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FRANK^{ly} ☹️

THE FULBRIGHT ALUMNI E.V. MAGAZINE

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

I am happy to present the latest edition of the FRANKly. As I am now in my second year as editor (and member of this association) it was remarkable to see all the progress that grew with the task. With all the experience gained in my first term, editing this issue happened to be even more easy and smooth.

“Borders and Boundaries”, the topic for this year’s issue, might sound a bit negative at the first glance. However, let’s understand the process of crossing physical borders and overcoming mental boundaries as taking stepping stones towards a success.

The authors of our articles tend to think along similar lines and see the positive assets. Ingeborg Cleve’s article about the challenges that expats face with moving to a foreign country deals with crossing cultural and national borders as well as with personal success. Jean-David Herld writes about the various attempts with doubtful outcome to negotiate with isolated North Korea in order to cross political borders. Last but not least, Martin Sebaldt, political scientist and Fulbright alumnus who thankfully gives the keynote address on “Borders and Boundaries”, examines the challenges that national identity poses for a successful European integration.



As I am writing these lines, Germany has just won the World Cup after a long struggle. In addition to this triumph, I am glad about a recently accomplished personal achievement, admittedly an achievement not as spectacular

as winning a world championship, but still significant for me. Quite recently I have graduated and completed my studies. Thus I have crossed the border into a new chapter of life and can now spend even more time on working on the FRANKly ;). Like fighting for winning a trophy or earning a degree, editing this magazine also involves breaking down barriers and solving problems of many kinds but eventually celebrating the result is a more than worthy reward.

Enjoy reading!

Martin Kohler

Martin Kohler
Frankfurt, September 2014

Imprint

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Greetings from the President



Dear Fulbrighters and Friends,

As I am writing these lines at the end of June 2014, the House of Representatives and the Senate are discussing the President's unprecedented \$ 30 million Fulbright Program budget cut. Although things seem to go well for the Fulbright Program (both the House of Representatives and the Senate have rebuked the reduction for the Fulbright Program in the first round), the US exchange program will shift its focus from transatlantic exchange to the Pacific region. So no matter what, there will be changes in the German-American Fulbright Program in the coming years.

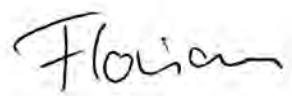
In addition, the German-American Fulbright Commission's program has evolved. Beside the "classic" Fulbright year at a US institution, there are new short term scholarships (like the Diversity Initiative we support) and long term scholarships (like postdoc programs) that are very popular. A good deal of outgoing scholars are attending one semester at the partner university of their German university and get a travel grant from the German-American Fulbright Commission on top (almost 60% of this year's German participants of the Berlin Seminar). Not all Fulbrighters from Germany are helped along by the IIE while in the States (so no Orientation Meeting or Enrichment Seminar with other Fulbrighters).

Finally, technology and affordable transportation have changed studying abroad as well. With Facebook, instant messaging, and video phone calls, no one really feels cut off from home. There is no need to start from scratch in the U.S. because family members and friends from Germany are just a mouse click away. Moreover, air travel is relatively cheap. So it's easy to fly back for Christmas.

All this has an impact on the Fulbright experience. Today's alumni had a different time abroad than most members of the German Fulbright Alumni Association. And they have different needs as well. As this issue of the FRANKly is discussing "Borders and Boundaries" I have to pose the question: Are we at the crossroads? Is the Alumni Association prepared for the years to come? And how do we best serve alumni with a wide range of experiences? I am looking forward to discussing these issues with all of you in the coming months.

However, "Borders and Boundaries" does not only affect the German Fulbright Alumni Association itself. Several authors explore this topic from different points of view in this year's FRANKly. I would like to thank them for their contribution and everybody who helped with this issue of the FRANKly – especially Martin Kohler who did most of the work as editor in chief.

Enjoy reading



Florian Kühnel
Munich, June 2014

Meet the Board

Florian Kühnel President

Florian Kühnel studied Electrical Engineering and Information Technology at FH Rosenheim before he started his Fulbright year at the University of Florida in 2005. Extending his stay, he finished with a M.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering. Today, Florian is working as a project manager for ESP systems at BMW in Munich.

Florian joined the German Fulbright Alumni Association immediately after his return to Germany. Soon he was elected Regional Coordinator in Munich – a post, he held for 5 years – before successfully running for President of the association.

As President, Florian is glad to be involved in projects at all levels. However, what he likes most, is the day to day contact with fellow alumni and current scholars. This is a constant reminder how great the Fulbright program is.

Jakob Liss Treasurer

Jakob Liss studied physics at the Ruprecht-Karls-University in Heidelberg with extended stays at the University of Connecticut during his Fulbright year in 2009/10 and at the Center for Optical Quantum Technologies in Hamburg.

Currently, he is doing a PhD in theoretical physics at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich and is associated with the International Max-Planck-Institute for applied photon sciences.

Jakob joined the Fulbright Alumni association in 2010 after his return from the US. He participated in regular meetings of the regional groups of Heidelberg, Hamburg, and Munich. In 2013, he was elected as treasurer of the Fulbright Alumni organization and is glad to be involved and to live on the Fulbright spirit in Germany.

Charlotte Horn Vice President Communications

During her Fulbright year in Washington, D.C. in 2008/2009 at American University Charlotte took part in many inspiring Fulbright events and activities. Back in Germany she got engaged with the Fulbright Alumni Association. She enjoys the special spirit among fellow alumni at events like this year's Fulbright conference in Berlin. Since 2012 she is holding the position of the vice president communications. Now, Charlotte is living in Hamburg where she works as a freelance reporter for North German Broadcasting (NDR).

Meet the Board

Marion Schweighart Vice President Events

Marion-Susanne Schweighart is a recent returnee from the 2012/13 Program, the year of the Obama-reelection. She spent one year at the University of Chicago, and was thus amidst the “Obamarama” of Chicago’s South Side. Right in the middle of the Chicago Blues and “gentle breeze” of Lake Michigan, she was studying Geography and American Studies. This fall she is going to start her MSc program in Geography focusing on global change, climatology and sustainability. After returning to her Bavarian small-town she had felt so “homesick” for what she had made her temporary home, that she decided to become not only an active member but also support giving back to the Fulbright family by becoming the new VP for events. Now she can be around like-minded people almost on a monthly basis, help organizing events, and satisfy her passion for the American lifestyle in the very middle of Bavaria.

Vanessa Wergin Vice President Members

After spending her Fulbright year 2012/13 at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee studying Psychology and Business Administration, Vanessa is about to finish her MSc program in Psychology at Goethe-University Frankfurt.

As a returnee, she connected with Fulbright Alumni in 2013 to deepen the Fulbright experience that made her year in the US special. In 2014 she was elected as Vice President Members.



Florian Kühnel



Jacob Liss



Charlotte Horn



Marion Schweighart



Vanessa Wergin

The Extended Board

Martin Kohler FRANKly Editor

Martin Kohler majored in History and Cultural Anthropology at Goethe University Frankfurt. Recently, he pursued his master degree. The academic year 2011/2012 he spent at Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI. After having returned from his Fulbright year, Martin joined the German Fulbright Alumni Association that he already knew from some of the Stammtisch gatherings hold by the Frankfurt chapter.

As Editor he directs and oversees the making of the FRANKly from the very beginning. Starting with finding a cover theme and composing a Call for Articles, he waits for the incoming essays and communicates with authors, proofreaders, board members and all the other people who contribute.

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.

Henning Blunck Online Editor

Henning Blunck obtained a Diplom in Logistics from TU Dortmund. He spent his Fulbright year (2010-2011) at Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta studying Industrial Engineering. Today, Henning works as a scientific assistant in the field of production logistics in Bremen. As online editor he manages the Association’s website.

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.



From left to right: Martin Kohler, Carsten Kuschnerus, Henning Blunck, Shamaila Ghaffar

The Extended Board

Uwe Koch Webmaster

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

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

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.

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 14th – 17th, 2015.

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.

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.

The members of the Extended Board not featured here are **Steffen Schmuck-Soldan**, Jürgen Mulert Award, and **Heinz Neubauer** (Berlin Conference).



From left to right: Uwe Koch, Holger Schöner, Elke Handschug-Brosin, Dagmar Schreiber, Hermes Winands

Boundaries without Borders?

The Challenge of European Integration for National Identity

by Martin Sebaldt

Right from the start, the architects of postwar European integration debated on the ultimate goal of their political project: On one side many influential statesmen, especially from France and the Benelux countries, pleaded for the final establishment of a veritable European federal state, similar to the shining example of the U.S.A. Their main argument emphasized the peace-making effect not only of a common market but of generally shared legal standards and at the end of a common European identity. The opposite fraction, mainly based in Great Britain, but also backed by Charles de Gaulle and his movement, stressed the value of remaining national states and attacked the supranational project as illusory and even dangerous: identities could only ground on a specific national tra-

dition, and therefore a successful integration was only thinkable in the shape of a "Europe of fatherlands", as de Gaulle slogan-like put it. The end of the story is puzzling: both sides are in a way right until now, since the peace-making and welfare effects of the now existing European Union are broadly unquestioned. But a genuine European identity, let alone a common "European demos", is far from being realized, and therefore the defenders of the fatherland-based vision of Europe get a trick as well.

Abolishing borders and setting standards: the assets of supranational integration

Some assets of European Integration are unquestioned on both sides: The step-by-step abolition of internal borders and customs barriers significantly reduced "transactional costs", as economists put it, and for citizens this form of "negative", border-removing integration was an asset on first glance as well. Travelling without passport-control and annoying exchange of currencies made for a new quality of trips abroad and therefore brought the advantages of a united Europe directly to the people. Still more: The final establishment not only of an open and single common market but of an European Union with a genuine set of supranational regulations succeeded in establishing a broad spectrum of legal standards, ranging from ecological and infrastructural norms to guidelines for the improvement of technical and labor security, reciprocal acceptance of university diplomas or fishery and agricultural standards.

This "positive",

standard-setting form of European integration is therefore a component on the asset-side of the balance as well, since these common standards often make separate, simultaneous and often divergent national legislation obsolete and promote at the end a more positive view of the citizens on the political work of the European institutions in Brussels. Common standards, in other words, are mostly accepted in everyday life, when they

fit to it and make it easier, and the vast majority of European norms – contrary to populist allegations – have contributed to this goal.

