from deportation during the Nazi era. In 1936, Weidt established his workshop, which in 1940, moved to the backyard of 39 Rosenthaler Straße in Berlin-Mitte to manufacture brooms and brushes. Among his customers was also the Wehrmacht, an asset allowing his business to be classified as vital to the war effort. About 30 blind and deaf Jews were employed at his shop between the years of 1941 and 1943. Today, the workshop is a museum that depicts stories of survival, but also includes tragedies of failed rescues. The guided tour was given by historian and Fulbright alumnus Ralf Hoffrogge.

In early November, we sang passionately at our first Fulbright Karaoke night at Monster Ronson's Ichiban Karaoke. It was great fun, thanks to creative planning by Maike Fuchs! Later that month, twenty-five members of the Chapter participated in a Networking Thanksgiving Dinner at the Amerika-Haus near Zoologischer Garten, jointly organized and attended by the members of the Fulbright Commission, the DAAD Alumni Association, and the Alexander-von-Humboldt Alumni Association.

December was enjoyed with an organized tour of the historic manor house at Domäne Dahlem, followed by a visit of the Christmas market. Dating back to the 13th century, the village of Dahlem retains its old-time country flair, despite being only a 20-minute subway ride away from electrifying Potsdamer Platz. The stately manor house was erected in 1560 and thus is the oldest surviving residential building in Berlin. Today, the Domäne Dahlem is dedicated to presenting the history of farming and food production, including the origin of consumerism. The manor house boasts a historic general store and butcher shop as well as a food lab from an imperial



Fulbright Karaoke Night; photo: Karin-Irene Eiermann



Guided Tour of Former Jewish Quarter Berlin-Mitte; photo: Karin-Irene Eiermann



Fulbright Alumni at the Historic General Store at Domäne Dahlem; photo: Karin-Irene Eiermann

public health office. During the holiday season, the Domäne becomes the backdrop for a cozy Christmas market, which we enjoyed with plenty of Glühwein and holiday snacks. Thanks go to Stephan Meyer-Brehm for arranging the tour!

In February, the Fulbright Alumni Association and the Hertie Foundation's Berlin Office joined forces for the first time to host a book reading by Eva C. Schweitzer of her book, *Tea Party: Die Weiße Wut. Was Amerikas Neue Rechte so gefährlich macht* (dtv, 2012). More than twenty members of the Berlin Regional chapter attended the event at the premises of the Hertie School of Governance.

Our panel at the annual Berlin Seminar represented the diverse paths Fulbright alumni follow in their lives and careers. We are grateful to Stefanie Alteheld, Cigdem Yig, Patrick Hege, and Shamailla Ghaffar for their time and efforts.

Members of the Berlin Regional Chapters also participated in several events organized by the US Embassy, such as the US Elections 2012 series, fireside chats, and the backyard cook-out at the Deputy Chief of Mission's residence with Fulbright Diversity Program alumni. We look forward to another exciting year with the vibrant Berlin alumni community!



10-fold symmetry of the Romanian church
St. Gereon; photo: Ulrich Götz

Regional Chapter Cologne/Bonn



US Consul General Weiner at the 4th of July party in Cologne. On the left is Ulrich Götz (regional coordinator Cologne-Bonn) on the right is Johannes Schulz (regional coordinator Rhine/Ruhr); photo: Manfred Gillner

Food for Fun

by Ulrich Götz and Julia Anderlé de Saylor

The Chapter decided this year would be celebrated with delicious food in a variety of creative means. Beginning with Thanksgiving, the obligatory turkey was served at the Consilium Restaurant. While in the past, we celebrated together with the Deutsch-Amerikanische Gesellschaft Köln and the Freundeskreis Köln-Indianapolis, this year another association joined the festivities: the PPP Alumni. While the Fulbright program mainly promotes the exchange of students, the Parlamentarisches Partnerschafts Programm is responsible for sponsoring young professionals.

After an intermission to Paris, Julia returned to the Cologne/Bonn Alumni chapter with a delicious idea. In January, she suggested baking a galette des rois, a French cake traditionally eaten on the Epiphany. The baking event expanded into a complete cooking evening. Each guest was responsible for one dish, adding up to an impressive and international

six-dish menu. With guests from the US, Canada, Spain, and Germany, the languages fluctuated constantly, characterizing the evening with bouts of chaos and plenty of laughter and amusement.

On the occasion of “Rhein in Flammen”, an annual firework festival in Bonn, we waited out the rainy weather and spent the evening in a favorite Thai restaurant. The special focus was the fondue-like firepot in the center of the table, in which everybody boiled his own meal. The result: fresh and delicious food! After three hours of cooking, we found ourselves hurrying to the Kennedy Bridge to watch the firework show.

