



26

Issue 2015

ISSN 1865-5645

FRANK^{ly} ☹️

THE FULBRIGHT ALUMNI E.V. MAGAZINE

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

I am pleased to present the latest issue of the FRANKly.

Our main theme this year is inspiration. And I really did need lots of it when I suddenly had to step in to get this editor job done.

Fortunately, this is Fulbright and that means you never have to go it alone – someone’s going to back you up. I’d like to thank all the helping hands who contributed to this edition, including my board colleagues, our layout designer Astrid and the authors who cover the main theme with inspiring [sic] articles.

Together with two co-authors, my board colleague Florian deals with the fascinating topic of robotics science. Thanks for that!

I also owe special thanks to David Herld, who co-writes a report on the film industry and the influence of Hollywood. He scored a flawless hat-trick, having three articles published in a row in the last FRANKly issues!



Again, that’s the Fulbright spirit: fellow Fulbrighters with interesting academic or professional backgrounds contribute by providing support, advice, and interesting articles!

A special page in this issue addresses that spirit directly by giving alumni of the smaller, less popular Fulbright programs a chance to talk about their experiences abroad, the sense of community, and the Fulbright idea which they still keep up and which inspires them.

Enjoy reading.

Martin Kohler
Frankfurt, August 2015

Imprint

FRANKly No. 26 ISSN 1865-5645 November 2015 Copyright by Fulbright Alumni e.V. Postfach 10 08 65 60008 Frankfurt am Main Germany	Editor: Martin Kohler Proofreaders: Liz Caruth, William Donaldson, Meghan Freas, Tim Gruber,	Andreas Schoberth, Hans-Christian von Steuber Design: Astrid Weingarten astrid(a)weingarten-art.de	Cover Photography: German Fulbright Commission, Wiltrud Hammelstein, Charlotte Horn, Ning Wang	Winterball Announcement: Sabine Brambach Printing and Lettershop: www.weimarlanddruck.de
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Greetings from the President



Dear Fulbrighters and Friends,

It is my pleasure to introduce our annual 26th issue of the FRANKly 2015. First, I want to thank our VP Communications Martin Kohler for his great editorial work and commitment to our magazine for the third time. After being the editor in chief for the last two years already, he agreed to edit this year's issue as well. Also, I want to give my thanks to the authors who contributed to this issue with their ideas and articles.

The 2015 FRANKly carries the topic "inspiration". Looking at recent political events, we find ourselves in a world full of terrorism, war, and refugees from various countries, searching for a safe place to live with their families or what has been left of those. Having experienced what most people cannot even imagine and arriving in a foreign country with a foreign culture, they are confronted with crowded and overstrained reception centers as well as skeptical or even hostile citizens. In these difficult times, mutual understanding and international cooperation are more important than ever. What I want to emphasize here, is that this situation represents a source of inspiration as well.

As former Fulbright scholars, some of us may even have chosen to live abroad to get inspired by another culture, new impressions, and different points of views. Thus, it is now our responsibility to emphasize the enormous enrichment that intercultural exchange provides and that we all experienced within our exchanges. I see us Fulbrighters as cultural ambassadors who spread the idea of inspiration through guests from all different countries and use their knowledge and experience as an enriching source to further educate ourselves and others.

In this context, I want to mention our FRANKly magazine of 2013, which carried the title "diversity". The Fulbright Program has always been diverse in connecting people all over the world and diversity within the Fulbright family has further grown, for example through special programs such as the diversity initiative. Diversity is one of our biggest resources, allowing us to see things from different angles and to achieve common goals. We, as a very diverse group, brought together by a program that fosters intercultural understanding and friendship, should communicate this joy and fun that we experienced to the outside world and make people, who have not been as lucky to experience intercultural exchanges, aware that this is a great gift and chance for us.

Many interdisciplinary authors participated in this issue of our FRANKly in order to inspire you with various exciting and interesting articles about all kind of topics.

Enjoy reading and get inspired!

Vanessa Wergin

Meet the Board

Vanessa Wergin President

Vanessa studied Psychology at Goethe-University Frankfurt and spent the academic year 2012/13 at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. She holds a M.Sc. in Psychology and is working as a Ph.D. student and research associate at the chair of Sport Psychology at Technische Universität München. Her research is focused on sport team performance and choking under pressure.

Vanessa joined the German Fulbright Alumni Association after returning from her Fulbright year in 2013 and held the position of the Vice President Members from 2014 to 2015. Due to the great experiences she shared with other Alumni while being part of the Fulbright Alumni board, she decided to extend her involvement in the association in 2015. As president, her focus lies on the enhanced integration of diversity scholars and US students into the Alumni Association.

Florian Grigoleit Treasurer

Florian Grigoleit studied mechanical engineering and computer science in Munich. He spent his Fulbright year 2010-2011 at Washington State University Pullman, where he obtained a M.S. in Computer Engineering.

Today, Florian is a Ph.D. student in artificial intelligence at the Technische Universität München.

After returning from his Fulbright year, he participated in regional and national events of the Fulbright Alumni Association. In 2015, he was elected as treasurer of the Fulbright Alumni association. He enjoys the Fulbright spirit among fellow alumni at events like the Winterball.

Martin Kohler Vice President Communications

Martin Kohler majored in History and Cultural Anthropology at Goethe University Frankfurt where he earned a master's degree. From 2011 to 2012, he studied at Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI. After having returned from his Fulbright year, Martin joined the German Fulbright Alumni Association and held the position of the FRANKly Editor for two years.

Since 2015, Martin directs all internal/external communication of the association.

Meet the Board

Thevagar Mohanadhasan Vice President Events

Thevagar (**Tru:ga:ər**) Mohanadhasan, better known as Thiva is an undergraduate student at the Georg-August University of Göttingen. He is currently majoring in Philosophy, Politics and Economics and spent his Fulbright stay at the University Of Kentucky in Lexington as a scholar of the Diversity Initiative. During his time in Kentucky he pursued various academic courses and deepened his knowledge about ancient philosophy and entrepreneurship. As a Returnee he participated in different events organized by the German Fulbright Alumni e.V. and decided to get involved in the association. In 2015 he was elected as vice-president Events and is taking care of the various conferences and meetings organized by our association. He is a passionate networker and is committed in the fields of international youth exchange and political debating.

Ning Wang Vice President Members

Ning Wang majored in Aerospace Engineering at University of Stuttgart and completed his Diplom in 2013. Currently, Ning is writing his PhD thesis at his former university in cooperation with Airbus Group Innovations in Munich.

During his Fulbright year in 2011-2012, Ning completed a MS degree in Aerospace Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

In February 2015, Ning was elected vice president members. As vice president members, Ning is in contact with regional chapters. He oversees the portfolio of activities and suggests programs to reach out to Fulbright grantees.



Vanessa Wergin



Florian Grigoleit



Martin Kohler



Thevagar Mohanadhasan



Ning Wang

The Extended Board

Martin Kohler FRANKly Editor

The VP Communications is in charge as provisional editor.

Aline Klingberg Welcome Meeting

The Welcome Meeting coordinator is the first contact to the board of the Association for organizing the Welcome Meeting 2015 in Hamburg. Aline has been active for several years as treasurer in her Regional Chapter Frankfurt, she has audited the FAeV treasury and was involved in organizing several Welcome Meetings in Frankfurt. Aline spent one year (1995-96) with the Fulbright program at Washington State University studying American Studies in a graduate program.

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.

Jürgen Simon Archive

Currently FAeV documents, publications and notes are being stored not only in the office of the Association, but also in basements or on attics of previous Board members. These papers may suffer destruction in the contexts of the next move or comparable catastrophes. But future generations of Fulbright Alumni should retain access to the written history of the Association. Therefore, the Members Meeting in February 2015 created this Extended Board position.

With a Fulbright travel grant plus a direct exchange fellowship of Christian-Albrechts-University at Kiel, after having completed his Master in Economics, Jürgen went to Indiana University in Bloomington, IN in 1977. Years later he returned to Germany with an MBA and a Ph.D. in Business. He spent his professional career in various positions in banking and finance in Frankfurt and Munich, followed by jobs as administrator and instructor for universities of applied sciences in Berlin.



From left to right: Aline Klingberg, Henning Blunck, Shamaila Ghaffar, Jürgen Simon

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 Family Weekend is scheduled for May 5th - 8th, 2016.

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.

Jan Makowski Business (Wirtschaftlicher Geschäftsbetrieb)

The current tax status of the Fulbright Alumni e.V. puts a limit to the annual revenue of the club. In recent years, hosting the winter ball has brought us close to that limit leaving no room for a second event. At the last annual meeting, a heated discussion arose on various remedies. The annual meeting created a seat on the extended board to find an amicable solution taking into account legal and tax aspects.