Preserving boundaries and keeping identities: the assets of remaining national systems

But in spite of these successes, the story of the "Europe of fatherlands" remains true as well and points at the assets that the still existing nation states can offer even a political integrated Europe: Since her territory is enormous and her cultural diversity compelling, political and social identities regularly are not grounded on abstract European integration models or European political elites situated far away in Brussels. These identities rest – and will rest for the future – on specific national traditions and social settings in the immediate surroundings. The opinion poll data of the "Euro barometer" put the things right: Though the general acceptance of Europe and integration is well, knowledge about the architecture of the community, the competences of the institutions and even of the own national representatives elected to the European Parliament is deplorable low. To take the things right: These facts are not meant for criticizing citizens, but on the contrary to prove the main argument: A vast majority of the population in the European Union share a general acceptance of the European vision, but only in the vague form of a permissive consensus. Their specific and concrete orientations still focus to their own vicinity, region or country. And for this reason local, regional or national boundaries – borders that are of mental, social or cultural nature – will continue to exist, even if formal borders

are abandoned. Still more: These boundaries should not be taken as a risk for European integration, but as a necessary and desirable complement. Evolutionary biology has long proven the fact that phylogenetic residuals of "ethnocentrism" rest in mankind until now, and the consequence of this psychological constitution is the desire to have some demarcation from a strange environment. And these demarcation lines will always be drawn nearby, not in the unseen distance.

Abolishing borders, preserving boundaries? The puzzle of European integration

The final message is clear: There is no contradiction between the abolition of formal borders on the one side and the preservation of mental, social and cultural boundaries on the other. Successful and longstanding European integration needs both: As in the past, "negative" and "positive" integration should eliminate borders, if transnational mobility takes profit from it and if supranational standards are of worth and really accepted by the people. Simultaneously, the still existing boundaries in our minds should not be challenged by illusionist and abstract European identity models, but kept in good shape. A flourishing united Europe will always be a Europe of cultural and social diversity, and such a Europe can be organized in accordance with these boundaries, even if formal borders are taken away. Future Europe will therefore be a political organism of "boundaries without borders", and this central message is a very good one.



Martin Sebaldt was fellow of the Fulbright American Studies Summer Institute at New York University in 1997. Currently, he is professor of political science at the University of Regensburg. His main topics are parliamentary systems and interest groups.

Moving Households:

Passing Borders, Transgressing Boundaries, Shifting Perspectives

by Ingeborg Cleve

To pursue an expat career means to be prepared to shift workplaces across the globe at certain intervals, and this in turn means to change residence, neighborhood, the whole infrastructure of one's life and one's family. These changes themselves will soon form into a determining life pattern sustained by sympathetic expat communities. While many of the social consequences of expat lifestyle are being reflected in intercultural awareness trainings, accompanied by professional relocation assistance and rewarded by an income bonus, the move itself, i.e. the physical transfer of household goods and personal effects, is being negotiated between an expat, his or her employer and the moving company solely under administrative, technical and financial aspects. In short: disassemble some furniture, pack and load a set volume of used stuff into a container, move it across some distance, across land and sea or air, get it through customs, unload and set up at residence, with a minimum of damage, at an optimum price. That's what a moving company is hired for, usually the one with the lowest bid on the move in question.

Treated like this, a move seems to be a clear cut deal, but often enough this perceptive becomes blurred when it comes to the actual process of moving. Here, spouse and family become involved, and when the household is being taken apart, privacy is intruded, precious memories must be separated from the objects which must be parted with, precarious arrangements of objects or documents are in danger of falling into disorder, and together with this disintegration resources of information and knowledge, personal relationships and familial traditions may be put into question. It is part of the often underrated professionalism of the packers and staff of a moving company to relieve their clients from this kind of stress.

Two particular aspects of this fear of disorder, caused by transition and solidified in the new surroundings at destina-

on, are quite obvious to the experienced moving professional – namely, the relationship of objects in a household to the symbolic past of their owners on one hand, and their symbolic future on the other. If regarded under such a perspective by an anthropologist, sections of both one's past and one's future may be threatened by the move, because both concepts of self awareness are subconsciously linked to objects and their arrangements in a household. The memory aspect most obviously clings to family heirlooms, from antique furniture to photographic collections, but may as well be assigned to less conspicuous items like tools or toys or chinaware. A prospective aspect is most probably related to status items acquired in the course of the career and signifying career goals such as expensive stereo equipment, stylish furniture or art objects, but may also be related to less prominent gadgets. Both aspects are generally also linked to the overall size and number of items that constitute the total volume and hence the costs of a move. If those aspects are ignored when negotiating the move volume, the success of an expat assignment may be at stake, because the creation of a personal universe of meaningful objects by ownership is one of the driving forces of motivation for a career. Or was it?

Movers do not discuss post-material values per se as a reason for the decrease in volume. Rather, moving companies observe changes in the composition and volume of their expat clients' household goods shipments, together with a change in the clients themselves. While there continue to be

large moves following assignments as a top-level company representative or engineer, working and living abroad is now expected earlier in a company career, meaning project work at various global locations instead of a director's function in a major subsidiary. Most of those young managers or technicians haven't yet started a family. Their volume allotment may be small, geared towards temporary accommodation in furnished apartments rather than setting up residence in a townhouse. The number of small overseas moves increases, creating new challenges for a moving industry operating in the standardized field of container shipping logistics, while the clients themselves need design patterns for the global mobile lifestyle that is expected of them and that they look forward to.

Designing smart space saving, multi-functional objects for a mobile lifestyle has stirred designer creativity for quite some time now and has, in fact, become a common and popular task in the study of design. A closer look into the history of design shows that there exists a welter of elegant furniture and objects designed for travel which may serve as a source of inspiration. These examples in taste derive from timeless nomadic cultures as well as from the functional requisites of explorations in quest for power, they were used by noble travellers of ancient China, Greece, and Rome, or formed part of colonial expeditions and ship interiors in the 19th century. Designer creativity and tradition consciousness have resulted in a number of modern design classics of foldable furniture.

However, as an acute observer of very many interiors which have been presented to me in the course of many moving surveys, except for a few mahogany writing desks styled after British naval officer equipment, neither objects relating to this tradition nor stylish and smart contemporary nomadic furniture have come into fashion in the interior design of modern global nomads. Nor do I know of furniture shops, real or on-line, that promote this kind of furniture, or of interior lifestyle magazines or blogs that declare them fashionable. Is this due to a lack of interest or of knowledge, of market research or of clustered buying power?

The last hypothesis may be easily be refuted: One reason expats go abroad for is the money, and, being abroad, they spend part of it for household goods which they want to have shipped when they move back home or leave for another global destination. Now and then I observe a rather odd clutter of things brought along and bought anew, as if not only patterns of lifestyle had been disrupted or badly coordinated but also a sense of order and boundary limits in good housekeeping had resigned when facing the challenges of everyday living and working abroad. Pondering upon these observations, I have become convinced that those patterns of lifestyle expressed by specific sets of furniture which have been learned from childhood are the determining patterns of consumption when the first decisions on objects constituting the look of new household are being made. The stylish couch set, dining room set and comfortable bedroom set often come



within reach when moving into the first apartment, before an expat career becomes an option. Their stylishness, even if still of the self-mounting type, goes back to aristocratic villas or bourgeois town house establishment, rather than relating to a mobile lifestyle. This style pattern is at odds with a mobile lifestyle as is the self-mounting type furniture which, once assembled, barely survives disassembly and remounting, its value as used furniture standing in no relation to the costs of moving it overseas.

narrowly defined social strata. From its beginning in the late eighteenth century, it was a media phenomenon, linked to the development of a consumer industry, of the lithographic press, of shopping malls and public exhibits, and spreading with an ever growing speed. This led to an endless varieties of objects, patterns, fashions across society at large, in turn being commented upon, propagated and criticized by more or less distinguished experts in taste who were and still are part of the media machine.

Today, this media machine, including most of the imagery and text it has produced in recent times, is symbolized by a shining slab the size of an old school slate: the smartpad, manifesting the core of mobile lifestyle. Its extremely compact, very stylish, shining seductively, accessible by limited means, loaded with libraries and tape collections, its configurability mirroring the individuality and personality of their owners, its multi-functionality replacing

boxes full of tools, its connectivity opening new

horizons of consumption, communication and relationship. It won't of course replace a couch set, dining room set or bedroom set, at least for now, but books have already become rare items in most expats' interiors. Nor will it set new style standards for a nomadic global existence.

The smartpad symbolizes a more general shift of focus, away from objects signifying memory and status, to digitalized

symbols of memory and status and the accessories signifying access to those symbols. Nomads' and pre-modern travellers' baggage was reduced to the very essential and the valuable, some of which may still be found in museums of art and industry where their significance as carriers of memory and status may be studied. Modern nomads may not possess many more objects than those signifying accessories as long as they can rely on rights to use whichever real object: sofa, table, bed, and much more, they need in the space they'll fill out during their next expat assignment. Maybe there are some taste experts among us Fulbrighters to start a blog on this issue, design nomad objects, put them on exhibit or open an online shop? I think it's about time the net community takes on the task of developing principles of taste and style and propagate symbolic objects linked to both, all suited to today's new nomadism.

Will global nomadism put an end to the moving industry? As a historian, I can't look ahead, but as a mover I dare say no, of course not. Alongside global nomads, real people with real furniture will continue to move. But their number will remain relatively constant, linked to company headquarters and diplomatic missions, whereas the number of modern nomads is on the rise.



Ingeborg Cleve, historian, cultural anthropologist and expert in overseas and international moves. Studied 1978 at UCLA with a Fulbright grant. Works for MTL Moving Transport Logistics as head of the international office in Wiesbaden.

washed up container
after Rena ship grounding;
photo: Geoff Mackley

Here I must admit that my own perspective on household goods is not only that of a mover dealing with volume, but also that of an anthropologist and historian of consumer culture dealing with concepts of style, memory and status connected to interiors. From the latter perspective, modern bourgeois town house style or aristocratic mansion style was never restricted to villas, town houses or

North Korea – Increasingly isolated in an ever more hostile world

by Jean-David Herld

North Korea is the world's last Stalinist state on earth and claims to have nuclear capability. During the last two decades it has swung between unification and confrontation with its neighbors and was able to lead the world to the brink of disaster. However, Kim Jong-Eun still has a major influence over his people and controls not only their minds, but also their hearts, like many communist dictators did before. How is it possible, that these once proud and independent people have allowed one of the most oppressive regimes on earth to survive? How has North Korea become one of the most unique and isolated places in the world?

Kim Jong-Eun is the absolute ruler of over 23 million people and a country the size of Greece. He is potentially the most dangerous man in power today by being in charge of one of the largest armies in the world. The man behind the propaganda campaign against the U.S. claims to possess nuclear weapons and threatens to use them if his regime is in need of protection. These nuclear ambitions of North Korea have worsened the maintained isolation from the rest of the world during the last decades. Kim remained hidden for many years, but has now taken center stage.

He is omnipresent in the western world and yet remains a very mysterious person whose true intentions are open to debate. The full extent of Kim's nuclear capability is still unclear and tensions could aggravate if Kim actually possessed atomic weapons. The knowledge of the existence of operable nuclear



weapons in North Korea could alarm adjacent countries like Japan, China or Russia and lead to an arms race. Korea is not rich of oil or other valuable resources, but has a very important strategic position. It is the country connecting Russia, China and Japan. Especially for the United States, Korea has become an important part of their strategy. A divided Korea, with North Korea seen as a threat, keeps Japan and South Korea close to the United States. That is one of the reasons why a conjunction of these countries could be fatal.