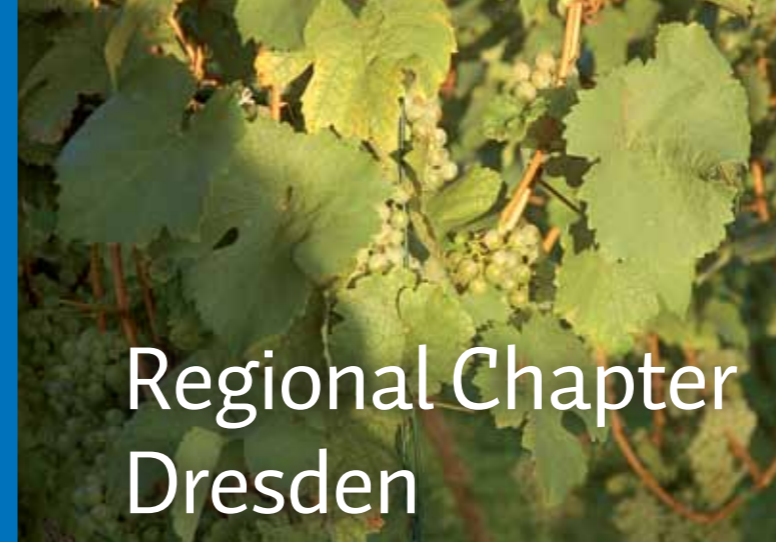
As a follow-up to the visit of the Cologne Cathedral in 2011, we visited two Romanian churches in Cologne. Most fascinating was the ten-fold symmetry of St. Gereon, which dates back to the end of the fourth century. While the shrine of the Cologne Cathedral holds the remains of the holy Three Kings, the shrine at St. Andreas holds the remains of the holy Makka-bäer. The tour ended with more food for the crowd – cake and coffee – at the famous Café Reichard at the base of the impressive Cologne Cathedral.

Together with the Rhine/Ruhr Regional Chapter, we continued our culinary adventures in celebration of the 4th of July. The Amerikahaus NRW e.V. generously invited us to an expansive party at the restaurant Rheinterrassen, complete with a direct view of the Cologne Cathedral. The event was also a farewell party to Council General Janice G. Weiner of the US Consulate in Düsseldorf. American specialties were served, such as Caesar salads, Club sandwiches, hamburgers, hot dogs, and brownies.

We are looking forward to an even more tasteful and culturally stimulating 2013!



Left: The cooking group after five out of six dishes on the occasion of the holy three kings celebration, Right: Not hungry anymore after three hours in the Thai-restaurant; photos: Ulrich Götz



Regional Chapter Dresden

Thank you for bringing the United States to Radebeul

by Elke Handschug-Brosin

Four American Fulbright teaching assistants, enthusiastic to explore the many regions of Germany during their year, travelled to Saxony in March, visiting the lovely towns of Dresden and Radebeul. They stayed with our family for two days, during which we shared food and stories of our Fulbright years by the fireplace while our children enjoyed entertaining our guests. Thank you for visiting and bringing a part of the United States into our home!

For local alumni, we would like to establish a *Stammtisch* tradition in the Dresden area. Our first meeting is scheduled for November 15th, 2012 at 8 p.m. and will be a cozy gathering with Glühwein around a warm fireplace. We look forward to seeing you!



from left to right: Christine Evans, Tiffany Locke, Beth Carafiol, and Malissie Boyer stopping in Radebeul near Dresden on their tour through Saxony; photo: Elke Handschug-Brosin



Hofloessnitz – Historic Vineyard and Museum, Radebeul; photo: Elke Handschug-Brosin

from top to bottom:
Dana is busy with Winterball
invitations; photo: Claudia Detje;
Thanksgiving dinner; photo:
Gabriele Launhardt;
Stammtisch; photo:
Dana Müller-Hoeppel



Regional Chapter Hannover

Growing

by Dana Müller-Hoeppel

After revitalizing the Hannover Regional Chapter by the courageous efforts of a handful of determined alumni, this last year has witnessed substantial growth. We were lucky to have a great group of American Fulbrighters in and around Hannover, so we finally enjoyed a true oversized Thanksgiving turkey, wonderfully prepared by Gabriele. We were graced with the presence of alumni from as far as Göttingen.