Jan Makowski spent his Fulbright years at the University of Minnesota from 2004 to 2008. He earned his PhD in electrical engineering. After returning to Germany he started his career at Robert Bosch GmbH in Reutlingen as a project manager for automotive sensors. He's currently living in Stuttgart and starting his own sensor company. In preparation he learned a lot about tax and legal issues. At the annual meeting he agreed to help the board craft a solution. He joined the Fulbright Alumni in 2010 and is leading the regional chapter in Stuttgart ever since.

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



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

In Memoriam Dr. Ulrich Littmann

Member of our advisory board from 1997 to 2015

The German Fulbright Alumni e.V. is mourning the death of Dr. Ulrich Littmann who passed away on July 3rd of this year at the age of 87. He was the executive director of the German American Fulbright Commission from 1963 to 1994 and in this capacity Dr. Littmann sent numerous young German Fulbrighters on their way to the USA and welcomed American Fulbrighters to Germany. I am happy to report that I was one of them. And if I count correctly about 500 of our members should also have his signature on their Fulbright certificate.

I have to confess though that I do not remember Dr. Littmann from the Bremen meeting in 1986 where we German Fulbrighters came together for our preparation shortly before the departure to the USA for the academic year. But I had the great privilege as President of this association in the mid-1990 and early 2000s to work with Dr. Littmann and meet him at our events and at conferences and meetings of the Fulbright Commission. When attending Fulbright meetings outside of Germany people would approach me to ask how Ulrich Littmann was doing and to extend their best wishes for him. He made many, many friends in the Fulbright family worldwide.

During the past 20 years, after he had left the Fulbright Commission in 1994, Dr. Littmann was a regular guest of our annual meetings and conferences whenever his time and health would allow it. He enjoyed being among "his" Fulbrighters and exchanging stories with us. Having been an exchange student to the USA himself in the beginning of the 1950s, just 6 years after the end of WW II (one year before the German American Fulbright program was



Dr. Littmann at the Winterball 2010 (Godesburg/Bonn); photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein

signed in 1952) he shared our own experiences and loved to tell us his stories and anecdotes about his time (and travel by boat!) to the USA.

He also contributed regularly to our publications. A year after Ulrich Littmann retired from the Fulbright Commission, Senator Fulbright passed away in 1995

and we asked Dr. Littmann to write an obituary on his friend for our FRANKly 1995. I am happy to have a paper copy at home as this edition is not available electronically.

The board decided in 1997 to ask Dr. Littmann to join our advisory board and I had the great pleasure as President at that time to propose this to the annual members meeting. Dr. Littmann was very flattered and humbly accepted it and served on our advisory board ever since until his passing on July 3rd of this year.

A highlight of meetings and conferences was always when Dr. Littmann would meet with Harriet Mayor Fulbright, the wife of late Senator Fulbright. At the occasion of the 100th birthday of Senator Fulbright we organized a Centennial Celebration on April 9th 2005 in the Amerika Haus in Frankfurt. Harriet gave us the honor of her presence and Dr. Littmann delivered the key note address on his friend Senator Fulbright. It is one of my most cherished memories to remember how those two exchanged their stories over lunch in the "Fulbright" room. You will find the reports and speeches of this event online on our website in FRANKly 2005. As usual Dr. Littmann wore his Fulbright tie. He would not come to any Fulbright event without it.

When it came to questions about Senator Fulbright and the Fulbright Program, Dr. Ulrich Littmann was an encyclopedia on two feet. We had the honor of his presence at the Winterball in 2010 which was held at the Godesburg in Bonn, his longtime hometown. After the welcome speeches Dr. Littmann took the microphone and told the crowd that in that very room the German-American Fulbright act was signed in 1952. He added background stories which were very enlightening and amusing. He so much enjoyed sharing his knowledge with the younger generations.

Dr. Littmann also attended our Silver Anniversary PowWow in Berlin in 2011 and engaged with a lot of passion in the discussions on mutual understanding and international education which was so dear to his heart and an inspiration for all of us. One of the last times I met Dr. Littmann was at the Berlin Seminar in 2012 when the German-American Fulbright Program celebrated its 60th anniversary. The Fulbright Commission had invited all former Executive Directors of the Fulbright Commission and all Presidents of the Fulbright Alumni e.V. as Guest of Honors. Being among Fulbrighters always seemed to get him into a "Fountain of Youth" and we FAeV members enjoyed seeing our most active advisory board member.

As Fulbright Alumni e.V., we will certainly miss his advice and inspiration and the Fulbright family worldwide has lost a legacy to promote mutual understanding and international education. Thank you Dr. Littmann!

Wiltrud Hammelstein

Fulbright alumna 1987
President FAeV 1996+1997 and 2000+2001



Group photo with all executive directors of the German-American Fulbright Commission and former presidents of the FAeV at the 60th anniversary of the German-American Fulbright Program; photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein



Dr. Littmann and Jürgen Simon, founding member of the FAeV, at the Berlin PowWow 2011; photo: Christine Träger



Dr. Littmann and Wiltrud Hammelstein; photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein

How Computers Learn to Understand our World

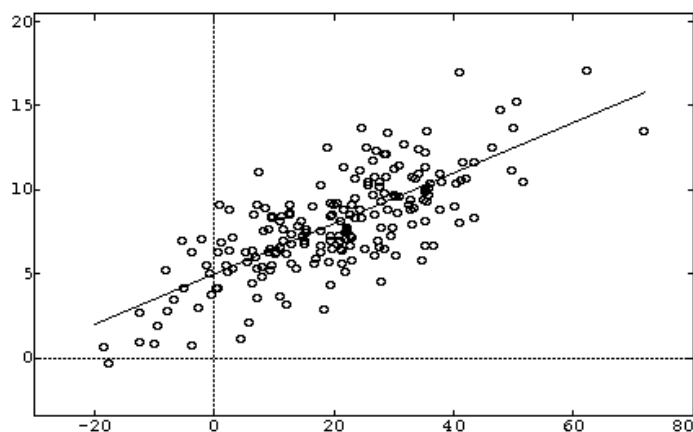
by Philip Haeusser

Artificial Intelligence is everywhere

Artificial Intelligence is everywhere in our life. Have you noticed that your camera automatically detects faces when you try to take a photo? Your favorite online music streaming service or video platform analyzes what you play and when you hit pause in order to make recommendations based on what it thinks you like. Google image search uses methods to automatically label videos and photos so you can find them even though no one has ever put tags on them. I am dictating this text right now to my computer and it knows how to transcribe what I'm saying (more or less). These are just a few examples for common artificial intelligence (AI) tools seamlessly embedded in our everyday life.

What is AI?

But what exactly is artificial intelligence? Actually, artificial intelligence is not exactly a scientific term. In computer science, Machine Learning is more common. In the most general sense, Machine Learning describes a model or algorithm that can solve a non-trivial task because it has seen training examples before. More formally, it works like linear regression: fitting a straight line through bunch of data points. As you might remember from high school, every linear function has two parameters: slope and intercept with the y-axis. Let's call that function $f(x) = mx + c$. When you want to fit a straight line to some x-y pairs ("the data"), you want to tune those two parameters m and c such that you describe the data as accurately as possible.



Now, you need to be a little more precise as to what "accuracy" means. Usually, you define something like a cost function. The cost function could be the discrepancy between prediction of the model with certain parameters and true value. In the example of linear regression, a common cost function is the difference between $f(x)$ (with parameters m and c) and y (the true y-value for a given x): $|f(x) - y|$ for all examples from your data set. This cost is what you want to minimize.

Data is everything

As you can see, data plays the key role. The more data you have the better the model or algorithm will perform. That's why Google does such a great job at its image search: they are able to process an incredible amount of data. Ideally, the data set is not just some random collection of images or another sort of records. For many applications data need to be labeled, in the case of images for example with a description of the content of the image, with a keyword or with a class label. The goal is to define a model that can be seen as a function, just like in the linear regression example above. The function takes an input (image) and yields an output (keyword). However, only two parameters as in the example above are by far not sufficient. The functions we're talking about in deep learning are very complex and can easily have a billion parameters. Because there is such an insane number of parameters to tune, a lot of training data is needed.