By all standards the conflict in Korea remains very difficult and the options are limited. Facing his first challenge Barack Obama declared that the United States and its allies would “stand up” to North Korea, hours after a nuclear test was conducted. While the Bush administration did not use any military power, Obama is determined to respond in a significantly sterner tone.

A lot depends on Obama's skills to persuade former allies of North Korea, like Russia and China, to go beyond denunciations in order to react. The South Korean officials fear less a direct attack by North Korea, which would result in a devastating retaliation by the U.S. force, and more the possibility that North Korea might sell their nuclear technology to somebody on the black market.

Despite the tremendous suffering over the last years, which included prosecution and a wide spread famine, the majority of the North Korean population doesn't seem to hate their leaders. The regime was able to survive into the 21st century while other communist regimes have disappeared a long time ago.

But since its formation North Korea always had a unique semblance among other totalitarian socialist societies. The key factor of Kim's survival is his theatrical exploitation of deeply rooted cultural traditions in order to control the minds and hearts of his nation.

To better understand how the regime was able to succeed it is necessary to look at the history of Korea's strong and independent people. Since almost the entire second millennium before the annexation by Japan in 1910, North Korea formed a unified empire and was able to develop a homogeneous culture and

society. The advantageous position of Korea made it a tempting target for other countries.

After the annexation Korea became a Japanese colony and was modernized economically and socially, while the population had to live under suppression and the repeal of rights. On the 15th of August 1945, Japan was defeated during World War II and everybody expected Korea to become once again an independent and confident nation after 50 years of oppression.

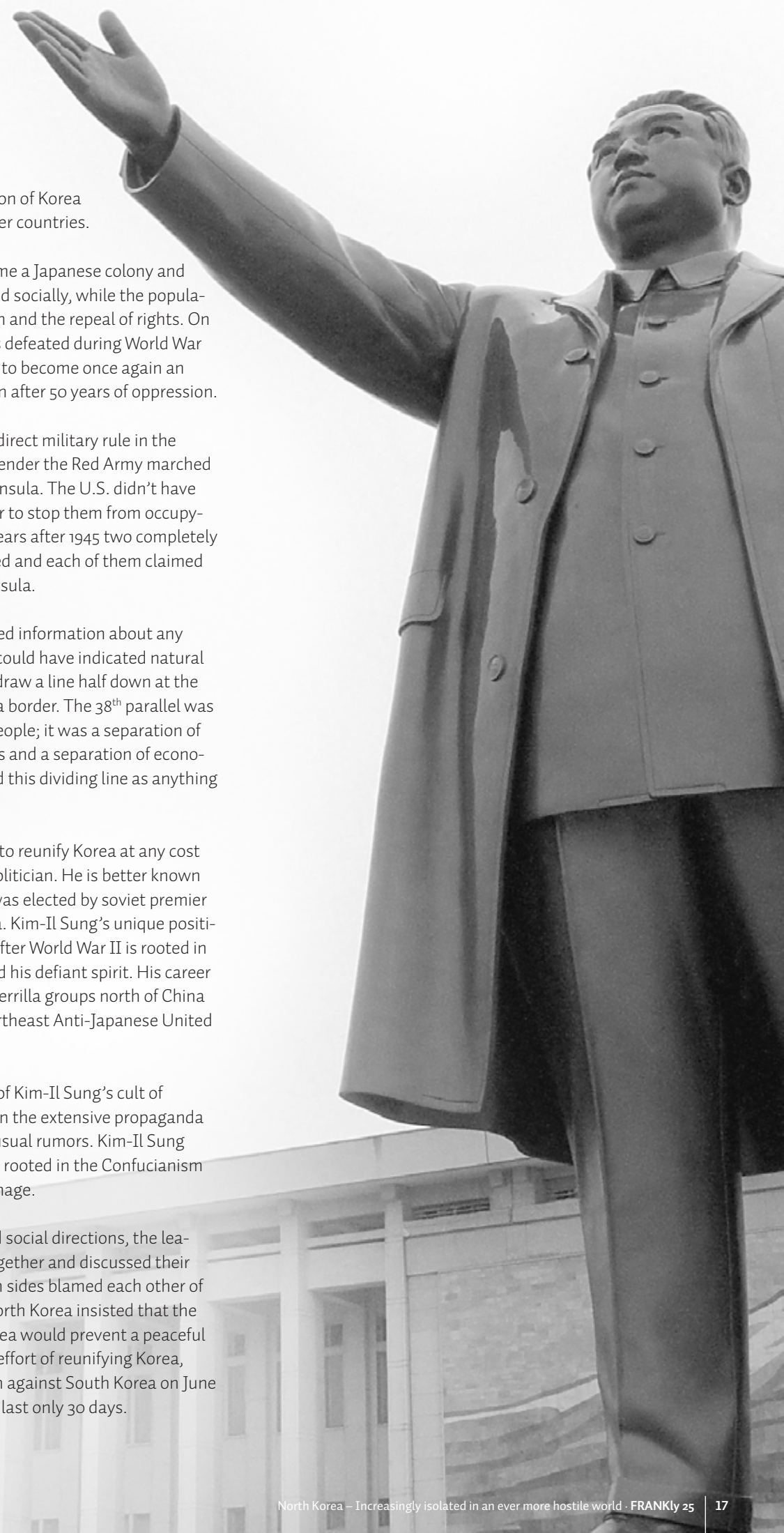
The United States implemented direct military rule in the South, while prior to Japan's surrender the Red Army marched into the northern part of the peninsula. The U.S. didn't have any military force in place in order to stop them from occupying the peninsula. Within a few years after 1945 two completely different regimes were established and each of them claimed sovereignty over the whole peninsula.

At that time there were no detailed information about any geographical background which could have indicated natural boundaries. The U.S. decided to draw a line half down at the 38th parallel in order to establish a border. The 38th parallel was not just only a separation from people; it was a separation of culture, a separation of ideologies and a separation of economic systems. No Korean accepted this dividing line as anything permanent.

One man who was strong-willed to reunify Korea at any cost was Kim-Il Sung, a communist politician. He is better known as the father of Kim Jong-Il and was elected by soviet premier Joseph Stalin to lead North Korea. Kim-Il Sung's unique position among communist dictators after World War II is rooted in his determined independence and his defiant spirit. His career begun when he joined various guerrilla groups north of China and became a member of the Northeast Anti-Japanese United Army in 1935.

The system addict development of Kim-Il Sung's cult of personality depended primarily on the extensive propaganda campaign and went beyond the usual rumors. Kim-Il Sung used long held cultural traditions rooted in the Confucianism in order to valorize his god-like image.

Despite the different political and social directions, the leaders of North and South came together and discussed their intentions of a reunification. Both sides blamed each other of multiple border violations and North Korea insisted that the influence of the U.S. in South Korea would prevent a peaceful unification of both parties. In an effort of reunifying Korea, Kim-Il Sung launched an invasion against South Korea on June 25th 1950, which was supposed to last only 30 days.



The Korean War dragged on for more than three years, until the ceasefire was finally declared in 1953. Both parties had gained nothing. The original border at the 38th parallel was restored and the country was still split in two. Only by the Chinese volunteers was Kim-Il Sung saved from defeat. The Korean War brought many changes, but the most important one was the cease of the soviet influence in North Korea. This sense of mistrust and betrayal reinforced Kim-Il Sung's thinking of self reliance at all cost and had a major influence in his actions and those of his son and successor Kim Jong-Il in the years to come.

By the 1960th tensions on the Korean peninsula had gone up and down over the past years. In 1974 he was secretly appointed as the successor of Kim-Il Sung and in October 1980 Kim Jong-Il was publicly exposed to the North Koreans as the official new leader. He was also to be known as the "Dear Leader".

Kim Jong-Il was born the 16th of February 1942 in a Soviet training camp where his parents took refuge during World War II from the Japanese military. At the end of World War II he moved with his family to the new capital Pyongyang and started his political career at the age of 22 in the propaganda section of the party.

The economical stability of North Korea collapsed in the 90's with the fall of the Soviet Union. North Korea's growth was based on the extensive trade relationship and now had to sustain without economic aid or technical assistance from the soviet union. As the soviet empire started to crumble, communist regimes throughout were toppled, the Berlin wall was torn down and finally the USSR collapsed. By the mid 1980's South Korea was the model of a modern capitalist nation and was able to outperform North Korea due to the steady diplomatic correlations with the U.S. South Korea's advanced economy was a constant source of resentment to Kim Jong-Il, whose own economy was on the brink of disaster.

Becoming increasingly isolated in an ever more open world Kim Jong-Il turned to a nuclear weapon program in the



early 80s. On June 16th, 1994 President Bill Clinton called together his advisors for a war council. Satellite photos revealed evidence that North Korea was attempting to build a nuclear bomb. To avoid a military confrontation with the North Korean regime former President Carter was sent to Pyongyang to solve the problem in order to outline a treaty. Kim Jong-Il agreed to instantly close the nuclear program in exchange for oil and other sources of energy and the eventually normalization with the United States. While details of the treaty were negotiated an unexpected event shocked North Korea. Kim-Il Sung died suddenly of a heart attack in the capital Pyongyang on July 8, 1994.

Many people predicted that his government would soon shatter into pieces, but Kim Jong-Il was determined to retain his power at any cost. At a time where states honor individual human rights, Kim Jong-Il seemed to focus on an opposite course for North Korea. Despite the risks, many have attempted to flee the country. Not just because of the growing repression, but primarily because of the country's economic crisis due to the missing Soviet assistance. In the mid 90s a major flooding and insect damage were the causes of the deterioration in the food supply. Until today North Korea has been dependent on outside aid to feed its 23 million inhabitants. Nevertheless this didn't stop Kim

from spending a vast amount of money on military forces. People starved by his attempt to reinforce North Korea's military.

In 1998 North Korea launched a Taepdong-1 rocket over Japan, which failed, but gave a demonstration of North Korea's technological capabilities. All the hope for a peaceful relation between the U.S. and North Korea collapsed immediately on both sides. President Clinton had no choice than to rethink the U.S. policy and finding a compromise by following South Korea's dialogue.

In October 2000 President Clinton sent his Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to Pyongyang for direct talks with Kim Jong-Il. This meeting led to a remarkable breakthrough in terms of the nuclear program. Kim Jong-Il offered to stop the export of missiles and to cease the development, testing, and deployment of missiles.

Unfortunately, these positive approaches didn't last long. President Bush, who was elected in 2001 into the White House, had great concern that the North Korean regime could be trusted. *"States like these and their terrorist allies constitute an axis of evil, arming to threaten the peace of the world."* – George W. Bush former president of the United States.