We have also prioritized the development of our web presence, so our events are now proudly included on the Association's website. This update led to an especially interesting recent *Stammtisch*, with one US grantee soon to return, considering all the places and activities still to pursue, and one German grantee ready to embark, wondering about all the basics, like lodging, finances, etc. The lively conversation offered us all quite a nostalgic evening!

Apart from Thanksgiving, our special events included visiting the Christmas market and the traditional Spargel-essen, this year in combination with a visit to the international fireworks competition in the Royal Gardens of Herrenhausen. As Gabriele once remarked, no major event in Hannover is fully complete without fireworks.

In addition to the usual events, we are quite busy this year planning the Winterball 2013. Of course, after quickly deciding on the location for the ball, this also involves a lot of sampling for the Get Together and the Sunday brunch, leaving us with a wide choice of places to try for upcoming *Stammtische*. We look forward to heartily welcoming you to the Winterball 2013!

The Wine Social at Cems Yuecetas' downtown Frankfurt Studio; photos: Wiltrud Hammelstein



Members gather for the annual bike tour; photo: Knut



The obligatory pause at a beer garden during the bike tour; photo: Knut



Two favorite Frankfurt members pause during the Wine Social; photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein

Regional Chapter Frankfurt

In the heart of Europe

By Mario Reichel

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-time committed members, spanning all generations. We are fortunate to have in the area many young members from the Fulbright Diversity Initiative, and likewise, we welcome the numerous alumni from across the world that have found their way to the financial center of Europe. Because we have so many scholars leave from Frankfurt every year to begin their Fulbright experiences, the Independence Day Party has become an exciting farewell party.

Still, the core remains the *Stammtisch*, taking place every first Thursday of the month, always offering a different location covering international and local cuisine from African to Frankfurt Äbbelwoi restaurants. At our monthly gatherings, we not only eat and drink but also discuss and plan other events, including outings to the cinema, English theater, concerts, museums, indoor and outdoor opera performances, and sporting events.

Occasionally, we are able to combine the *Stammtisch* with an event organized by the US Consulate.

While our support of Carsten Kuschnerus' galant organization of the annual Welcome Meeting continued this year, the annual Frankfurt Labor Day BBQ has become somewhat of a welcome meeting for the region, this year held at the wonderful house of Doris Ammon in Dreieich, offering returnees and American scholars alike the opportunity to get to know fellow alumni in the area. Other special annual events include Thanksgiving dinner, specially prepared for us at the Arche Nova, a trip to the magical Christmas market, our dancing crash course in preparation for the wonderful Winterball in Schwerin, and the elegant Art Wine Social at Cems Yuecetas' downtown Frankfurt studio.

Being new in Frankfurt is all about making new friends, exchanging experiences, and getting to know the city. Feel free to have a look at our website or simply join us at an event! We are always glad to welcome new alumni to our chapter and happy to receive fresh input!

Regional Chapter Hamburg

Fully activated

by David Patrician

Moin Fulbrighters! I am happy to announce that the Hamburg Regional Chapter is once again active and running. We started off the academic year with a Bowling/Thanksgiving Dinner in November. After a few hours of "competitive" bowling, we sat down for an informal *Stammtisch* and began to make plans for the upcoming year. We were very excited to learn that one of our American Fulbrighters, Margaret Metzler, was acting in an upcoming English play. Many from the chapter came out to support her and the cast in a modern version of Hamlet at the Hamburg University Theater.

We also renewed our relationship with the US Consulate General in Hamburg. One Fulbright alumna, Stefan Heumann, is currently working there as a cultural affairs specialist. After catching some of the "Fulbright Fever", he helped arrange the attendance of US Consulate General Inmi Kim Patterson at the Schwerin Winterball. Thanks again to the Schwerin team for arranging a wonderful weekend!

In 2012, we continued hosting a variety of activities, including attending a Hamburg Freezers ice hockey game, a Blue Devils American football game, and a few activities at the Hamburg Amerikazentrum. We also thoroughly enjoyed celebrating 4th of July with a festive BBQ at the US Consulate General. We are already planning for another year of exciting activities and are looking forward to welcoming our new American Fulbrighters in Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein. A special thanks to Jakob Liss and Jessica Mercado for all their help in 2012!



Supporting the Blue Devils American football event; photo: Jessica Mercado



Thanksgiving bowling; photo: Margaret Metzler



4th of July; photo: Kay Dethlefs



The Hamburg Chapter spends quality time with US Consul General Inmi Kim Patterson; photo: Stefan Heumann

4th of July in Hamburg; photo: Kay Dethlefs



Regional Chapter Mannheim/Heidelberg



Enjoying the scenery as we look ahead

by Benjamin Pflieger

Now in its third year, the regional chapter Mannheim/Heidelberg has grown into the Association as a steady member of the Fulbright alumni community. Since its formation in 2010, the chapter has cultivated a core group of enthusiastic participants, hosted events, and planned and executed numerous activities.