Complex tasks require complex models

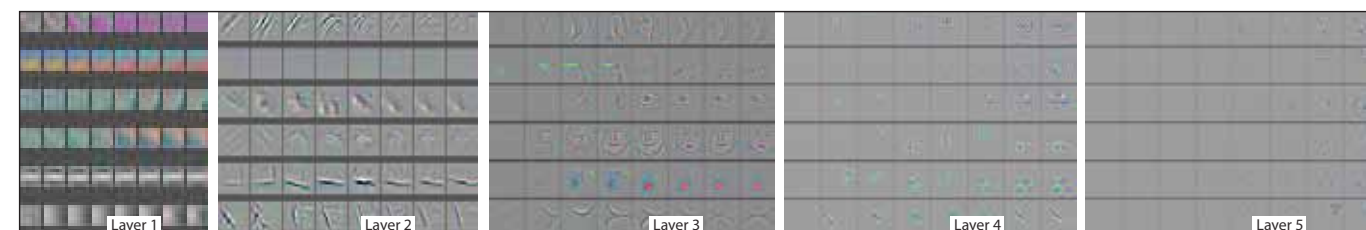
One example for a typical machine learning problem is image classification. Here, you want to map an image to, say, one of thousand classes. As mentioned, a quite sophisticated function is needed to get the job done. Why? Because an image itself is quite a complex thing. It consists of many pixels that don't carry any meaning per se. Only when looked at in the context of their neighborhood (image patches), some seman-

Linear Regression. Given data points, find the straight line that fits the data as accurately as possible by adjusting slope and y-intercept. (Graphic: Wikipedia)

tic information starts to emerge. Natural images have a huge variance: just picture what an image of a car could look like. What color? What shape? Are there any reflections? What is the background? All this information is present in the pixels but completely irrelevant for the classification task. Thus, a model needs to be robust against all these disturbing factors. Inspiration comes from neuroscience. State-of-the-art image recognition systems work with something called artificial neural networks.

The deeper, the better

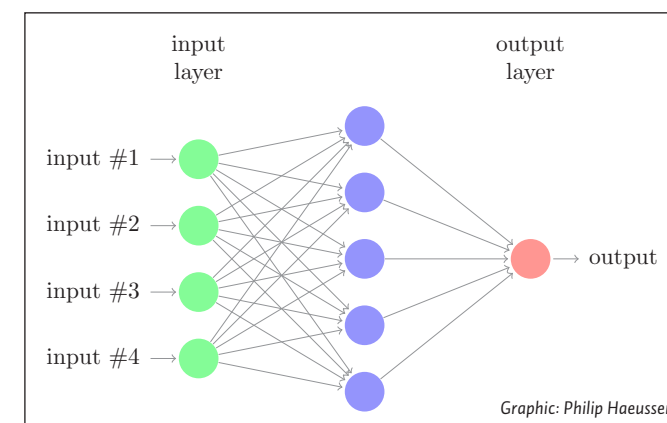
Why is it so important to have deep structures? How are deep neural networks so powerful that they can do photo classification, image segmentation, speech transcription and many more magically sounding things? Remember, we want our model (or function) to be super complex. The more parameters there are, the more complex a function can be. However, an increasing number of parameters also means a growing number of data examples necessary for training.



Visualization of features learned by a deep network. The higher up in the network hierarchy, the more abstract/complex are features that neurons will learn. Visualizations are projections to the input space. (Image: Rob Fergus)

A neural network in the computer

Let's start small. What is a neuron? In our model, a neuron is an object with many inputs and one output. If the sum of the inputs exceeds a threshold, the neuron will output something or otherwise remain silent. Many of these neurons form a layer and many layers build up a network. Simple tasks like handwritten digit recognition can be solved by such a neural network with a stunning accuracy of over 99% on unseen data. If there are multiple layers between input and output, the structure is called "deep", thus coining the term "deep learning".



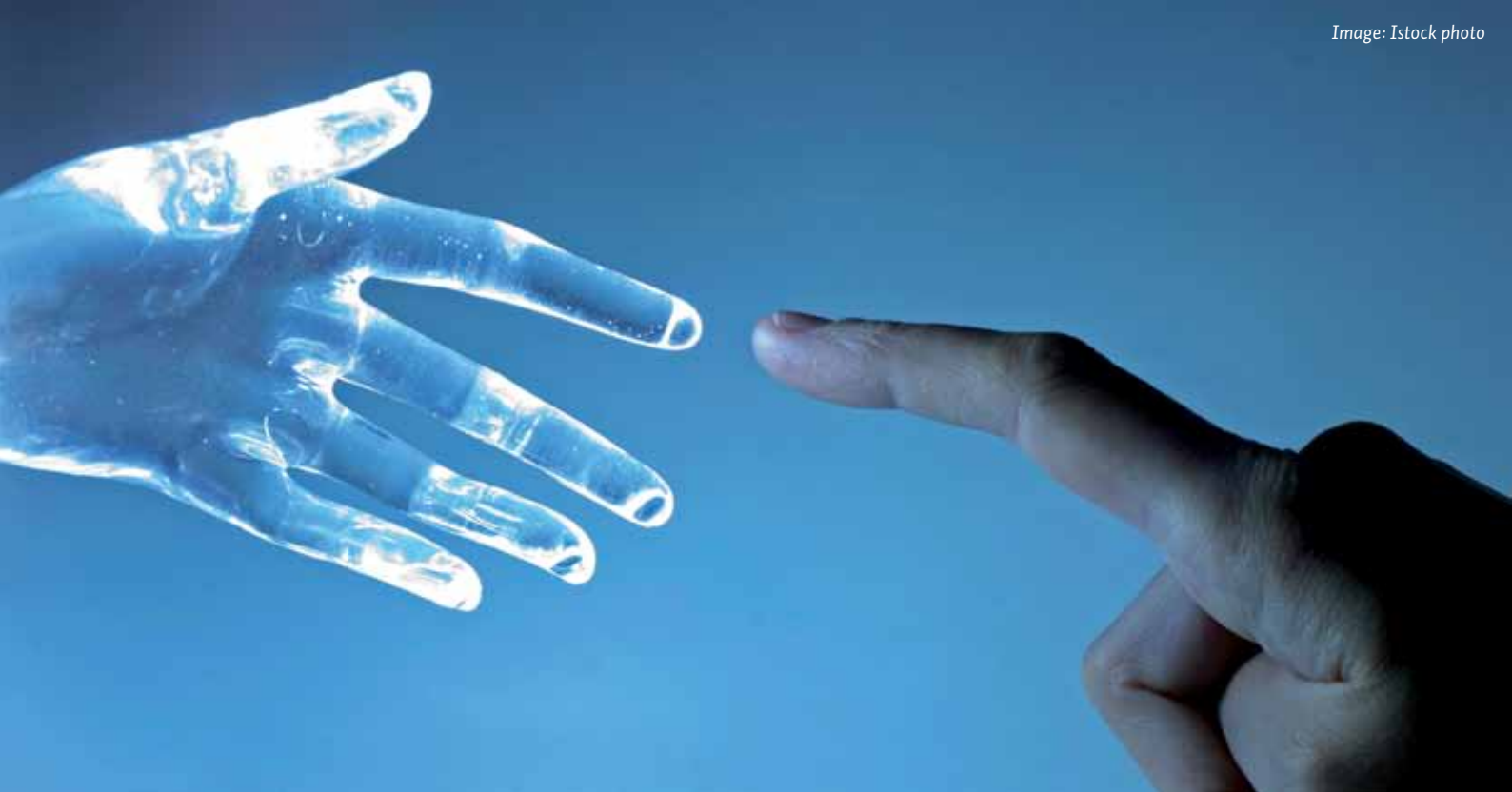
Example of a neural network. The input neurons take for example the pixels of an input image. These values are then forward passed through the network, activating some neurons. Eventually, one or more output neurons are activated, depending on the task.

Neural networks are so good that they even outperform humans in specific tasks such as traffic sign recognition. In an experiment, test persons were shown real-world images with traffic signs on them. They were asked to classify the sign within a second or so (quite realistic, considering that a driver can only see the sign for a short time when driving past it). Neural networks were able to classify more signs correctly in a shorter amount of time.

A hierarchy of layers is able to extract features of growing abstraction, starting with the most basic one (e.g. edges). The next layer learns what compounds of edges mean. The following layer will detect more abstract structures and higher layers can detect complex features such as faces, wheels or cats. It has become a sport among scientists to design such networks and use them to solve complicated tasks which had been tackled with conventional mathematical methods before. The big problem is, what are the rules for such networks? What is the ideal design for a problem? And what is the best algorithm to "train" the network, i.e. to adjust the parameters in order to achieve best performance. All these questions and many more are part of current research. We are witnessing the evolution of a whole new science, a mix of neuroscience and computer science. Researchers will have to cope with technical questions as mentioned above and discuss ethical standards for Machine Learning approaches. It may be the most exciting era ever.



Philip Haeusser did his Master of Science in Physics at the University of California, Santa Cruz and is now pursuing a PhD in Computer Science at the TU Munich.



In quest for a reasonable debate about artificial intelligence in modern societies

by Florian Grigoleit

“AI won’t end the world, but it might take your job” – WIRED

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is everywhere. At least that is the impression spread by media. A petition by leading AI scientists for banning autonomous weapons, discussions about self-driving cars, studies indicating that up to 40% of our jobs are at risk being replaced by intelligent systems, or prominent people like Elon Musk, Bill Gates, and Stephen Hawking warning about the risks for humanity, in 2015 AI appears to be everywhere. This does not only create a rather inflated image of the capabilities of intelligent systems, it also creates a very emotional, thus unreasonable debate. For someone outside of the AI or machine learning community, it is practically impossible to separate reasonable and realistic aspects from fear-mongering and Hollywood-like scenarios – frankly, even within the community, it is not always possible to do this.