Bush's verbal attacks were met by an increasingly defiant Kim Jong-Il. The determination to become a nuclear power led to a never ending confrontation with the United States. A lot of people believe that North Korea's true intention might be to exchange its nuclear program for a full diplomatic recognition by the western countries and a guarantee, that the country won't be overruled. In April 2003 the United States and North Korea representatives met in China trying to find a new framework for the nuclear issue. Unfortunately the meeting between both parties ended badly. A short time later North Korea announced that it possessed nuclear weapons.

The situation was intensified when North Korea tested its Taepdong-2 missile in April 2009 and reactivated the Yongbyon nuclear facility.

Kim Jong-Il died in 2011 after ruling North Korea for 17 years. As North Koreans face an uncertain future without Kim Jong Il, the world's attention now turns to his youngest son, Kim Jong Un, whom the ruling Workers' Party has dubbed the "Great Successor". Although North Korea has witnessed the deaths of two dictators, nothing has changed for its people, showing that North Korean politics revolves not around the living citizenry, but insists on preserving the legacy of the dead.

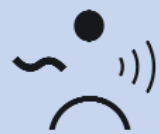
In order to be accepted in the western society Kim Jong-Eun needs to put an end to the isolation and his nuclear ambitions. This wide opening would come hand in hand with a loss in power. A country that is dependent on outside aid for more than a decade needs special consideration. It cannot be that the regime cooperates with the UN for food supplies, while it refuses to work with the International Atomic Agency inspectors together. Kim Jong-Eun has no more capacities to maintain the illusion of a healthy and growing economy, but won't give up his power. Due to this situation he has no choice than finding the right balance between a totalitarian regime and a harmonization with the western countries. His constant violations of agreements in the past years have led the world to profound doubts about Kim's true intentions. Kim has stated several times that he also wants to work towards the goal of a unified country. The question is under what terms? I am convinced that one day there will be a reunified Korea, but not as long as Kim Jong-Eun is in power. *"In a sense, these challenges are inextricably entangled with the basic question of whether North Korea will remain an isolated island within the world or be open to the world."* – Jae-Cheon Lim



Jean-David Herld is currently working as a Research Analyst at The Brattle Group, focusing on valuation in the context of business strategy, mergers and acquisitions, and bankruptcy. He was awarded a Master of Science in Finance with Distinction from the Imperial College Business School in 2014, where he focused on financial analysis, investment management and corporate finance. Prior to Imperial College, he worked at Commerzbank, Porsche and Air Berlin. He also obtained a Bachelor of Arts in International Business Management with First Class Honours from the Berlin School of Economics and Law in 2013. While studying he was granted a Fulbright Scholarship and studied for one year at Bentley University in Boston. He co-founded the Startup Netzwerk SUN network, the goal of which is to foster and develop innovation-driven entrepreneurship through a network of entrepreneurs, innovators and leaders. He is also a member of the German National Academic Foundation. Jean-David is fluent in German, English and French and is passionate about Technology, Social Entrepreneurship and Modern Art.



For more information, please visit:
www.fulbright-alumni.de
or like The German Fulbright Alumni Association
on Facebook



FULBRIGHT ALUMNI E.V.

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:

- 2014 International Fulbright Conference “Entrepreneurs in a Borderless World”, Berlin
- 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:

- 2014 Fulbright Association 36th Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.
- 2012 Fulbright Association 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.

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Fulbright Berlin Seminar

2014

**The 60th Fulbright Berlin Seminar,
administered by the German Fulbright Commission**

by Tori Dykes

From March 23- 27, hundreds of Fulbright students, researchers, teaching assistants and professors based across the European continent descended on Germany's capital city for four days of panel discussions, networking sessions and scholarly presentations. The Berlin Seminar, the German Fulbright Commission's annual conference, is always a highlight for Fulbright scholars, as the session offers attendees an unparalleled opportunity to meet an incredible array of talented individuals, from microbiology researchers to opera singers.

The seminar was not just for Americans. The first couple days were also attended by German Fulbright grantees who would be departing for the U.S. in the fall to begin their own years abroad. Many Americans took this opportunity to form new international friendships, as well as to share some tips for how the German scholars could make the most of their time in America.

Things kicked off on Sunday, March 23, as seminar attendees began to descend upon the seminar hotel, located just off of Berlin's Alexanderplatz. Many of the Americans took advantage of the various tours organized by the Fulbright Commission, including a Cold War tour of Berlin and a tour of what some consider to be Germany's grandest mosque, the Şehitlik Mosque.

Sunday evening, things began in earnest with the Welcome Dinner, the seminar's first organized event. This was attendees' first proper chance to begin to network with each other. It was also a chance for German Fulbright grantees in particular to catch up with each other, since many had not seen each other since the orientation sessions back in August and September.

The first full day of the seminar saw attendees break off into one of several different groups, each centered around a specific topic, ranging from "Transatlantic..." to "Berlin Theater." These workshops gave Fulbrighters a chance to share their opinions, experiences and expertise as well as to pose questions to the group, with the smaller setting allowing for a more active dialogue than would have been possible with all of the seminar attendees together in one room. After discussing in groups, everyone reconvened and designated spokespersons from each group shared the results of their group's discussion. In the evening, the seminar hosted an opening ceremony at Berlin's University of the Arts. The ceremony featured multiple distinguished speakers as well as musical performances from some incredibly talented former Fulbright scholars. After the ceremony, the German and American Fulbrighters were treated to another wonderful meal and a chance to continue to build friendships as well as to network over drinks.

The second day began at Berlin's Rotes Rathaus, where Fulbrighters had a chance to marvel at the building's striking 1920s architecture while sitting in on two fascinating discussions. The first was a panel of several current Fulbright grantees based in countries like Hungary and Turkey. Each panel member gave a short presentation on the culture of their host countries and their experiences thus far, and audience members had the chance to ask the panel members questions to learn more.

After a coffee break, the Fulbrighters reconvened for a very special discussion with Björn Böhning, current Head of the Senate Chancellery of Berlin. Mr. Böhning offered some prepared remarks, then very graciously opened himself up to questions from the Fulbrighters in attendance. Questions posed to Mr. Böhning included the topic of gentrification and development in Berlin as well as the general political climate in Germany. Many Fulbrighters, especially those based in Germany, greatly appreciated this unique chance to gain new perspectives on politics and current events in Germany.

Wednesday, the third day of the conference, marked the last full day. Attendees broke off into different groups during the morning. Teaching assistants gathered together to discuss their experiences more in-depth and to brainstorm ways of improving the ETA program. While the teaching assistants discussed their roles, the research grantees began presenting the results of their projects to their peers, offering the other grantees a chance to see what other people had been working on. In the afternoon, all of the program attendees joined together one last time to attend a final session featuring additional presentations of individual research projects, although the presentations weren't limited to just research grantees. ETAs also had a chance to present on side projects that had been working on, meaning the topics represented spanned a huge variety of interests. It was a great final opportunity to marvel at what a diverse, intelligent and talented group Fulbright had brought together at the Berlin Seminar.

The night ended with a group excursion to the Frannz Club in Prenzlauer Berg for an "Abschiedsparty." Everyone had a chance to share some drinks, partake in some dancing and celebrate (or perhaps mourn!) the end of an extremely successful conference.

All in all, this was a tremendous experience for all involved no matter what perspective you look at it from – be it networking, intercultural experiences, scholarly research or simply making new friends. The seminar was a huge success across the board. Thank you so much to the German Fulbright Commission for making this event possible. Bis nächstes Jahr!



All photos by Tori Dykes



Have a lunch break, have some meatballs with - what else could it be - Düsseldorf Löwensenf; photo: Daniel Ziegert

The same procedure as every year, in charge of moderation – David Patrician; photo: Daniel Ziegert



Board meeting at the morning after; photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein

and it was a long, long night; photo: Daniel Ziegert

Sarita Glassburner-Moen, Vice Consul at the Consulate General of the United States, gives the welcome speech; photo: Daniel Ziegert

WELCOME MEETING 2013

by Alexandra Lanzel und Johannes Schulz

The Welcome Meeting in Düsseldorf during October of 2013 was a great mix of new and old. A new organizational group was in charge, a new city played host, new venues created an atmosphere different than previous years, and there were lots of new faces. But at the same time the weekend provided the same great chance to catch up with ‘old’ friends and the same great Fulbright Spirit was of course there!

After a great get-together on Friday at Himmel und Äd, we experienced a full day of excitement at the sky-high BCG office with a view over beautiful Düsseldorf and the Rhein. Sarita Glassburner-Moen, Vice Consul at the Consulate General of the United States, and Fulbright alumni herself, opened with a message emphasizing the impact just one year abroad can have on your whole life, and the impact her Fulbright year has had on hers. People who spend time abroad see everything in their own lives through different eyes.

David Patrician spoke about breaking barriers, first through the Fulbright year, and then in everyday life. He also shared stories of his own adventures and how he lives the Fulbright Spirit every day. He pointed out that everyone has their own background and story but we can connect through the Fulbright experience and form the Fulbright family. He also challenged us to share stories, share ideas, connect and network because the Fulbright year is just the start of a lifetime of learning about different cultures and being an ambassador for your own.

One exciting new event this year was the “speed networking” challenge where we had one minute with each person in the room. It was a great way to come face-to-face with everyone at the meeting and get to know everyone just a little bit more personally.

Workshops on various topics, focusing on the prospect of becoming a management consultant, on intercultural education in Germany and beyond, photography as well as social entrepreneurship provided for an interesting afternoon of learning and knowledge sharing. The workshop presenters did a great job and were very informative – thank you once more for presenting your thoughts!

The day came to a close with our keynote speaker, Thomas S. Miller, Minister Counselor for Public Affairs at the U.S. Embassy Berlin. He underlined how the recognition of failure is a prerequisite for success, and urged us to try new things with the knowledge that most will fail, and recognize when you fail. Diversity was also a key topic during his speech. He pointed out that diversity is good and makes us all smarter. A diverse crowd is smarter than a crowd of like-minded individuals.

The Saturday night after party provided a great opportunity to relax and enjoy the evening with friends both new and old. Starting with good German food and a karaoke party at Zum Schlüssel, and finishing up with an “after after party” at Lustwandel, the night made for great fun that will not be soon forgotten.

Sunday morning brought a hearty brunch at Der Schwan, the most central point of Düsseldorf, followed by a city tour.

All in all, the Welcome Meeting 2013 was a great success. It was a fun and memorable weekend with new friends and old, reconnecting and reigniting Fulbright spirit!