While our chapter is still not the biggest within the Association, this did not impede its ability to encourage a following. We have been fortunate to enjoy a group of inspiring US Fulbrighters living in the Heidelberg area studying or working as teaching assistants, providing ample opportunities for enriching experiences as we share ideas and plans for the future. These interactions epitomize what Fulbright is all about: mutual understanding and relationships that transcend national boundaries.

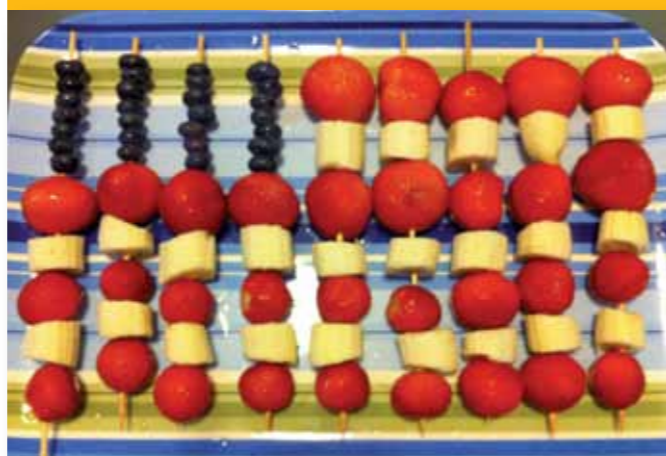
Of course, one of the annual highlights during the second year was our Thanksgiving Day celebration. Thanks to a wonderful host, all enjoyed an opulent dinner made from the best and most original ingredients, hand-delivered from California! In addition, during the course of the year, the group attended the German-American Friendship Concert, performed by the US Army Europe Band & Chorus, and organized other events and activities.

The 4th of July is always a great opportunity for the chapter to celebrate Independence Day and to welcome the fresh German Fulbright alumni from their time abroad. This year, in particular, we have enjoyed meeting an ambitious group of young students. Listening to their stories and impressions of US culture and lifestyles stirred personal memories for many of the Mannheim/Heidelberg members.

Beginning this spring, in an effort to encourage an even more engaged and motivated group of participants, the chapter has introduced a regular monthly *Stammtisch*. We now meet the first Tuesday of each month in either Mannheim or Heidelberg. Join us as we plan for the next event and attempt to solve world problems via some great discussions!



A lively *Stammtische* at Das Boothaus in Heidelberg; photo: Benjamin Pflieger



4th of July traditional fruit platter; photo: Benjamin Pflieger



Epic 4th of July BBQ; photo: Julianne McCall

Regional Chapter Stuttgart

Enjoying life's finest

by Jan Makowski

As ever, the Stuttgart Regional Chapter offered a host of excursions and activities in addition to our monthly *Stammtische*.

In March, Andrew Johnson invited us to pay a culinary visit to his hometown Cincinnati, the birthplace of Skyline Chili. Expecting a derivative of chili con carne, we met just to find out that this chili resembles nothing of its namesake from the Southwest. Instead, its cinnamon and chocolaty taste reminded us of Greek meat dishes. We honored the dish by eating in traditional Cincinnati style, as a sauce with spaghetti, topped off with loads of cheddar cheese and sprinkled raw onions.

Two months later, we made use of Stuttgart's many cultural offerings and visited an art exhibition at the Staatsgalerie. A guided tour introduced us to the works of William Turner, Claude Monet, and Cy Twombly. Although they lived and worked almost 150 years apart, they each challenged the prevalent contemporary school of painting. Turner and Monet shared an unprecedented level of abstraction in their paintings of landscapes. Twombly transcends Turner's habit to create poems alongside his works by including his poems within his paintings, periodically using mere fragments as starting points of his work.

No Fulbright year is complete without the traditional 4th of July barbecue. Once again, Effi and Andreas Eisele generously hosted the pot-luck. We enjoyed a relaxing afternoon with delicious salads, sizzling sausages, juicy steaks, and to top it all off, grilled marshmallows for dessert.

The second half of the year promises more great events to come: our visit to the Wasen, the election party, and of course, the annual Thanksgiving Dinner.