Considering the impact intelligent systems will have on our economy and our society, it is time for more reason and less emotions in the discussion about how to deal with the emerg-

ing challenges. As debates about AI are often dominated by the fear that mankind will, in one way or the other, be enslaved or extinguished by intelligent machines, I want to debunk this, before describing the more pressing risks.

The unlikely Matrix-Scenario: why robots will not turn against humanity.

An important insight first: robots will not become truly independent nor will they turn against us anywhere in the foreseeable future. While this is not an issue in serious debates, it is an aspect that is ubiquitous in the portrayal of AI. In movies, a super-genius like Tony Stark brings up the brilliant idea of creating a strong AI (human-like AI) and voilà there it is and turns against its creator. Modern science is too complex to allow such incredible technology leaps, so we can safely dismiss this scenario. Even the idea of a machine gaining a conscious mind is more science fiction than real science. There are no theoretical concepts for truly self-conscious machines, simply

because we do not even understand how our own consciousness exactly works, or what it even is. The risk of machines turning against us, is also not an immediate problem: unless a machine is programmed to commit violence (or is not programmed to not to commit violence), it has no motivation to turn against anyone. The only risk, far-fetched as it is, is the Odyssey in Space – Scenario, in which an AI turns against humans, because they stand in the way of its objective. As unlikely as this may be, it is a scenario that at least has to be considered, when machines become more and more autonomous and their skills more versatile. Finally, remaining is the question, whether or not we want robot soldiers, drones, or similar, deciding about death or live of human beings. A question that has to be discussed by politicians, philosophers, and by a broader public. Considering the one-sidedness of this debate, I want to add one thought: while it is irrelevant for a person killed in combat, if he was killed by a human-controlled machine or an autonomous machine, it has to be taken into account that robots neither rape, nor loot, nor kill in rage or for pleasure. Unfortunately, this cannot be said about humans.

The likely scenario: how AI will change societies at their core

If AI will not kill us, why should we worry at all? Because intelligent systems will cause changes in our societies, unseen since the industrialization in the 19th century. Before the industrialization, roughly 90% of the population worked in agriculture. Two or three generations later this number was diminished to less than 10%.

Recent studies indicate that almost half of our current jobs will have been replaced by intelligent software or robots by 2050. Even though new types of jobs will be created and certain types – especially creative ones – will increase in importance, it is almost inevitable that the absolute number of jobs will decrease. Industrialization and later mass-production as well as automation destroyed innumerable blue-collar jobs, but also created many higher education jobs. This will not necessarily continue with the emergence of intelligent machines. Of course, so far untouched blue-collar jobs will become obsolete as well, for example self-driving cars will replace taxi or truck drivers. But, and here is the major difference to former industrial revolutions, AI will replace white-collar jobs. Stock brokers, engineers, and even programmers themselves, will at least partially be replaced by machines. This does not mean that their jobs become irrelevant or that these jobs will not exist anymore, but that many of their tasks will be automated, thus reducing the absolute numbers. All estimates indicate that intelligent systems will be the first technology that will destroy more jobs than it can create in long term.

What are the expectable consequences and how can we deal with them?

When, how, and to what extent these changes will hit our job markets is hard to predict, but it is all but certain that they will take place. This leaves us with two major questions: what are the implications and how do we deal with them?

On the positive side, the loss of jobs can help to mitigate the impact of the demographic development, many developed countries like Germany are experiencing. In times of a shrinking and aging work force, AI can help to maintain our economical level. Also, it should be noted that in the foreseeable future, AI will mostly supplant mechanistic, repetitive tasks, usually unloved by workers. Another positive effect could be a reduced workload and thus, reduced working hours.

Among the expectable negative effects, the foremost is reduced need of workers in industry and thus, the drastic shift in power between employers and employees. Today, work still supports the majority of the population. When intelligent programs and robots replace workers and create revenues without contributing to social welfare, social inequality will increase significantly. Currently, unemployment can usually be avoided by obtaining a higher level of education. In 2050, a university degree will probably be not enough anymore.

Unlike our ancestors in the 19th century, who were more or less overrun by the changes industrialization brought on them, we have at least a rough idea about what is going to happen. Furthermore, it is safe to assume that largescale automation will not happen within the next 10 years. This gives us the opportunity to further analyze the risks mentioned above and to find solutions that avoid massive social conflicts. But this has to happen soon, as necessary changes, especially in our education system and in social welfare, will neither be easy nor quick.

To achieve this, we need an unemotional debate, more cold-analysis and less fear-mongering.

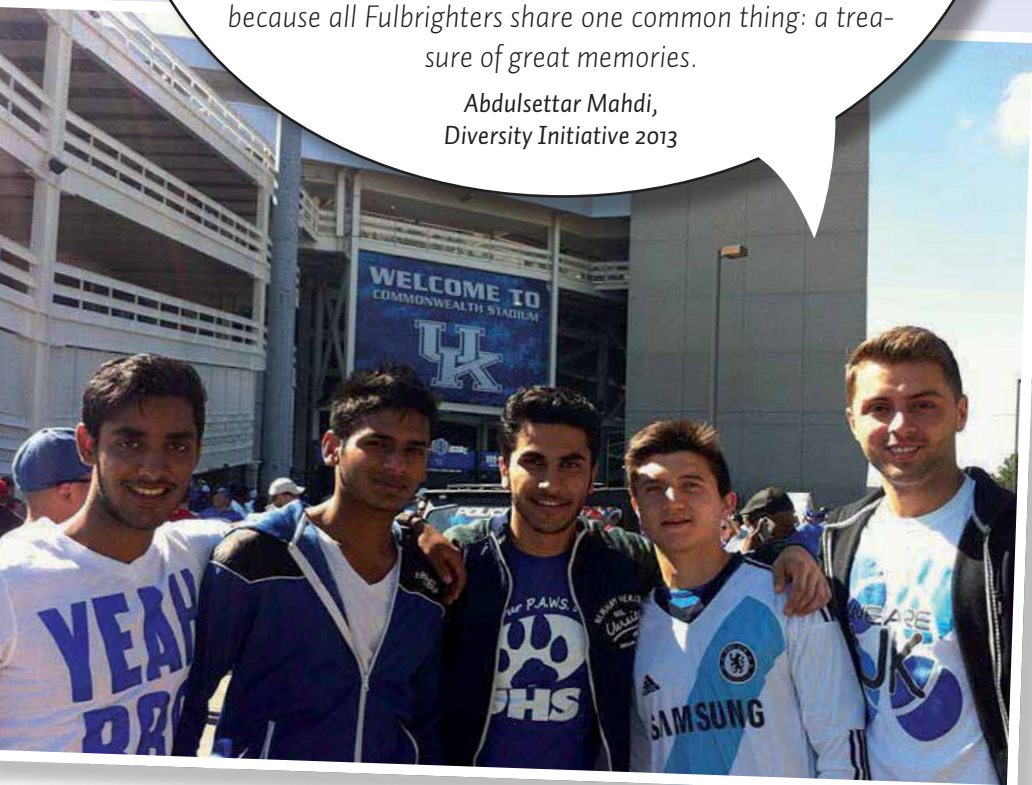


Florian Grigoleit is a Ph.D. student in artificial intelligence at the Technische Universität München.

Be Inspired by Fulbright

Diversity means meeting each other. Because only by meeting, you can create understanding. The Fulbright Commission's Diversity Initiative is the best opportunity to promote this encounter on a transatlantic level. For one month you will be part of the lives of people you have never met before. The fruits of this month are friendships that will last for a lifetime. And a strange but at the same time affectionate relationship with a country that beforehand was only known hardly. Many of us are planning to return to the United States for a longer stay. Not least because of the positive experiences during the Diversity Initiative program. I am sure, that you know what I am talking about, because all Fulbrighters share one common thing: a treasure of great memories.

Abdulsettar Mahdi,
Diversity Initiative 2013



Besides the so called narrow mandate Fulbright programs, the "traditional" full year scholarships for university and FH students, the German Fulbright Commission offers a wide range of differently designed Fulbright grants.