View from the BCG office; photo: Susanne Döring

“Entrepreneurs in a Borderless World” 2014, co-organized by the German and French Fulbright Alumni Associations

by Benjamin Becker (on behalf of the international organizing committee)

On the weekend of May 16 - 18, 2014, 150 Fulbrighters and friends from 20 countries worldwide came together in Berlin for the 2014 Fulbright Conference, “Entrepreneurs in a Borderless World.” Participants included entrepreneurs, graduates, students, and members of the US Department of State, as well as various US Missions. The conference was co-organized by the German and French Fulbright Alumni Associations, with the support of the US Embassies in Berlin and Paris, and in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and Microsoft Germany.

The conference kicked off with a reception at the US Embassy on Friday evening, where US Ambassador John B. Emerson and French Ambassador Maurice Gourdault-Montagne both personified and praised the international nature of the Franco-German project. The main conference day on Saturday, hosted by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, opened with a keynote from Moncia Dodi (Founder and Managing Director of the Women’s Venture Capital Fund) and an all-women, all-Fulbright panel on the foundations of entrepreneurship, which were both well-received by the audience. The remainder of the day dedicated itself to “mentor-mentee speed dating” sessions, which

brought together experienced mentors and aspiring entrepreneurs from various disciplines. Discussions and networking continued at the evening reception, and carried over to the Sunday morning “hands-on day” at Microsoft Berlin, where CTO in residence Kai Jäger presented Microsoft’s accelerator program and introduced its successfully supported start-up Cringle.

The Franco-German cooperation, which was initially discussed at the Fulbright Association 35th Annual Conference in London, 2012, proved to be a successful novelty for all parties involved – including the US Department of State, which for the first time supported an alumni project with a multinational grant. Calls for a follow-up project in 2015 were already raised during the conference weekend itself, and several associations have since expressed interest in hosting similar events in the near future. This momentum should be used to further the increasing internationalization of Fulbright alumni activities “in a borderless world.”



Mentor-mentee speed dating in progress



Good morning at Microsoft's Atrium Unter den Linden

All photos by Benjamin Becker



Farewell to all the conference attendees

Q and A with participants: What do you take away from the conference??

by Marion Schweighart and Charlotte Horn



KIMBERLY-JOE MUNROE

cultural affairs assistant at the US Embassy in Jamaica (munroekj(a)state.gov)

“First when I came, I came totally in the capacity of just my job. Just to see how the Fulbrighters experience it and possibly to replicate this back home in Jamaica with our Fulbrighters. But then the other side of it is, it was so inspiring that my own personal goals came out and the inspiration, the fire that was lit, within the Fulbrighters that were actually here also inspired me and I could see how much they took away from it. I have also taken away a lot of contacts. Persons who I can link to my Fulbrighters, to myself, just to understand the way things work on a worldwide view. My start-up idea is to combine volunteerism and tourism. What we actually do, is link tourists who are volunteers or want to know more about the underground lifestyle in Jamaica with NGOs and the tourist scene in Jamaica.”



HENRY VAN WAGENBERG

American DAAD Alumni, web developer based in Berlin (henry(a)smartlogic.io)

“I take many great contacts and relationships and conversations. I think this event is an excuse to meet interesting people - that’s really what a lot of the talks and workshops are really about. One thing I learned and really liked: another mentor, an American: when Mentees would stop at her table she would have them break down their pitch into four things, four categories. And it was: what is the pain point, what is the solution, who is your customer and how are you going to contact them. I think that’s such a simple way to break down any idea just like: ok, you can say it in four sentences.”



ANNE NOUVIAIRE

French Fulbright Alumni, investment analyst in Paris (anne.nouviaire(a)gmail.com)

“I was amazed by the diversity of people joining the conference in terms of background and all the projects they have. My key take away is that it’s just a matter doing it and making it to the next step. I’m not a hundred percent sure I want a start up my own business. I don’t think I’m ready yet. But it’s definitely something I have in mind and seeing all these people starting their own business is very inspiring.”



MARKUS HESS

German Fulbright Alumni, entrepreneur based in Switzerland (Marcus.hess(a)schoggimail.com)

„A lot of energy, great ideas and great people I’m sure I will meet again and stay in touch with. That was really the best of the conference to meet all these inspiring people. I didn’t get a new business idea myself but maybe some pieces of the jigsaw will have to fall into place after all to create something new. I consider myself a series-entrepreneur. My advice for the young folks: you need the will and the endurance. Don’t get knocked over by the first or next wave. Instead tell yourself: ok, back to start and try again! “



LAURA DOWNHOWER

US-Fulbright Alumni, based in Switzerland with her start-up (laura(a)1291media.ch)

“The thing that has impressed me the most: that when you do a Fulbright you are there generally in an academic setting and people are very focused on their topic of study. Now the great thing about this conference is, it takes people who are no longer in that academic mindset, who are no longer singly focused and says to them: you are a Fulbrighter because you are able and willing to work and live out of your comfort zone because you are comfortable and interested in the world of ideas - and those are two qualities that are critical for any entrepreneur. And it’s a very, very logical fit for me that you see people who did a Fulbright who are coming up with these fantastic ideas. I think it’s a very very logical fit: take all the things that you learned and how to be curious and how to ingest lots and lots of different critics and feedback and come up with something that is new or different and fits you and your personality but that maybe brings a value to someplace else in the world.”



ELLIAS EL-TAHIRI

German Fulbright Diversity Alumni, student of business studies (Ellias.el-tahiri(a)hotmail.de)

„I take away plenty impressions, many experiences that I have made here - like meeting other people and improving my English skills. And I have learned that it’s definitely time to get business cards now! The whole conference has inspired and motivated me to have a try with an own start-up. I’ve already got a concrete idea in mind that I am working on together with friends; we want to improve students’ housing situation. “

Fulbright in Action

by Charlotte Horn



“From the very beginning the German Fulbright Alumni understood the importance of the program as few others did. They were incredibly enthusiastic and cooperative. I think you are an outstanding group amongst Fulbright scholars.” With this remarkable quote Senator Fulbright’s wife Harriet Mayor Fulbright answered the following question: What comes to your mind if you think of the German Fulbrighters? Truly a lady with a special aura.

Meeting Mrs. Fulbright was one of THE highlights during the conference for all of the participants (check out the video here: <http://www.fulbright-alumni.de/>). In the beginning of October 2013 seven Fulbrighters from the German association attended the 36th Annual Fulbright Conference in Washington, D.C. Among them: board and extended board members.



All photos by Wiltrud Hammelstein

Despite the personal encounter with Mrs. Fulbright, the conference started with another highlight for the German Fulbrighters: by coincidence the first day of the conference started on October 3rd: German Unity. For that occasion the Fulbrighters followed an evening invitation by the German Ambassador Peter Ammon and celebrated together at the embassy’s garden party.



Fulbrighters with the German Ambassador Peter Ammon in the middle.



Home sweet home

Harriet Fulbright and a special picture with the Berlin wall (a former gift by the German Fulbright Kommission). From left to right: Charlotte Horn, Carsten Kuschnerus, Wiltrud Hammelstein, Jakob Liss, Harriet Fulbright, Shamaila Ghaffar (missing here: Vincent Strobel and Benjamin Becker)



Civil rights activist James Meredith in action

The next three days were filled with meeting Fulbrighters from around the world, exchanging ideas and discussing current issues. All the participants brought life to the topic of the conference “Fulbright in Action” – like the speaker during the first luncheon: James Meredith, American civil rights movement figure, writer, and political adviser. In the beginning of the 1960s he was the first African American student applying and being admitted to the segregated university of Mississippi. A big step for the country. In his speech, he encouraged the Fulbright Alumni to make the world a better place. In his own words: “You Fulbrighters are everywhere, teach at some colleges I have never heard of before. You are better than any Harvard alumni in the whole country. Harvard is only at the top – but you are everywhere”. Maybe an exaggeration for some, but there seems to lie some truth in his words.



The whole German gang together on the State Department's balcony

There were different breakout sessions on various topics in arts & humanities, business & entrepreneurship, global health policy, human rights & social justice, science & technology and diversity. One special event was the Selma Jeanne Cohen Lecture with flamenco dancer Alice Blumenfeld. She talked about the history of the flamenco dance and personally demonstrated her amazing skills and techniques.

Apart from the panel discussions and breakout sessions, the Fulbrighters came together for a reception in the diplomatic rooms of the U.S. State Department – at least that was the plan. However, it was anything but certain that the participants would actually get the permission because of the government shutdown (with all government buildings being closed). But thanks to the extraordinary connections of the Fulbright Association, the State Department made an exception and opened its elegant rooms for the Fulbrighters: sparkling wine and delicious snacks among paintings and furniture from former secretaries and presidents (and the door to the secretary’s office – no access, of course). The best part was the stunning view from the balcony onto the National Mall with the Lincoln Memorial during sunset!



Steve Reilly, executive director of the American Fulbright Association with Harriet Fulbright at the diplomatic reception room of the U.S. State Department

During the closing banquet on the last day, Steve Reilly, the executive director of the American Fulbright Association, encouraged the international Fulbright family to move forward, keep Senator Fulbright’s dream of mutual understanding alive and maintain this exceptional exchange among different cultures. Fulbright in action!

For more information on the Fulbright Association and its activities and events go to: www.fulbright.org

Sailing Weekend at Lake Constance 2014

by Lisa Rogers



Harbor with Zeppelin; photo: Thomas Weißschnur



Fun at full speed. Left to right: Doris, Dirk, Bogdan, Robert, Christoph, Lisa, Tanja; photo: Thomas Weißschnur

The fact is that this summer was the coldest summer in Germany since 2006, and one would think that this could put a damper on the 2014 Fulbright Sailing trip, (17-19 August). But to the contrary: the spotty storms, high winds, and the variable need for waterproof attire made for a weekend trip that would satiate the needs of the thrill-seeking profi, the wide-eyed newbie, and the conservative water-picnicker alike.

Most of the participants – coming from different parts of Germany, including a large contingent from Stuttgart and Munich, but also from Berlin, Düsseldorf, Saarbrücken, Göttingen, and Bremen – had been keeping track of the weather, hoping for a Hail-Mary break in the almost two weeks of constant rain. Upon their early arrival in the port of Gohren, the skippers could see the weather-forecast posted on the board of the Harbormaster: Saturday Storm Warning, Sunday Clear Skies.

As the crews of all three boats arrived, the news was spread that at least Sunday would be a nice day for sailing. It was decided that only two out of three boats would go out the following day because of a couple of cancellations: a sporty Bavaria 40S and a trusty Bavaria 37 Cruiser. After a cabin-dinner was made and eaten, a few glasses of wine were drunk, and the participants had been acquainted, crews went back to a rocky night's sleep on board the boats.