4th of July BBQ; photo: Jan Makowski

Regional Chapter Leipzig

Perpetual progress

by Tilman Schenk

The past twelve months have seen some changes in the composition of our group; quite a few people sought their luck elsewhere and moved, while new people continuously join the welcoming group! All the while, our usual events persist with enthusiasm and creativity. The Damm family generously volunteered again to host our Thanksgiving turkey feast, and we were joined by Phyllis Frey, a Fulbright professor at the Leipzig University Hospital at that time, along with his thoughtful wife, Teryl. A new idea for the conversation afterwards was to ask one of our members to tell the rest about his/her professional life. Thorsten jumped in and gave us an entertaining presentation about recent efforts with his fellow activists to save some of the old fabric of the Leipzig-Plagwitz train station (see "The City and the Citizen" in this issue of the *FRANKly*).



4th of July BBQ in Leipzig's old industrial district; photo: Tilman Schenk



Enjoying great company at the annual Thanksgiving turkey dinner; photo: Phyllis Frey

Recently, we also had the opportunity to take a look at Thorsten's and his family's progress in remodelling the old factory building they are living in, as we spent a wonderful summer evening on his premises for an enjoyable BBQ.

For the year to come, we hope to once more welcome new American Fulbrighters and fresh returnees to Leipzig to share experiences and ideas.



4th of July in Munich;
photo: Nadine Richter



Winter sport delights in the Alps;
photo: Matthias Stecher



Water fight at Legoland!;
photo: Andreas Schoberth



Family day at Legoland Germany;
photo: Jürgen Guldner

Regional Chapter Munich

Same old, same old down south

by Florian Kühnel

Here in Munich, our regional chapter activities claim their beginnings at our regular *Stammtisch*. We meet every last Tuesday of the month at different locations in the area. The *Stammtisch* is not only about meeting fellow Fulbright alumni and current American grantees but also a chance for us to explore new places and test potential venues for upcoming events and activities.

Our regular (or, traditional) events include a photographic review of the last year's events in January, combined with the chapter's election. Another must is our 4th of July BBQ. Later, we celebrate Thanksgiving Day with a huge turkey feast and conclude the year with a *Wichtel-Stammtisch*, where we raffle off little gifts.

Beside these easygoing events, we participate in a number of sports: skiing, sledding, bowling, and biking keep us fit and healthy all year round. To maintain a proper balance, we also happily take full advantage of the richness and frequency of local festivities, including the Starkbierfest, the Weinfest at Schloss Blumenburg, and the world-renowned Oktoberfest. Living in Munich begs the stamina of a marathoner simply to keep up with the plentiful activities it affords, but our Chapter is always up for the challenge!

In addition to all of that, we enjoyed "gardening for a good cause" last year, where we helped restore the garden at a guest house for families with sick children. We hope to keep up with our social and other activities this year, so plan to join us next time!

Regional Chapter Rhein/Ruhr

Ever uniquely active

by Johannes Schulz

Our chapter owes its ambitious character to a steady group of members passionate about upholding the Fulbright spirit by sustaining the pulsing continuation of the region's alumni activities.

Last year concluded with a wonderful string of events. Most of our activities are planned by different individual members, ensuring diverse and unique excursions. We are always proud to have such active, creative, and spirited members in our chapter! In October, we enjoyed an evening of pumpkin carving generously hosted by Ines in Düsseldorf, who has also been integral in the chapter's leadership. Some other highlights from the past year include a guided tour through the Margarethenhöhe and a visit to the Joel Sternfeld Photography exhibition in Essen.

Over the course of the year, our regular meetings have evolved. The bimonthly *Stammtisch* has become a meeting point for long-time and spontaneous newcomers alike. Beyond the normal meetings held in cafés and restaurants in Bochum and Düsseldorf, the group also met for a bowling night and has enjoyed various sporting activities at the Unperfekthaus in Essen.



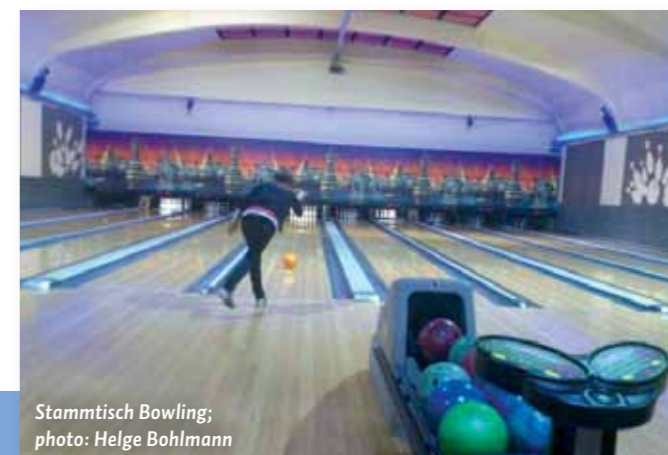
4th of July Fireworks;
photo: Johannes Schulz



4th of July in Cologne;
photo: Johannes Schulz

Luckily, the Amerikahaus NRW held several very interesting events in our region, which we have thoroughly enjoyed for the fascinating discussions and the ample opportunities to meet others interested in German-American cultural exchange.