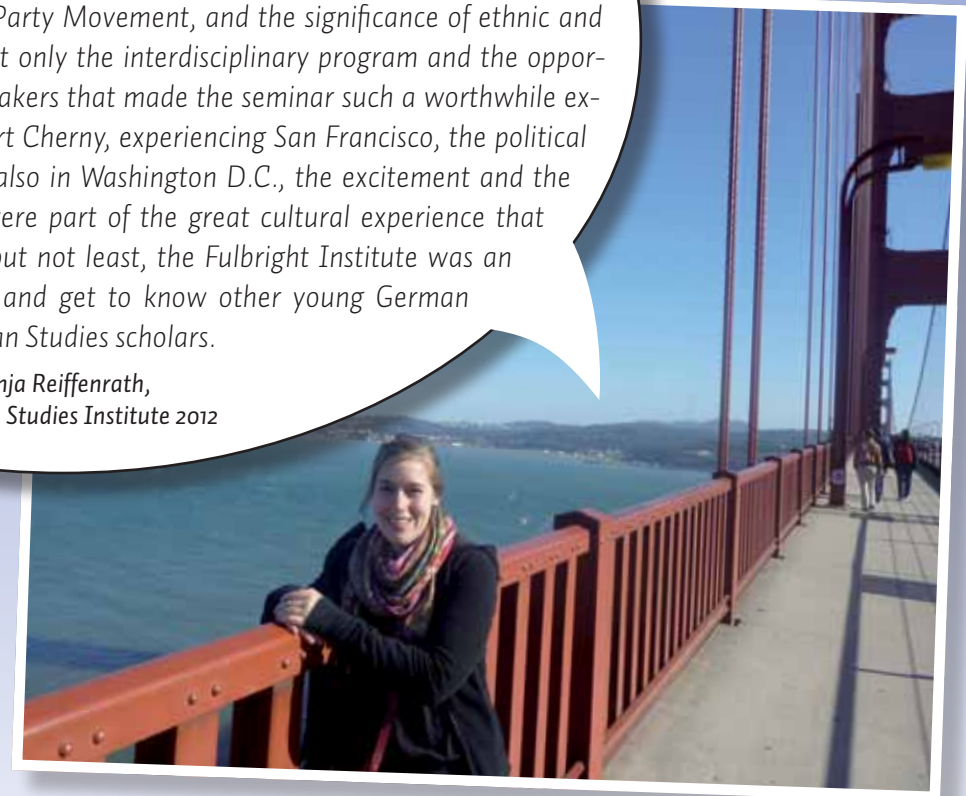
These programs, known as broad mandate, reach out to various target audiences and include summer schools for students with a migration background in the "Diversity Initiative", summer institutes for FH students, and fellowships for PhD candidates. These programs, especially the Diversity and FH campaigns, intend to give insights into everyday university life, in and outside of the classroom, and encourage and inspire the participants to go back to the US for a year abroad at some time later and to apply for a Fulbright full year grant eventually. In many cases, their future (academic or professional) career is inspired by this Fulbright experience.

The participants get to experience a different yet equal "Fulbright Spirit". They get to know the USA very intensely, some of them even for the very first time. Being within their group makes them feel the sense of community among the fellow Fulbrighters on a different level than the traditional "lone wolf" on a Fulbright grant.

The German Fulbright Alumni eV welcomes the alumni of the Fulbright broad mandate programs and is glad to benefit from their experiences. Here are their stories:

In 2012 I had the wonderful opportunity to participate in the Fulbright American Studies Institute on "Contested Visions: The United States in 2012," a two-week seminar at San Francisco State University dedicated to a host of topics that were of great relevance to the presidential elections. The spirit of the seminar was truly interdisciplinary: experts from fields ranging from economics, history, political science, and law to media studies and literary studies joined our group to discuss both key historical moments and contemporary issues, such as the recession, climate change, health care, the rise of the Tea Party Movement, and the significance of ethnic and LGBT votes in the election. Yet it was not only the interdisciplinary program and the opportunity to meet with experts and policy makers that made the seminar such a worthwhile experience. Thanks to the organizer Robert Cherny, experiencing San Francisco, the political climate on the West Coast and later also in Washington D.C., the excitement and the expectations before the elections were part of the great cultural experience that I would not want to miss. Last but not least, the Fulbright Institute was an excellent setting to network and get to know other young German American Studies scholars.

Tanja Reiffenrath,
American Studies Institute 2012



In August 2011 I was a participant of the first Fulbright Summer Institute for students of Universities of Applied Sciences in Greensboro, NC, organized by the German-American Fulbright Commission. Attending the Summer Institute in North Carolina was my very first trip to the US. Within four weeks I was able to make valuable insights into the American culture and what Campus Life in the US means. I met - and still meet - amazing people, all connected by the same Fulbright Idea. The time in Greensboro made me want more of this, so I eventually applied for a Fulbright grant for a full year. Certainly, without these experiences made there I would have never applied for this opportunity

Alexander Dröbler,
FH Summer Institute 2011





Why does Hollywood rule the film world?

A look at the history of the American and European film industry

by Jannis Funk

No matter on what side of the Atlantic Ocean we've grown up, we probably watched mostly the same films. But why has Hollywood become so influential and powerful in the first place?

In the early 1900s a couple of filmmaking European immigrants in the US settled in Los Angeles, because the sun shone there more often and the camera patent owners from New York wouldn't hunt them down too easily. These founding fathers of Universal, Paramount and Warner Bros. etc. probably would not have imagined that this very city should become the center of the global entertainment industry for at least a century.

And it didn't seem too certain in the beginning. Film was invented in Europe and North America quite simultaneously and in the era of silent film, there were European companies such as the German Ufa or Pathé and Gaumont in France

that could rival their Hollywood equivalents in size and skills. Without the obstacle of spoken language, films travelled quite well between European countries and also across the ocean. But then in 1929 came the "talkie" and the European market disintegrated.

This is already the most important point: To put it in a nutshell, US film production came to their leading position world-wide because their domestic market was and is the largest in the world (see illustration) - by far. As media products have very little marginal costs, a large market means large profits.

But to make things worse, soon after the discovery of sound Europeans started to kill their neighbors and devastate their whole continent. This included an import ban on each other's films and made many people flee from the fascist regimes and war. Displaced old-world intelligentsia fueled the cultural

World Film Market Trends 2015

Rank	Market	Population	Annual Admissions per Capita	Gross Box Office (\$bln)	Annual Growth Rate
	[A]	mn [B]	[C]	\$bln [D]	% [E]
1	US & Canada	351	3,6	10,40	-0,40
2	China	1367	0,6	4,82	33,90
3	France	66	3,2	1,77	0,50
4	UK	65	2,4	1,74	3,40
5	Japan	127	1,3	1,70	-9,30
6	South Korea	50	4,3	1,49	9,50
7	India	1211	2,0	1,47	2,10
8	Germany	81	1,5	1,30	1,60
9	Russian Federation	144	1,2	1,15	3,50
10	Australia	24	3,3	0,87	-4,30

Source: Focus – World Film Market Trends 2015, European Audiovisual Observatory

melting pot of Los Angeles and gave the US some of Europe's finest filmmakers such as Fritz Lang and Erich Pommer.

After the war, the occupied Axis Powers were not allowed to regulate import of American movies - and thus their cinemas were flooded with US productions. Free trade agreements with other countries and parts of the world consolidated US dominance. The American film industry rose to an unrivaled position of power world-wide: With an incredibly large domestic market and English the lingua franca of the world, they set the tone for decades. Large markets allowed them to make large profits, build large companies, raise large budgets and produce large films. They attracted the best talent from all over the world. By any standard, the US are leading in film. Whereas in Europe we have hundreds of small production companies, basically living from public funding and commissioned productions for television, the Hollywood studios are large, vertically integrated corporations and part of global media conglomerates. Even some US "indies" are larger than most European companies.

Will Hollywood keep its position? Europe is certainly not a threat for them. For a few years now, China has been the second-largest market for films in the world. Their rise is probably going to continue and with a population of 1.3 billion is seems like a matter of time when they will even overtake North America in box office gross. But we will probably not notice too much of this development in Europe and the US - the Chinese love American cinema, especially effects-loaded superhero and science fiction blockbusters. Take for example Pacific Rim, a film that tanked in almost any market except China. And still there will be a sequel - because China matters enough. Also

on the corporate level, China and the US become more and more intertwined, seeking for strategic alliances rather than just competing with each other. Hollywood business news these days is full of trans-pacific mergers and acquisitions - a lot of Chinese money is buying Hollywood talent for joint ventures such as China's largest private company Fosun funding "On Deadly Ground" producer Jeff Robinov's start-up.

But set aside geopolitical and demographic changes, there is another force that has the potential to transform Hollywood: technological advancement. The studios in Hollywood have maintained their power for a century, now. But these days, tech companies conquer the world and Hollywood hills are not safe from them: Home entertainment is a much bigger market than cinema and as we see a slow decline of physical media like DVD and BluRay, streaming has become the next big thing. Suddenly, there are new big players like Amazon and Netflix, Apple and Google. It may well be that the center of power shifts from Los Angeles to Silicon Valley during the next years, but as long as North American demand is the driving force of global film production, we will probably be watching the same stuff here in Europe.