The next morning brought breakfast on the Lake of Constance for one of the boats and a leisurely 12 o'clock departure for the other. Although the time of departure may have been leisurely, the pace at which the boats dashed out of the Harbor was all but. Around 1 pm, the weather over the lake consisted of dozens of small cumulus clouds – dark underneath, billowing white on top, fast moving. With the guidance of the experienced Skippers Robert Ventzki and Matthias Stecher, and Co-Skippers Dirk Lindenau and Dieter Lingelbach, the two boats were whisked out of the way of the approaching storms, using the winds to reach speeds up to 10 knots (18.5 kph). The crews were reassured that despite the 45 degree angle between the mast and the water, side railings fully under water, the boat could not capsize because of the physics of the wind and the ballast under the boat. This was only somewhat comforting for inexperienced crew members, who were grasping onto corners, ropes, and railings, partly sitting on the walls, because they were more horizontal than the seats.



Group; photo: Thomas Weißschnur

The storms gave way to spots of sun on a couple of occasions, allowing a leisurely late-lunch of veggies, sausages, cheese, and crackers. Later, the most awe-inspiring storm came around 5 pm, chasing the boats speedily back into port, and allowing the crews to break out some impressive rain gear.

The storm quickly passed and a refreshing half-hour walk under cloudless skies brought the crews to a well-deserved dinner in Restaurant Engel in Langenargen. Satisfied after the large meal, they were beacons back to the festively decorated boat – Christmas lights and pineapple hanging from the Boom – where 8 liters of Skipper Ventzki's legendary Piña Colada were waiting to start the party.

After the long party and a few hours of sleep, the boats awoke to a clear blue sky, Alps in the background, Zeppelin hovering above. With almost no trace of bad weather, but also almost no trace of wind, sailing on Sunday ended up being more of a chilly swimming/picnic day out on the water. The hundreds of

sailboats, idling on the glassy water, made it seem as if you could walk across the lake from Germany to Switzerland, hopping from deck to deck. The calm on the water made it possible to graze on tasty snacks, swim a couple of laps around the boat, and test out state-of-the-art inflatable rescue equipment.

No one had predicted that the weather on Saturday and Sunday would yield such surprisingly opposite sailing results. By the end of the weekend, the crews of both ships could say that they had enjoyed a varied experience, seeing both the adventurous and the relaxed side of sailing.

Of course adventure wasn't the only goal of this particular trip: many new connections were made both in English and "auf Deutsch." Such a varied selection of people – from engineers to musicians, consultants to designers – gives way to colorful conversations, many including the shared and invaluable American-German Fulbright experience.



Great View; photo: Doris Ammon

Winterball 2014

by Karl Safft

It was at one of our legendary Stammtische in spring 2013, which are organized on a monthly basis at the Zurich Marriott by Martin Marenke. Still driven by the momentum of the last Winterball, Uwe Koch came up with the idea to do it again and raised the question, if we would like to organize the next Fulbright Winterball. He convinced us that most of the work had already been done, when he organized previous Balls and that we only had to add a few changes, like the location and marketing, to make it happen.

In his Winterball campaign, Uwe was supported by a glass of fine Cabernet Sauvignon from France. Martin enjoyed his Paulaner Weizenbier and I had a red Rivella, the national drink of Switzerland. Exposed to this liquid cultural diversity, we expanded the Winterball idea to make it a multi-cultural event. After all, cooperation of different cultures is one of the core values of the Fulbright Program.



Organization Team led by Karl Safft (Switzerland) and Desiree Doyle (Germany); photo: Ann-Kathrin Ostermeyer

Being members of the German as well as of the Swiss Fulbright Alumni Associations, Martin, Uwe and I fulfilled an important condition to organize the next Winterball jointly for the German and Swiss Alumni. Further members of our Swiss-German organisation team were Andreas, Angela, Ann-Kathrin, Benjamin, Désirée and Eva.

The ideal location was quickly found: Freiburg im Breisgau, a picturesque, medium size university town, also known as the gate to the Black Forest and only 90 minutes away from Zurich. Close to France as well, the region is called "Dreiländereck" –

DOS AND DON'TS ABOUT ORGANIZING A WINTERBALL

Don't disturb creative team members in their artistic process. Stay patient, even if you are not normally like that. These guys like working nights and manage to be on time even if it means having to transfer files at 3 am.

Don't give up if the 5th location turns out not to be suitable either for size or cost reasons. Rely on your local scout that she will find a solution.

Do turn up at your sponsors' site, even if this means a 6-hour railway journey (one-way!) for you. It is more difficult to say no when you are sitting in front of them.

Do take part in telcos because they're usually better suited to solving problems than writing twenty e-mails on the same subject.

Do create a team out of persons with different backgrounds and talents. Show respect and compassion and they will produce some really amazing results.

I am really indebted to you all for everything you've achieved across national borders.

Desiree Doyle

the ideal spot for a multi-cultural Winterball, which also provided us with a memorable theme for the evening: "Dreivierteltakt im Dreiländereck".

The sold out weekend from 21st-23rd February 2014 followed the format that had proven to be successful in previous years: More than 100 alumni started with an informal get together at the traditional Freiburg pub "Martin's Bräu" on Friday evening and continued Saturday morning (too early, as always ...) with the annual General Assembly, which took place at the historic university. The sunny afternoon invited us to stroll around through the beautiful center of Freiburg and its world famous cathedral, the Freiburger Münster, before everybody got prepared for the culmination of the weekend: The Winterball in the ball rooms of the five stars superior Hotel Colombi.



President Florian Kühnel and representatives of the US Embassies of Switzerland and Germany; photo: Desiree Doyle



Sumi Kittelberger and Joseph Nykiel; photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein

Besides a glamorous Champagne reception, a delicious 3 course meal and an open dance floor until 3 a.m., which the 180 ball guests used to its full capacity, the evening was filled with various other highlights:

- Welcome addresses by the Public Affairs Officers of the Swiss and German Embassies, Alexander Daniels and Jeffry Hill
- the presentation of the Mulert Award to Oksana Buzhdygan from Ukraine by German Fulbright Alumni President Florian Kühnel for her project "Environmental Education and Outreach for Schoolage Students" to support teachers in rural areas of her home country
- a recital from the German soprano and Fulbright Alumna Sumi Kittelberger from Cologne, accompanied by the American pianist and Fulbright Alumnus Joseph Nykiel from Freiburg



Guests at the Colombi; photo: Ann-Kathrin Ostermeyer



Guests at the Get-Together in Martin's Bräu; photo: Desiree Doyle



Fulharmony; photo: Susanne Döring

- an unconventional, innovative and very entertaining world premiere of the Fulharmony music group, which was founded, coordinated and lead by American Fulbright Alumna Julia Anderlé de Saylor from Bonn.

The Ball was generously sponsored with a grant of USD 3'000 by the Office of Public Affairs of the Embassy of the United States in Bern, Switzerland and with significant contributions from MLP Freiburg, the Carl Schurz Haus and the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, both Freiburg, as well as SchoggiMail, the chocolate company of German Fulbright Alumnus Markus Hess from Sisseln, Switzerland.

The great weekend finished on Sunday with a lavish Brunch at the Theatercafé Quadrille, followed by guided tours through different parts of Freiburg. Special interest received the Quartier Vauban, a borough of Freiburg, where the former barracks of the French military were turned into a "green" neighbourhood, as Uwe reflects in his spotlight:



The Heliotrop, one of the most remarkable buildings in "Green City" Freiburg; photo: Uwe Koch

It was great fun to put together and to work with a team of people from three countries all with different talents. My focus besides forming the team, the website and the finances was also to increase awareness of the "Breisgaumetro-pole Freiburg" in the Fulbright Community. Freiburg has a reputation for being "green". We found a professional tour guide who could show us the parts of the city which were developed to be environmentally friendly and socially responsible. One highlight is the Heliotrop - see the photo. This home - the architect actually lives there - produces more energy than it consumes. The same architect built the "Solarschiff" and the "Solarsiedlung" just opposite the Vauban. Our tour guide knew a lot about the history and was not shy to say where she thinks mistakes have been made. This meant we had great discussions and learned a lot.

At this point I want to say a big "THANK YOU" to all team members and all who made this "Dreivierteltakt im Dreiländereck" possible. It was a great pleasure. Uwe Koch

View of the Bastei Bridge from the raft;
photos: Elke Handschug-Brosin

Family Weekend

by Stephan DiCara

At the ferry in Königstein



Rafting tour
on the river Elbe



Gummi bears are an absolute
necessity to keep the motivation high

Mark your calendar!
The next Fulbright Family
Weekend is scheduled for
May 14 -17, 2015

We had a great time. That's the best way to sum up our time at the annual Fulbright Family Weekend in Königstein from May 29th to June 1st, 2014. The setting was ideal for a long weekend with family and (new) friends – The Familien-oase Königstein is a spacious hotel/pension right on the Elbe, with abundant hiking paths, river attractions, and cultural sights nearby. We especially liked the light-filled dining room, which, with its large windows and strategic positioning, allowed for easy supervision of the kids playing outside after meals.

We arrived blind. Since completing my Fulbright year in Mannheim in 2002, I have had very little contact with Fulbrighters near or far. Over the years, I have corresponded with some American Fulbrighters who returned to the States, but with the local chapter in Germany, I haven't had any contact – perhaps because I actually live over the border in the Czech Republic? But if I think about it, I feel like I have been carrying forward some of the ideals of the Fulbright program ever since: as an American English teacher in Germany and the Czech Republic, straddling the border in various ways, I feel responsible on a daily basis to bridge the gap between our countries and cultures.

Nevertheless, we arrived blind on Thursday, not knowing what to expect. We were not disappointed.

Surrounded by a friendly and very diverse group of fellow Fulbrighters and their families and friends, we quickly started getting to know each other and planning our time together. Over the weekend, the group collectively managed short and long hikes in the Königstein area, a river raft tour (almost like whitewater rafting, with the rain flooded Elbe!) from Bad Schandau to Wehlen, a long hike in a beautiful area of the Elbsandstein Mountains, ice cream, coffee, and an art exhibition in Wehlen, geocaching in the woods above the Elbe, plus a refreshing dip in the thermal pools in Bad Schandau. Of course, there was also time for socializing, playing games, jumping on the trampoline, jogging together, and playing ping pong.

Though it was a long weekend, it was too short for really getting to know such an interesting group of people. I'm already looking forward to the next chance to get together, whether it be at the next family weekend in Königstein which will take place May 14-17, 2015, or in Dresden, or Prague, or Berlin, or perhaps our backyard in the Czech Republic?

Till then, Stephan

(and Rene and Bert, start sharpening your ping pong paddles!)

Regional Chapter Hamburg

Moin aus Hamburg

by David Patrician

We had another great year here in Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein. After one of our stammtisch meetings we came up with the motto of "Discover the North." This simply meant we would try to have our meetings in a variety of locations so that we could learn more about Hamburg while spreading our Fulbright spirit. Here is a sample of some of our recent activities.

In May, the Hamburg Amerikazentrum invited us to a concert of American musicians Howard Levy and Chris Siebold. Mr. Levy is one of America's best harmonica players and he gave the audience a fun history about this instrument. Fun fact: Christian Friedrich Buschmann, a German musical instrument maker, is credited with inventing the "mund harmonika" back in the 1800's. We wanted to thank Manfred Strack (director of the Amerikazentrum and Fulbright Alum) for a musical evening.