In the future, we hope to further foster our relationship with the Amerikahaus, which hosted many of us from Rhein/Ruhr and Cologne/Bonn during its annual 4th of July BBQ in Cologne. In addition, we enjoyed our own Independence Day BBQ at Doris' house in Essen, who was again so kind to open her beautiful garden doors for us.



Stammtisch Bowling;
photo: Helge Bohlmann

Talk about your favorite Fulbright moment

by Ines Winkler and Johannes Schulz

From a beer garden in Munich to the US Consulate in Hamburg, from a neuroscience research lab at Heidelberg University to a carpenter's workshop, from a posh hotel lobby in Berlin to the historical town hall of Landsberg am Lech – during the past months, a video production team has visited a wide variety of locations and interviewed Fulbright alumni from the most diverse academic and professional backgrounds.



Eloquent Fulbright alumni share their favorite experiences and elaborate on their motivation to network in the German Fulbright Alumni Association

Their mission: To assemble a video portrait of the Fulbright Alumni Association, intended to give the Association a higher public profile, aiming to attract new members, to educate potential sponsors, and to lobby for political support of the Fulbright Program. Partly funded by a grant from the US Embassy in Germany, the video revolves around personal statements of former Fulbright grantees. They answer to a set of questions about individual academic and professional development after their Fulbright year. Reaching back into history as far as 1953, featured alumni discuss personal memories, historic events they witnessed, as well as the value of networks like the Alumni Association. Questions addressed unexpected obstacles, avenues by which the Fulbright experience helped to fulfill goals and dreams, instances of “culture shock”, and examples of fostering valuable connections through networks. Those are some of the topics that our “Fullies” delve into and happily answer in detail, many instances mirroring the deep inspiration underlying the Fulbright Program.

David Patrician, an American Fulbrighter and broadcast journalist who remained in Germany after his exchange in 2006, volunteered to be the host of this ambitious project. The crew also includes Stephan Meyer-Brehm from the Association's Extended Board plus Frank Brünner, a professional cameraman and editor. Together, they have traveled throughout Germany to fulfill the mission of exhibiting the full diversity of academic backgrounds, host institutions, and generations represented within the Association.

Along with those interviews, the video portrait also contains documentation of the various activities of the Association on the national and regional levels: the Welcome Meeting in Frankfurt, the WinterBall in Schwerin, and a BBQ in Berlin are already featured. There is also a segment referring to Senator Fulbright and the goals and historic significance of the Fulbright Program.

An abridged version was premiered at the International Fulbright Association's Annual Conference in London and is viewable on the Association's website. The longer version (or several versions on distinctive subjects) will be available further into the site for purposes of Association support or individual use.

Fulbrighters are great communicators, and the interviews conducted so far give vivid testimony of that trait. Thus, the editors' greatest challenge lies less in rounding up more eloquent interview partners but in extracting from many excellent statements those that are most quintessential. If you feel you have a Fulbright story you want to share in future rounds of interviews, feel free to contact Stephan Meyer-Brehm at [video\(a\)fulbright-alumni.de](mailto:video(a)fulbright-alumni.de).



ARD Tagesthemen host Ingo Zamperoni in a professional exchange with interviewer David patrician

The entire group gathers for a rare moment of quiet during Orientation Week at the University of Kentucky; photo: Shamaila Ghaffar



Fulbright Diversity Initiative

by Shamaila Ghaffar

The Fulbright Diversity Initiative was established in 2006 in response to the significant lack of Fulbright exchange program applications from individuals with migrant or underrepresented backgrounds. To ameliorate this trend, the Fulbright Commission partnered with the Association of Friends and Sponsors of the German-American Fulbright Program, with support from the Fulbright Alumni Association. The result has been transformational for the more than 300 students that have so far engaged in the program.

The first generation of Diversity Initiative participants was selected from grantees of START and Robert Bosch scholarships. Small groups of students at the time were assigned to various locations in the US, including California, Alaska, and Nebraska. Dr. Hoffmann, Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission, personally mentored the group upon their arrival, encouraging alumni to help develop the program. To facilitate the alumni network, the Fulbright Alumni Association has designated a position on the Extended Board responsible for maintaining close connections among the energized community that has taken form.