Jannis (26) is a graduate of the Film University Babelsberg in Germany and has been working in the film industry since 2008. Currently he is pursuing a doctoral dissertation on "Algorithms and Producers" and working in Berlin as a freelance film producer. His first company Eureso (closed now) won him the German Founders' Prize for Students in 2007.

SAVE
THE DATE!

Paris, November 19-21, 2015

INTERNATIONAL FULBRIGHT CONFERENCE “Water Act”



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

Contact: [wateract.symposium\(a\)gmail.com](mailto:wateract.symposium(a)gmail.com)

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:

- 2015 Fulbright Association 38th Annual Conference in Atlanta
- 2014 Fulbright Association 37th Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.
- 2013 Fulbright Association 36th Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.
- 2012 Fulbright Association 35th Annual Conference in London;
1st ENAM Annual Conference in Rome
- 2010 Fulbright Association 33rd Annual Conference, Buenos Aires
- 2008 Fulbright Association 31st Annual Conference, Beijing
- 2006 Fulbright Association 29th Annual Conference, Marrakesh
- 2004 The International Interdisciplinary Fulbright Conference, Olympism and the Fulbright Spirit: Humanism in Action, Athens
- 2000 3rd European Fulbright Alumni workshop, Toledo
- 1998 European Fulbright Alumni Workshop, Strasbourg
- 1993 European Fulbright Alumni Convention, Brussels

Regional Chapter Activities

Regional chapters organize more informal cultural and social events on a monthly basis, including lectures, discussions, and *Stammtische*. To find out about the next *Stammtisch* in your area, contact the regional coordinators listed to the right. Other typical events open to everyone include movies, outdoor activities, and cultural events. Of course, we also celebrate American holidays, such as Independence Day and Thanksgiving.

Our Services

The Association publishes the national journal, the *FRANKly*, every Fall, as well as an Alumni Membership Directory.

As a service to the general public, the national office provides information and assistance to any private person, university, or institution on questions of cultural and academic exchange with the United States.

Each regional chapter contacts and assists American Fulbright visiting scholars in its local area. A host program for American Fulbrighters in Germany was successfully established in 1993.

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

Advisory Board

Dr. Georg Schütte
Hans-Burkhardt Steck
Karsten Voigt
Prof. Dr. Jürgen Kocka
Ingo Zamperoni

We deeply regret the death of our advisor Dr. Ulrich Littmann and express our condolences to his family.

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Berlin at night;
photo: Thomas Bechberger



President and Vice President with Cem Özdemir;
photo: Fulbright Commission

The 61st Fulbright Berlin Seminar, administered by the German Fulbright Commission

Berlin Seminar 2015

by Danielle Cravens

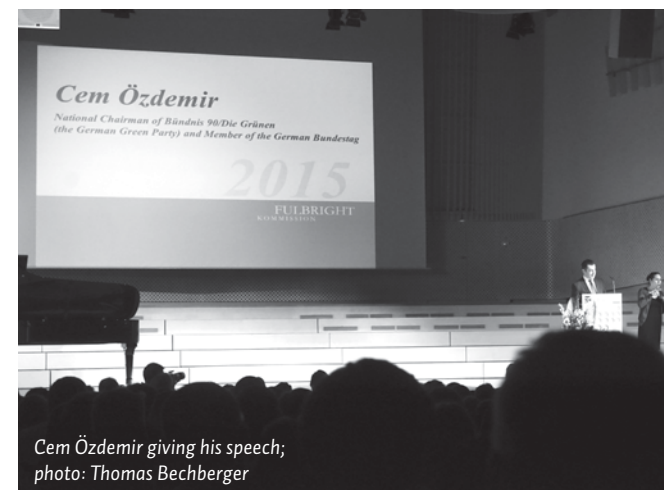
March 15th marked the beginning of the German Fulbright Commission's annual four-day seminar in Berlin. To say that Berlin is Germany's cultural and political hub is a gross understatement – getting around 'town' alone through its vast transportation network will make you realize how colossal the city really is. Fortunately, our accommodations were located in east Berlin off Alexanderplatz, near the famous Fernsehturm, World Clock, and Rotes Rathaus. Free tours were offered before the conference to see some of Berlin's neighborhoods, tour the city, or brush-up on Cold War history.

The first evening consisted of a 'wine and dining' between American Fulbrighters and their German counterparts – about 200 fellowship recipients eagerly awaiting a new experience abroad. Of course, this intermingling led to lots of talks about 'what to expect in America' and apologies in advance for our inferior bread and beer.

On Monday, the real work began with the Plenary Session – a series of workshops targeting different topics and issues, such

as environmentalism, gender issues, and universal healthcare. Fulbrighters were divided into groups of their choosing and after (sometimes) lengthy debates, were asked to summarize the group's findings and present them to the entire Fulbright body. While, unfortunately, I don't think anyone can solve the world's problems in a few hours, this was a good opportunity for a meeting of the minds between people of diverse backgrounds.

This was followed by the Fulbright's Opening Ceremony at the University of the Arts. Thomas Miller, the Minister-Counselor for Public Affairs, led the opening address, followed by a poignant, yet highly entertaining speech by keynote speaker, Cem Özdemir, the German Green Party's National Chairman. Attendees were treated to the talent of Fulbright performers, including a breathtaking piano and violin piece courtesy of Lisa Romain and Joseph Nykiel. The evening concluded with more glorious wine and dining, and of course, more opportunities to get to know fellow American and German Fulbrighters.



Cem Özdemir giving his speech;
photo: Thomas Bechberger



Musical entertainment;
photo: Thomas Bechberger

Tuesday began with a group outing to the Rotes Rathaus, or Berlin City Hall. There, we heard from Fulbrighters working in other countries, during the European Dimensions Panel. After six months in Germany, it was interesting to learn about different experiences in smaller parts of the world with a different set of language barriers and cultural values. Still, even with these differences, the Fulbrighters in these countries (Emil Klosowiak, Michael Pelehach, and Chase Philpot, to name a few) were still very obviously succeeding and thriving in their new environments, whether through coaching a sports team or seeking help for building a new school. This was followed by a speech and Q&A session with Mark Rackles, the State Secretary for Education, who discussed some of Berlin and Germany's triumphs and challenges with the education system, which is similar, but also very different, from the U.S. education system.

That same afternoon, the Fulbright Alumni Association offered a workshop called "Entrepreneurs in a Borderless World." I attended this, along with the alumni association panelists and a cozy group of fellow Fulbrighters with entrepreneurial ambitions. As I know many Fulbrighters (including myself) who have struggled with the life after the Fulbright conundrum, this was a good opportunity to get feedback and support on our passions and ideas. And if nothing else, to realize that we are not alone in our 'Übergangszeit.'

The final day, we began by making short video clips to share with future English Teaching Assistants, on topics ranging



Reception at Universität der Künste;
photo: Thomas Bechberger

from traveling on a budget to language exchanges. It was a fun, but bittersweet, project, as it served as a reminder that our time was more than halfway over. Some Fulbrighters had also been spending their free time working on individual research projects in addition to teaching English, which they presented. This was followed by 'Kaffee und Kuchen' (a European ritual I think everyone can get behind), and some final free time for seeing Berlin before our departure.

Of course, no send-off would be complete without a farewell party. Around 8:00pm, we all met at Club Gretchen, an underground club in Berlin-Kreuzberg. There is definitely no shortage of interesting clubs in Berlin, and this one featured gothic-style vaulted stone ceilings. Everyone danced the night away one last time with friends teaching or researching in different cities, some making plans to travel together before the final journey home.

There was a lot to be gained from attending the Fulbright Berlin Seminar – intercultural and academic exchange, networking, personal development, and several opportunities for sight-seeing. But most significantly, it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and, much like the eclectic city of Berlin, there was something there for everyone. It is hard to say so soon what the final impacts will be – after all, the Fulbright year goes by quickly, but in the years to come, it will be exciting to see all the developments from this four-day event with some very talented, compassionate, and driven people. I personally am looking forward to it.



Waiting for the reception to begin;
photo: Thomas Bechberger



The audience;
photo: Thomas Bechberger

Rome, June 12 – 14, 2015

2015 ENAM Conference

by Benjamin Becker



In December 2011, the European Network of American Alumni Associations (ENAM) was initiated by the U. S. Department of State as an incentive to facilitate cooperation among European alumni of transatlantic exchange programs – among them, most prominently, several European Fulbright programs. As an institutional founding member, the German Fulbright Alumni Association has since been one of ENAM's most active contributors, and I have had the privilege of representing the association as ENAM's first Director of Programs and Events.

Together with the President of the Congress-Bundestag high school exchange alumni network (APPPs), Mr. Sebastian Ehlert, I participated in the 2015 ENAM conference in Rome, which brought together more than 30 alumni representatives from all over Europe to discuss smart city solutions and intensify European alumni cooperation.