Tour of the USS Mount Whitney, Kiel;
photo: David Patrician

In June, the US Consulate in Hamburg invited us to Kiel to tour the USS Mount Whitney, a blue ridge class command ship of the US Navy and the flagship of the Sixth Fleet. The Mount Whitney was in port to take part in the Kieler Woche, the largest sailing event in the world and one of the biggest Volksfeste in Germany. We were given a private tour of the ship and learned about life in the US Navy. After wards, Sven Wagner and Stephan Jensen (Fulbright Alumni) invited us to their nearby home and treated us to a fantastic brunch. It was a great day and I wanted to thank Heiko Herold (US Consulate Hamburg) for helping arrange this tour.

In July, we were invited to the annual "4th of July Party" at the US Consulate General in Hamburg. As in the past, there was live music, great food and a truly American celebration... a few days earlier Hamburg finally got it's first Dunkin' Donuts! Between burgers and donuts, we were able to talk with US Consul General Nancy Corbett and tell her about our Fulbright experiences here in Germany.

In conclusion, the Hamburg chapter is excited to announce that we will be hosting the next annual "Welcome Back" meeting this upcoming November. This meetings serves to welcome American Fulbright grantees as well as German returnees back to Germany and offer them an opportunity to talk about their experiences, to meet new people and to get to know the Fulbright community here in Germany. Charlotte Horn and Marion Schweighart are currently organizing and planning this event and we all look forward to seeing many of you this upcoming November 14 - 16th, 2014!



4th of July Party with
US Consul General Nancy Corbett;
photo: Marcus Schmidt

Attending Levy/Siebold Concert; photo: David Patrician

Regional Chapter Köln/Bonn

New ways, always

by Isabel Wasgindt

This year brought some changes to our regional group. First of all, our annual Thanksgiving dinner together with the Deutsch-Amerikanische Gesellschaft could not take place at our regular venue, Cologne restaurant Consilio. What should we do?

As through the years our chapter has acquired quite a reputation for their cookings skills, the decision was made easy: let's do our own Thanksgiving dinner! A suitable location was found quickly and a big bird was ordered at the local organic butcher's.

So on an otherwise unspectacular, cold and dreary November day, eight hungry Fulbrighters gathered for an evening of food, fun and great conversation. Wiltrud's whimsical decorations, originally bought in the States, had set a festive mood and brought the true thanksgiving spirit to the event.

All guests had prepared a typical side dish or a dessert – everything played together beautifully and made for an outstanding dinner menu. The most praised was Julia's original pumpkin pie recipe! The turkey itself was roasted quite unconventionally in a big brown paper bag and came out to perfection, soft and moist. Everyone agreed that this memorable evening was closest to the essence of Thanksgiving: to celebrate with your family and friends.



Thanksgiving
Decorations

While cooking events certainly remain a special focus in our group, we have also strengthened our ties with the Amerika Haus, where our fellow Fulbrighter Wiltrud Hammelstein now serves as the new director. As Fulbrighters, we participated in some events, most notably a discussion on "Journalism in Germany and the US" at Haus der Geschichte, concerts and the live broadcast of the World Cup soccer match USA: Germany at the Deutsches Sportmuseum in Köln.

A special highlight was the Amerika Haus Christmas concert in Aachen followed by a visit to the famous Christmas market. U.S. singer Jocelyn B. Smith entertained us for three hours with her own jazzy version of traditional Christmas carols, so we were in the right mood for some Glühwein and Bratwurst!

All these activities plus the occasional Stammtisch made for a very diverse year in our chapter. Unfortunately, a few of our most active members have left the region or have moved back to the United States, so we are always happy to see new faces!

If you live in the Cologne Bonn Area and would like to become actively involved in our chapter, just drop us an e-mail or come to our next event. Please bring your creative ideas as well to make our events even more fun and exciting – we would love to hear from you!



Christmas Market



Amerika Haus Christmas concert in Aachen



Let's talk turkey



Thanksgiving Dinner

All photos by Isabel Wasgindt

Regional Chapter Dresden

Thanksgiving and Advent Sunday celebration

by Elke Handschug-Brosin

We spontaneously decided to have a Thanksgiving Dinner this year. It took place on December 1, 2013 which happened to be Advent Sunday, so we actually had two reasons to celebrate. While Bernd and Ed and their respective families put all their love and care into preparing two delicious turkeys and some side dishes, our family decorated the house with wooden Christmas pyramids, incense burner figurines called Räucherhämmchen, and candle arches – all handmade products from the nearby Ore Mountains. Trä gave our silverware a final polishing touch inspired by her work experience with WMF. Unfortunately, three people who had registered could not attend the event. So, eventually, we were "only" thirteen participants which still is a large turnout considering our very small active group.



Thanksgiving dinner in Radebeul



Waiting patiently in line for the
first piece of turkey

All photos by Elke Handschug-Brosin

We encourage you to contact our regional chapter at [rc.dresden\(a\)fulbright-alumni.de](mailto:rc.dresden(a)fulbright-alumni.de) to let us know you are in the area. Even though we do not have regular Stammtisch gatherings, we are fairly good at setting something up spontaneously such as our Thanksgiving Dinner 2013.

Regional Chapter Berlin

Dickes B

by Benjamin Becker

Berlin is the perfect place to meet Fulbrighters and other fascinating people from Germany, the US, and all over the world – as once again shown by our diverse activities throughout the year.

Our monthly Stammtische (US: “Happy Hour”/“Open Salon”) alternated between the Western and Eastern part of the city, and included visits to traditional Berlin bars (Schwarzes Café, Café Hardenberg), beer gardens (Prater, Café am Neuen See), and Berlin’s best burger place (The Bird). Thanks to our close connection to the Fulbright Commission, the US Embassy, and many other transatlantic/international organizations in Berlin, we were also able to participate in several external events, among them movie screenings, lectures, and activities by other alumni associations such as PPP (CBYX) and IvyCircle Germany.

This cooperative spirit was also celebrated during the Berlin chapter’s 2013 Alumni Thanksgiving Cooking Event, which brought together some 50 alumni from Fulbright, Emory, Stanford, and HTW Berlin. As the name indicates, everything except the turkey (which was generously donated by Emory) was prepared/cooked on the spot – with the help of a professional cook from our location Alte Feuerwache. Due to its huge success, we are currently preparing a follow-up event in 2014.



Fahrradtour



Thanksgiving



Stammtisch, The Bird

The same certainly applies to our 12th-of-July Potluck BBQ and a fabulous bike tour to Potsdam, the latter of which was organized by chapter members Johannes Weisser and Susanne von Kornatzki. Starting at the Wannsee S-Bahn station, the group explored the idyllic Pfaueninsel (Peacock Island), continued around the lake Wannsee, and then enjoyed a cool beer at Potsdam’s microbrew Alte Meierei. On our way back, we refreshed ourselves with a swim in a nearby river, and then concluded the day in Johannes’ and Susanne’s garden. Once again: thank you so much for organizing this wonderful day!

In this spirit, we look forward to another year with exciting chapter activities, and warmly invite you and your friends to join us! To stay updated, please subscribe to our mailing list, like us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/fulbrightberlin>), and check out the German Fulbright Alumni Association’s event calendar.



Stammtisch, Café am Neuen See

All photos by Benjamin Becker

Regional Chapter Rhein/Ruhr

Let us entertain you!

by Amanda Gläser-Bligh

Kicking it right off with Thanksgiving last year, the Rhein/Ruhr group got together in Düsseldorf at the home of Sarita Glassburner-Moen, vice consul at the US Consulate General and fellow Fulbright Alumna. We had the traditional turkey and all the trimmings and had a special round to talk about all the things we were thankful for. This was a great exchange and we hope we can top such a wonderful Thanksgiving party this year.

In the Christmas season, we visited the Düsseldorfer Weihnachtsmarkt and enjoyed a little Glühwein and Wurst at the Sternchenmarkt, where we have previously met for other Fulbright Christmas events.

Claus Rödiger organized a trip to see Körperwelten in Bochum in March and although we were just a small group, the exhibit was really extraordinary and a great chance to get together and see something quite fantastic.



Cheers at Christmas Market

The 4th of July celebration in Düsseldorf, again at the home of Sarita, was a highlight, as was the trip to the 4th celebration of the Amerika Haus at the Rheinterrassen in Köln. Both events were done in cooperation with the Köln/Bonn Regional Chapter. In Düsseldorf, we had our fill of root beer, hot dogs, hamburgers and all the real American fixings. Delicious! And all that could only be topped by the fireworks at the Amerika Haus party in Köln.

We will certainly be sad this fall when Sarita leaves Düsseldorf and moves on to her next foreign services assignment in Mexico City. However, the spirit of Fulbright will live on here in the region and we hope to keep the events rolling.

As I round out my first year as coordinator of the Rhein/Ruhr group, I’d like to say thanks to everyone who participated in our fun events. If you have ideas or thoughts about things you’d like to do, then please get in touch!



Happy 4th of July

All photos by Amanda Gläser-Bligh



Fulbright Thanksgiving



Regional Chapter Munich

Regional Chapter mit Herz

by Martin Söhngen

Twelve months have passed since the latest report, which I feel inclined to copy paste this year. Aware of the potential illicitness of such an endeavor, let us rephrase as follows:

The Stammtisch remains the cornerstone of the Munich regional chapter's life. Like the other regional chapters, we have a fixed date – each month's last Tuesday, but change location every month. While new places have been introduced particularly by Marion and Andrea as new faces, traditions have still encroached our way: E.g., the June Stammtisch has in recent memory always been held together with the Purdue alumni ("Boilermakers") at the same Italian place in Haidhausen. Thanksgiving took place as always in a – at least on that night – Turkey place in Neuhausen, and Wichteln in December 2013 was celebrated the second time at the same downtown place. The February Stammtisch with the "election" (given the actual proceeding, this term is preposterous) of the regional steering committee at the same Bavarian place in Schwabing. The four-person regional steering committee of Andrea (Activities), Marion (Members), Andreas (Treasury

and Newsletter), and me (Spokesperson) has been confirmed in rather Eastern block style acclamation – no surprise!

In the fall of last year, Marion invited to the local welcome meeting. Excessive data protection regulation prevented us from inviting most newly arrived current grantees – but Alsatian Flammkuchen still made the evening taste good and last long!

As usual we saw the Munich amateur theatre group Lampenfieber, this time "The bank robber play". The performance and the play were indeed very enjoyable for the entire audience. Further regular endeavors led us to an evening at the "DreamBowl Palace", Europe's biggest bowling hall with 52 lanes, and an after-work ski hike up the slopes of Zugspitze during the carnival season.