Today, every migrant in Germany who has finished his or her *Abitur* is eligible to apply for the Diversity Initiative. Since 2008, the official US partner institution is the University of Kentucky, the leading campus among many that applied to host the program. In celebration of the success of the program, the Institute of International Education honored the Diversity Initiative with the Andrea Heiskel Award 2012 in the category of “Internationalizing the Campus”.

Most participants will explain that they never dreamed of studying in the US until this opportunity arose. The experience not only aims to provide cultural education across German and American borders but also holds dear the tight bonds that emerge among the students themselves. For some participants, the time in the US granted the first occasion to call themselves “German”, without feeling compelled to explain their families' migrant status.

Over the course of the five-week program, scheduled particularly at the beginning of the university school year, students engage with new and returning students through extravagant welcome activities that enliven the entire campus with creative and friendly gatherings. The remainder of the program is spent attending specially designed intensive courses meant to provide some foundations in US History, Culture, Literature, and Policy. Additionally, lessons are offered in the areas of Cross-Cultural Communication, Oral Presentations, and Formal Writing Skills. Naturally, participants also enjoy the wide range of extracurricular activities ubiquitous on an American university campus, from baseball games to community service.

Developing the Diversity Initiative alumni network is an ambitious goal of the Association, and to further support and join participants in their cross-cultural pursuits will undoubtedly enrich the entire Fulbright family.

Mulert Award 2013 Call for Papers



Since 2010, the German Fulbright Alumni Association grants the "Jürgen Mulert Memorial Award on Mutual Understanding", in memory of the Association's initiator and founder, Dr. Jürgen Mulert (1938-2008). The Mulert Award is given annually to researchers, artists, professionals, and volunteers across disciplines, whose work reflects and advances discourse and peace through mutual understanding.

The application period for the Mulert Award 2013 is now open until November 25th, 2012. Papers by Fulbright grantees of all nationalities and all academic fields are eligible. Applicants must have finished their Fulbright exchange during the years ending from 2010-12.

Applicants must be living in Europe by the time of the award ceremony (February, 2013).

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

- recognition during the award ceremony at the Association's annual Winterball in Hannover (February 2nd, 2013)
- presentation during the Fulbright Commission's Berlin Week in March, 2013
- publication of the paper or project on the Association's website
- paper abstract and short author biography in the 2013 *FRANKly*
- reference in the Wikipedia article on Jürgen Mulert
- full travel support

Applications must be written in English and include the relevant paper and the applicant's CV. Additional material may be added.

Please send your applications to [mulert.award\(at\)fulbright-alumni.de](mailto:mulert.award(at)fulbright-alumni.de). For further information, refer to www.fulbright-alumni.de/mulertaward.

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



Above, the awarding of the 2012 Mulert Award to Janosch Delcker by President Benjamin Becker at the Winterball in Schwerin; photo: Steffen Schmuck-Soldan

Left, images from the prize-winning multimedia photo journal; photos: Janosch Delcker



Winner of the Mulert Award 2012

This year's recipient of the Juergen Mulert Memorial Award on Mutual Understanding is Janosch Delcker for his multi-media photo journal "Urban Observations."

"Urban Observations" (<http://www.urbanobservations.de/>) is a photographic journey of the lives of natives and transplants living in Berlin and New York. Twelve still photographic video portraits form a collage of images and experiences. Shot in black and white, Delcker invites us to join him as observers, where fixed meanings of identity transform and morph into new realities. To observe is to step back, to participate from an objective point of view, receiving knowledge through the senses. Although seemingly detached, it is a visceral experience. From drag queen to curator to cartoonist, Delcker has created a series of windows into the worlds of people often living on the fringes of society. They are the chroniclers of society,

whether through their drawings, writings, or performances. Their stories reflect a multitude of fragments that create new mosaics of being and living. Delcker is not so much interested in answers, but rather the questions. It is through the questioning that ideas come into being. This is a love story. A love story of why and how people choose to live in one place over another, and why they stay.

Christoph Janosch Delcker is a video journalist based in Berlin and New York. In addition to his videos for Spiegel Online, the New York Times, and ZDF Online, Delcker has also created a series of videos, "In May" and "The End of the Line", which continue to explore the personal stories of people in New York and the non-spaces in Berlin. Articles include European Voice (The Economist), Die Tageszeitung (taz) and Idealist Magazine. In addition to a B.A. from Humboldt University, Berlin and Universidad de Salamanca, Spain, Delcker holds a M.A. in German Literature and Media. He is a 2009/10 Fulbright recipient.