The conference weekend had three components: an ENAM delegates' meeting with thematic discussions and an evening reception by Associazione Amerigo (the umbrella association of Italian transatlantic exchange associations) on Friday; and a visit of Expo Milano 2015 on Saturday, where delegates were given an exclusive tour of the USA Pavilion and had the chance to meet with its Commissioner General, Ambassador Douglas Hickey.

Now in its 4th year, ENAM is constantly growing and further developing its programs; as is the German Fulbright Alumni Association with its increasing focus on international cooperation. This momentum should be kept up to intensify cooperation with other transatlantic alumni associations, and in particular with the various Fulbright networks in Europe and beyond.

October 16-18, 2014 in Washington, D.C.

Dare to impact

by Marion Schweighart

“Dare to impact” – and change the world through social innovation. The 2014 Annual Conference of the Fulbright Association did not only make good use of this motto when putting together a diverse and inspiring program for the 250 Fulbright alumni and friends of the Association who had made their way to the Capitol Hill Hyatt Hotel. It also inspired and indeed impacted our former VP Events, Marion Schweighart, when she was lucky enough to represent the German Fulbright Alumni Association and attend last year’s international Conference in mid-October. On October 17 and 18 numerous American and international “Fullies” gathered in Washington, DC to attend the Fulbright Association’s 37th Annual Conference and Prize gala.

All participants had the chance to not only hear about people who are brave enough to actually live the motto “Dare to Act”. All participants became part of the spirit that it takes to go beyond passivity and dare to get engaged out there in the world. With a wide range of international dignitaries, political and intellectual leaders, and daring Fulbright alumni whose innovative and vital work embodied the spirit of this year’s theme, all attendees were carried along with each given speech, every workshop and every single moment of intercultural interaction. Social innovation and thinking outside of the box made some projects especially memorable for the German representative personally.

RestoringVision.org for example, presented its successful non-profit organization, which sources new reading glasses and supplies them to people in Developing Countries or the underprivileged in the US. Each of us, who is in need of glasses would have been caught by the idea of how many people have been supplied by this organization since their inception in late 2003: over 2,600,000 glasses to people in 75 countries around the world. These people can now see properly, work accurately, read books and thus grow with the globalized world instead of being left out. Another project that goes far beyond a simple good deed to society is the project presented by Aaron Shneyer, who founded Heartbeat. The Heartbeat project creates spaces and opportunities for Palestinian and Israeli youth musicians to build critical awareness, respect, and trust while harnessing creative nonviolent tools for self-expression and social change. Engaging in a sustained music, dialogue, and empowerment process, Heartbeat youth musi-

cians have become agents of change and show an alternative way of life in an environment characterized by segregation, violence, and racism. They are to be found on YouTube and are definitely worth a click! Not only their music, but their spirit and tolerance got stuck in our all heads until long after the conference. So did all the other ideas and initiatives presented during the entire conference.

Alongside with the various workshops that were offered about all kinds of inspire projects, the Fulbright community also dared to be self-reflexive. Partnerships that could further improve and expand the Fulbright network outreach were debated and networking arrangements on international, national and European levels were made. All inspired by these moments of networking the German representative got together with French and the British Fulbright Alumni Associations to further discuss possibilities of cooperation beyond last year’s entrepreneur conference in Berlin, which had been hosted together with the French Association. The results of our joined brainstorming will be realized this November at the “Water Act” conference in Paris dealing with climate and water issues in the context of the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference later this year.

Inspiring and shining were not only the encounters with other alumni and their work, but especially the big and fancy Fulbright Prize Ceremony and Gala. It was held at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in



Harriet Fulbright

Washington, DC. The elegant affair honored the work of Hans Blix, Swedish diplomat and former head of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Hans Blix, a dedicated international leader, served during a period of tension in the Middle East, and is credited with reducing the threat of war in Iran and managing the potential for nuclear capabilities in Iraq. He is currently Honorary President of the World Federation of United Nations. As a recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship at 19-years-old, Blix has served the international community for more than six decades and has stood his ground even when he had to stand up against the Bush administration in the Iraq Disarmament Crisis 2002/2003, for which he was often discredited in media and newspapers back then. In an interview with The Guardian newspaper, Blix once said, “I have my detractors in Washington. There are bastards who spread things around, of course, who planted nasty things in the media.” For his loyalty to the truth and his persistence in international affairs, he was awarded with the 2014 Fulbright Prize for International Understanding. During his acceptance speech, Blix spoke about the importance of multilateralism. His insight into international affairs, and his warm sense of humor served as an inspiration for all the attendees. As the first executive director of the Fulbright Association and widow of former U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright (D-Arkansas), Harriet Fulbright, who the German board was able to meet in person during the annual conference in 2013, gave a warm welcome to attendees and spoke fondly of her memories of the senator. Her welcome led to an inspiring speech by a representative from South Africa whose video tribute to Nelson Mandela invoked the global leader’s efforts to create a more just and fair world.

During the gala and the entire conference there was a lot of time to gather ideas, inspiring thoughts and establish stronger bonds for future Alumni work beyond German borders. Although this year we were not able to send the whole board to the annual conference in Washington, it was worth having a representative on site. She generally sensed that the German Fulbright Alumni Association’s presence and mindset was very much appreciated and cherished in the international Fulbright community.



Hans Blix

All Photos by Wiltrud Hammelstein



And the award goes to... Hans Blix



Hans Blix, award acceptance speech



Fulbright Prize Ceremony



Hans Blix and Wiltrud

Stepping out of the Comfort Zone

by Paul Kollmer



The Amerikazentrum Hamburg, in the heart of the Hafencity; photo: Charlotte Horn



The audience listens to Marion Schweighart, former VP Events, welcoming German returnees, American grantees, fellow Alumni, and the special guests; photos: US Consulate General Hamburg



"Get out of your comfort zone" ... and meet a Fulbrighter you don't know yet; photos: Charlotte Horn



US Consul Michael Gray, US Consulate General Hamburg; photo: US Consulate General Hamburg



Katharina Gollner-Sweet, cultural attaché from the US Embassy in Berlin; photo: US Consulate General Hamburg



Dr. Rolf Greve, Ministry for Science, Research and Equality in Hamburg; photo: US Consulate General Hamburg

Research and Equality in Hamburg – as well as a talented musical trio underscored the significance of the Fulbright program. Their appearances reminded us of the core values of the program and the lasting impact it has had on our personal and professional development. Following the reception, we all headed to St. Pauli, the infamous quarter of the city, for a nightcap at Kosmos St. Liederlich.

On Saturday, the second meeting day included a mix of discussions, debates, workshops and fun activities: a presentation on North Korea by Fulbright alumnus David Patrician; a round of small panels; an international quiz game; Q and A with the Consul for Political and Economic Affairs in Leipzig, Robert Gatehouse; specialized workshops; a set of tours around Hamburg; and finally, a welcome dinner. It was a day chock-full of presentations, open questions and fiery debates.

We kicked off Saturday morning with David Patrician's account of a guided tour taken years ago in North Korea. Patrician shared his enthusiasm for stepping out of his comfort zone in touring a country that was drastically transformed by the cold war. He recounted that upon his arrival, he was met with an array of spectacles meant to be unprecedented. His tour guide accompanied him to the Arch of Triumph (a good ten meters taller than its Parisian counterpart); Patrician visited an elite school; he had the privilege of seeing a procession of military figures; and he casually observed life on the streets of Pyongyang. Reflecting on his trip, Patrician came away from his travels with a new appreciation for North Korean traditions. Simultaneously, he left with a renewed sense of hope that one day North Koreans might also attain a new level of political freedom. The audience's response was enthusiastic. Ruth Isserman (Fulbright ETA 2014-15) said, "As an adventurous traveler who really likes to immerse herself in other cultures, David renewed my appreciation for this idea of leaving one's comfort zone." During the break, Patrician's presentation churned up open questions and discussions on the meaning of intercultural understanding.

The next big event was Gatehouse's Q and A session, in which he focused on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Gatehouse discussed the challenges that he, along with other government representatives, faced in convincing German officials and citizens of its benefits. Gatehouse also struck down some of the bad press surrounding TTIP. Alumni audience members had questions and apprehension regarding product safety, production standards, and consumer rights. After the presentation, there were still several concerns that both German and American Fulbrighters brought forward that led to further skepticism.



Music Trio: Arne-Christian Pelz (Cello), Meredith Nicoll (Singer), Volker Krafft (Piano); photo: US Consulate General Hamburg



Thomas Mutzke represents the Fulbright Commission Germany; photo: Charlotte Horn

WELCOME MEETING 2014



Group discussions about various issues from society and politics; photo: Charlotte Horn



Reception in full swing; photos: US Consulate General Hamburg



Socializing and enjoying the elegant atmosphere of one of the first US Consulates; photo: US Consulate General Hamburg

Current Fulbright ETA Princess Dickens said, "In our discussions, we addressed sensitive issues regarding relations between the US and Germany. Still, the dialogue remained respectful and folks were able to express some less-than-favorable opinions without offending the entire group." In the end, Dickens shared that "this commitment to achieving understanding really impressed me and made me feel that I was part of a family." While we may have had our differences in opinion, it was exciting to see that we could all come together and discuss some of the more controversial aspects of transatlantic affairs in an open-minded forum.