Andrea brought fresh wind in spring 2014 and led us to a poetry slam. In May we went to a two-person two-hour impro show in a somber basement enlightened by the markedly Franconian humor displayed at scene. American native speakers would not have had an easy time, I must admit – present were only German Fulbrighters who had a great time! Our American friends were better off in August with an outdoor performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the English Garden amphitheater.

In between we have been invited to a speech by ambassador John Emerson in the local Amerika Haus. At the height of the debate about American spying on German sources in April, he did a rather good job of explaining and

All photos by
Andreas Schoberth



English Garden amphitheater

Panoramic view from Jochberg peak

Regional Chapter Franken

Franconia meets US Students in beer garden

by Uwe Koch

For many years Franconia Alumnus Harald Leder has been the Director of Academic Programs abroad at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. Every summer he organizes a trip to Germany for LSU students, which usually includes stays in Berlin and Nuremberg. On the Fourth of July we met some students and Harald at Lederer Brewery's traditional beer garden in Nuremberg.

Three of them were interested in meeting us and getting information about studying in Germany as a Fulbright scholar after completing their Bachelor degrees.

Konner commented this meeting with this: "I found our Fulbright meeting in Nuremberg to be quite informative. It was especially helpful to me, because the man we met with

defending his government in the following open discussion. It remained, of course, impossible to satisfy those who require full transparency about everything secret (sic!) services do. I wonder how the debate would have been some months later after it has become public that German secret services sometimes also actually spy in sources other than Huff Post or Al-Jazeera.

Finally, the 4th of July, was celebrated the usual way with barbecue and beer. Thanks Andreas, for organizing everything so greatly in your apartment! Unusually – and markedly un-American – the evening was dominated by football (sorry, ours is the real football!) as the German team, in its first convincing eliminatory match beat France on its way to its first title after unification. Four days later, the hard-core fans convened again at Andreas' place for a leftovers barbecue, only to witness that jaw-dropping defeat of Brazil.

Next year, we are looking forward to welcoming you in Munich at the 2015 Fulbright Alumni Winterball!



Regional Chapter Frankonia at Ledererbiertgarten in Nuremberg, photo: D. Doyle

happened to have studied in a similar field to what I plan on going into. I'm not quite sure if I want to go to graduate school overseas quite yet, but if I do decide to, I will undoubtedly be able to use the information that I learned in this meeting."

Besides giving insights into the Fulbright Program and local Franconian traditions we had great fun digging into "Schäuferla" (shoulder of pork) and "Sauerbraten" (marinated roast beef). Although the "Klöß" (dumplings) were nothing new but still a challenge for the students, the "Rotkraut" (sweet-and-sour red cabbage) proved to be a very new experience to them. We hope that next year more Franconians will join us.

The next event in Franconia will be our traditional Thanksgiving Dinner a few weeks after the Welcome Meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you!
Desi and Uwe

Regional Chapter Mannheim/Heidelberg

Vacancy announcement!

Calling all Fulbrighters in the Mannheim-Heidelberg area!
by Benjamin Pflieger

Are you passionate about fostering cultural exchange between current and former grantees from both sides of the Atlantic? Interested in becoming involved in the Fulbright Alumni e.V.? Currently living in the Mannheim/Heidelberg area or planning to move there in the near future? If so, please get in touch with me! The regional chapter Mannheim-Heidelberg is presently looking for a new regional chapter coordinator. In this position, not only will you meet amazing people from a highly diverse academic background, you'll also have a lot of fun fostering relationships that will last a lifetime.

After founding the regional chapter in March 2010, I had four incredibly rewarding years. But, as the saying goes, "all good things must come to an end". It's with a heavy heart that it's time for me to move on. I'm going to hand over the position to a new enthusiastic generation.

Located in one of Germany's finest regions, the regional chapter Mannheim-Heidelberg encompasses everything between the Palatinate Forest in the west and the "Odenwald" in the East. The chapter's boundaries boast two internationally renowned, top-ranked universities. Several students from abroad choose to study in Mannheim-Heidelberg on a Fulbright scholarship. As a result, the chapter has the pleasure to frequently welcome Americans to the "Stammtisch", and often bids a joyful farewell to German students from the region heading to the US.

While it is still much smaller than the neighboring chapters of Frankfurt and Stuttgart, the chapter has been lucky to always enjoy a group of interested U.S. Fulbrighters who are studying or working as teaching assistants in the area. Personally, I find the exchanges with current U.S. Fulbright grantees to be some of the most enriching experiences for chapter participants. The interactions epitomize what Fulbright is all about: mutual understanding and building relationships that transcend national boundaries.



American Pie
for Thanksgiving;
photo: Johannes Heym

Not even a year after the chapter was founded, we had the honor of hosting our association's general annual meeting in Heidelberg. During February 2011, we were extremely proud to present our region to the Fulbright Alumni e.V. and to invite Fulbrighters from all over Germany to picturesque Heidelberg. The chapter has cultivated a core group of enthusiastic participants, hosted other events, and has planned and engaged in all sorts of fun activities.

I want to thank everyone for their contribution and involvement over the years. Also, I would like to personally thank Julianne McCall for being such an incredible host! Her Thanksgiving dinners at the International House in Heidelberg are legendary!

If you're interested in the position, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am happy to answer any questions. And, I am sure – as you are a Fulbrighter – you will be a perfect match for the position. Please send an email to [rc.mannheim-heidelberg\(a\)fulbright-alumni.de](mailto:rc.mannheim-heidelberg(a)fulbright-alumni.de)



4th of July Picnic; photo: Johannes Heym

Regional Chapter Frankfurt

Unity Frankfurt

by Martin Kohler

Attending the monthly Stammtisch of the regional chapter Frankfurt usually means to embark on a culinary journey. Throughout this year, our Stammtisch organizers Mario and Carsten have taken us on trips to the American Midwest, Eritrea, and India. Besides exploring local restaurants, it's always a pleasure to enjoy the hospitality of some of the regional chapter members. We celebrated the 4th of July at Casa Mittwollen, got together for our traditional wine tasting at Cem's downtown studio, and had a barbecue on the Reichel family's back porch.



Over Hill and Dale; photo: Knut Mittwollen



Rolf Töpferwien and the Editor;
photo: Martin Kohler



Oliver, Isabelle, and Martin discuss the game;
photo: Tobias Talarek (PPP)

With all this wining and dining it's good doing some sports and cultural activities occasionally – a Taunus hike, for instance, or seeing "Saturday Night Fever" at the English Theatre, including a backstage behind-the-scenes tour.

As for Frankfurt being a city with strong ties to the USA, we always have the pleasure to take part in events hosted by the American Consulate. While only a few Americans joined the celebration of the German-American Day due to the US Government Shutdown, many more showed up for the German-American football party. Together with our friends from the PPP and special guests like Kevin C. Milas, the US Consul General, and legendary sports moderator Rolf Töpferwien, the RC Frankfurt watched the game, while having beer and burgers, as the team played its way to the World Cup trophy.

Would you like to be part of the group? Just check <https://www.fulbright-alumni.de/regional-chapters/frankfurt.html> for any upcoming events and drop by!

Winner of the Mulert Award

This year's recipient of the Jürgen Mulert Memorial Award on Mutual Understanding is Oksana Buzhdygan for her project



Environmental Education and Outreach for School-Age Students

by Oksana Buzhdygan

Environmental education is not an integral part of school curricula yet in Ukraine. While been under the Soviet-Union regime, Ukrainian Education System experienced the anthropocentric and exploitative view on the natural resources. As a result we still have a lack of public awareness and concerns for environmental quality and deficiency in responsible behavior patterns to overcome environmental crisis on different levels from local (regional) to national ecological problems. Intensive deforestation has a noticeable influence on the many villages of Chernivtsi Region around the Carpathian Mountains. Rural school teachers of Biology, Chemistry, and Geography are interested in application of ecological research in scientific projects they do with their students. But lack of money and training, as well as lack of support and other curriculum pressures are the main reasons that teachers name as the limiting factors in addressing environmental issues in rural schools. Our project "Environmental Education and Outreach for School-Age Students" represents enrichment

training seminars for rural school teachers of Chernivtsi Region in Ukraine in order to guide interested teachers to rich and rewarding environmental educational methods they can lead in their own classrooms while supplementing the schools' curriculum. So far we have teachers from the 30 rural schools located throughout the Chernivtsi Region, who are highly interested in application of Environmental Education in their local schools.

The purpose of the project is to connect school-age students through their teachers with professional ecologists at the Chernivtsi National University in order to heighten awareness of the science of ecology and environmental issues. Also the current project aims to give equal opportunities for the professional development of the rural schools (as they lack it in comparison with the city schools) by connecting them to the government (namely to Department of Education and Science of Chernivtsi Regional State Administration) and to the professionals of the extracurricular school-education organization (namely to Chernivtsi Regional Center of econaturalistic art studies).

The main goals of the project are as follows: (1) To inspire and motivate an interest in the environment in



Group picture of participants in training seminar in September 2013; photo: Zarochniceva O.



school-age children; (2) To provide opportunities for teachers and school-age students for information access and experience exchange through personal interactions as well as through the web page, and also through the Department of Ecology and Biomonitoring of Chernivtsi National University; (3) To share information about the ecology with the community; (4) To strengthen awareness of environmental issues.

To meet the project objectives we share the educational materials (textbooks, films, and hands-on materials), design creative, hands-on activities as well as present basic information about ecology topics in the form of a talk or slide shows. We include scientific experiments, art projects, role-playing activities, reading literature, and guided nature walks in order to meet the needs of teachers and their students. All these activities are target to different grade levels ranging from primary to high school.

I believe that Environmental Education of school-age students is needed to develop specific skills and values of society necessary for solving environmental problems.

Oksana Buzhdygan holds a Ph.D. in Ecology from Chernivtsi National University, Ukraine where she currently works as Assistant-Professor in the Department for Ecology & Biomonitoring. She spent her Fulbright Year 2010/2011 at the University of Georgia.

Mulert Award 2015 – Call for Nominations

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

It is our pleasure to invite friends and members of the Fulbright family worldwide to submit online nominations for candidates for the 2015 Mulert Award. Nominees must be former participants of one of the many Fulbright programs. Nominated projects may be professional or volunteer, and may have of an artistic, social or economic character.

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

- recognition during the award ceremony at the Association's annual Winterball in February 2015.
- presentation during one of the Association's national events 2015
- project summary and author biography in the 2015 issue of the FRANKly magazine as well as on the Association's website
- 500 EUR monetary support for the awarded project
- full travel support

The Call for Nominations will be accessible online until November 29th, 2014.

For further information, please refer to www.fulbright-alumni.de

Contact:

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Munich
February 20th to 22nd 2015

WINTER BALL

The Regional Chapter Munich cordially
invites you for the annual Winterball.

For more info check
www.fulbright-alumni.de/wb2015