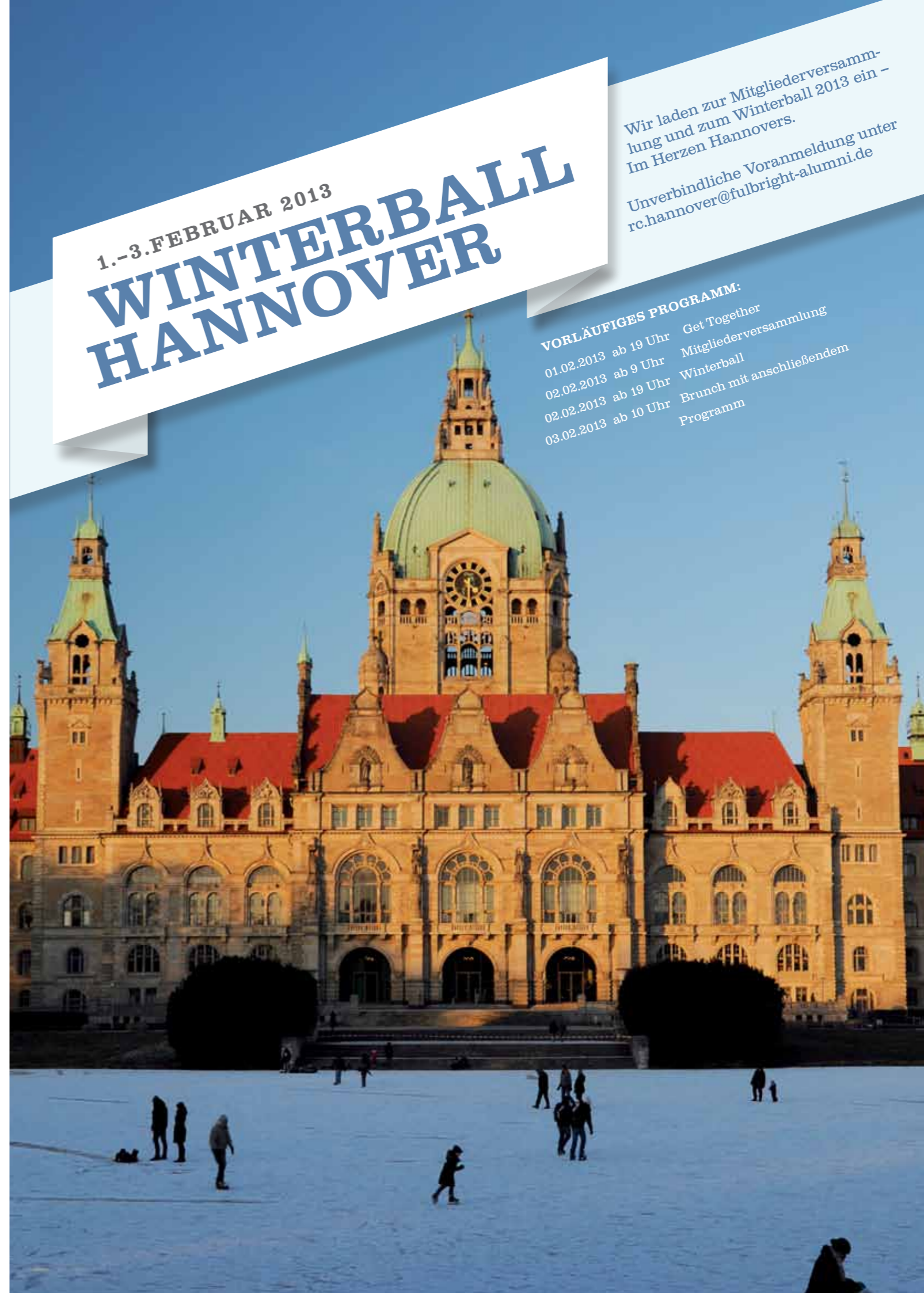
1.-3.FEBRUAR 2013

WINTERBALL HANNOVER

Wir laden zur Mitgliederversammlung und zum Winterball 2013 ein – Im Herzen Hannovers.
Unverbindliche Voranmeldung unter rc.hannover@fulbright-alumni.de

VORLÄUFIGES PROGRAMM:

01.02.2013	ab 19 Uhr	Get Together
02.02.2013	ab 9 Uhr	Mitgliederversammlung
02.02.2013	ab 19 Uhr	Winterball
03.02.2013	ab 10 Uhr	Brunch mit anschließendem Programm





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