Gatehouse's Q and A was followed by a set of small workshops and tours of Hamburg. Afterwards, all alumni came together for a huge welcome dinner at the Rheinische Republik and yet another chance to make new friends, reflect on the speakers and talk about our own Fulbright experiences. Former and current grantees appreciated the opportunity to contribute to the wealth of great stories about international exchanges while indulging in a selection of traditional German dishes.

The Welcome Meeting ended on Sunday with a goodbye brunch and a tour of the former war bunkers of Hamburg. We all parted ways with a series of hopes for the future. We hoped to maintain the connections we'd made at the meeting – whether a new buddy or a colleague in our field. We hoped to continue the conversations we'd started on international relations and mutual understanding. We hoped to bolster the Fulbright program and its reputation. And, last but not least, we hoped to return to Hamburg, a picturesque city that provided the perfect setting for a memorable weekend.



Who Wants to Be A Millionaire?; photo: Charlotte Horn



Mixed US/German teams for the trivia games; photos: Charlotte Horn



German-American Pub Quiz; photo: Charlotte Horn



Key note speaker Robert Gatehouse; photo: Charlotte Horn

Master of Ceremonies David Patrician; photo: Charlotte Horn



Workshop "Job Interview" by Vanessa Wergin, current Fulbright Alumni President; photo: Charlotte Horn



Fulbright Alumni event tradition: candy filled cups for all helping hands involved; photo: Charlotte Horn

Sailing Weekend at Lake Constance 2015

by Dirk Lindenau

The weekend started with some heavy rain, which cooled down a hot Friday. This was the start of the traditional sailing weekend at Gohren, Lake Constance. This year it was organized by Matthias Stecher. Participants arrived one by one. First timers were welcomed and new stories shared at an evening dinner with few bottles of wine on board. The wine was however not the reason for which we were not able to leave the harbor the next day until noon, rather there was a risk of lightning on the lake. Later the weather stabilized and we had consistent wind which made for some fine sailing.

The wind, white sails, the silent movement of the boat, sunshine, and water prove that sailing is like an instant vacation once you are on the water - the pure natural power mixed with some advanced fluid mechanics. On Saturday evening we walked along the lovely shore to Langenargen for a shared diner on the beach boulevard. It is said that at a later time some premium Pina Colada cocktails had been freshly made.

Sailing on Sunday started with sunshine and wind. There was a lull in action which we used to jump into the lake, to swim and to do fender surfing. When the wind returned we sailed and practiced turns and tacks. Upon return to the harbor we checked out the ships and concluded the weekend with coffee, cold drinks, and sundaes in the bistro. All in all it was a happy, joyful, and relaxed weekend, which is going to be planned again next year.



Off to the Sea;
photo: Tanja Zöllner



12th Fulbright Alumni Sailing Trip

Sailing Trip on the Baltic Sea

From August 22nd to 29th, the Fulbright Alumni e.V.
sailed on the Baltic Sea from Copenhagen to Wismar.



All photos: Ning Wang

Organizing the Winterball in the Digital Age

by Andreas Schoberth

Come to think of it, Winterball weekends are all the same every year. First, you barely manage to tweak your professional schedule to permit you to arrive as early as possible for Friday evening's get-together. There you say hello to numerous friends you probably meet in person only once a year – at the very Winterball weekend, that is. Of course you have vowed to participate in Saturday's general assembly when you've registered months ago. Instead you're now wriggling around to not have to go there with about as many creative excuses to yourself as you can come up with. Sight-seeing or plain window shopping is always the more attractive option in that city you haven't been before and will probably never visit again. You honestly try to show up in time for the formal beginning of the Winterball, but are late again because you had trouble with your tie. You thoroughly enjoy the evening, which extends waaay into the night at numerous joints not listed in the official program. That in turn makes you come late for the official Sunday brunch, just in time to say goodbye to friends you meet in person only once a year.

So, same story every year?
Well, maybe not.

As soon as you start to look behind the curtain, every Winterball story has its own twists and turns. This one started with its announcement one year before, on the evening of the Winterball in Freiburg 2014. Judging from the overwhelming amount of applause it drew then, Munich was the place to be next year for the general assembly and Winterball 2015. True, hosting a national Fulbright Alumni event in Munich was overdue. Our regional chapter hosted the Winterball 2007 and the PowWow 2009, and nothing since. The two most important decisions – time and place – were quickly made, and the Künstlerhaus Festsaal booked for February 21, 2015.

Of course, there was a lot more work ahead. The organizing team for 2015 was an impressive eight Alumni strong, but of those, three were from out of town and three more were often out of town for business reasons. Frequent orga team meetings in local pubs were out of question. Furthermore, nobody wanted to put up with the 1500+ emails that had been exchanged during former event organizations. Definitely everyone dreaded that! Could we do better in 2015?

Obviously we had to think "different" – how about "digital"? Skype was the natural tool of choice for our conference calls, but we were also in need of a digital platform for asynchronous communication and information. We were looking for a tool offering file sharing, task organizing and tracking, personal and shared calendars, and preferably some means for discussion and chatting – and of course it should run on any desktop, tablet, and smartphone. We searched, and we found: www.basecamp.com.



Digital Organization; photo: Andreas Schoberth



Queens of the Night;
photo: Andreas Schoberth



Any resemblance to The Last Supper is purely coincidental; photo: Knut Mittwollen

Basecamp proved sophisticated enough for our purpose, but not too complicated to use. In addition to the features listed above, it offered a timeline to help you catch up fast with all that had changed since you checked the last time. It also helped to split the responsibilities explicitly and unambiguously between team members – an issue that had often sparked heated arguments among former orga teams.

Not surprisingly, team members used our Basecamp in different ways and to various extent. While some tried to cramp everything into Basecamp, others even switched off their daily activity reviews. In hindsight, that was a feature of the platform we didn't consider all too important beforehand, yet turned out to be a key factor for acceptance: The flexibility to customize it to your personal communication and information needs that vary with the tasks and habits you have.

And the results? Despite our efforts, we'd still sent lots of emails during the organization for the weekend, close to 800, but after all that's just half of what we'd seen in earlier years. Having participated in the organization of quite a few Fulbright Alumni events over the last two decades, I'd say that's not bad for starters.

In the end, however, the Winterball weekend had been all the same again: An event that nobody wanted to miss.



Winterball organizers, board members, coordinators – all lined up; photo: Knut Mittwollen



The Usual Suspects: The Board;
photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein



Mug shot: Die Panzerknacker;
photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein



Un ballo in maschera;
photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein

The steady flow of Fullies and time

by Joe Kristensen

Mark your calendar!
The next Fulbright Family
Weekend is scheduled for
May 5-8, 2016

"Is it already 4pm? Oh, no – get home quickly! Was I supposed to pick up Emil today? Does Oskar have the house-key? Sidse had a meeting, I hope it doesn't run too late. We still need to pack. Traffic on the way home? I've got to remember to pack the passports. Passports, remember passports. Yes, I think it was me who should pick up Emil. I'm a little hungry. Got to pack. Remember good walking shoes. Ok – I'm here, now where's Emil?"

As these thoughts and many more raced through my head on Wednesday, May 13th, I managed to pick up the kids and pack our bags for our trip to Germany. All of a sudden it seemed like – then I realized it really had been – quite some time since we had been to a Fulbright Alumni event. My wife Sidse and I moved from Berlin to Denmark in 2006. Two sons soon

followed, and with our daily routines, parent-teacher meetings, clubs, scouts, swimming, cooking, and maybe not so much house-cleaning, nine years had passed.

The Fulbright Family Weekend, held each year in May at the "Nature and Family Oasis Koenigstein", was the perfect opportunity for us to see some good friends again. After packing frantically, we drove from home in Aalborg, Denmark, through the wind and rain. We stayed overnight just east of Hamburg, then drove the rest of the way on Thursday, through more grey and rainy weather, arriving at the Family Oasis in the late afternoon.

Then the sun came out, the kids found the playground, our old friends Kerstin and Carsten came out, and we found some nice cold beer and sat basking in the sunshine. An hour or so later, the rest of the group appeared, returning from a hike up the "Lilienstein" butte. There were many hugs, friendly faces, remarks on the amount of grey hairs which have appeared since the last time we met, and then quick calculations on exactly how many years ago that was. All in all, we were eleven families: 22 adults, 23 kids, and one dog.

The yard of the hostel faces the Elbe river valley, the building and bushes create a pleasantly large but enclosed space with a trampoline, swing-set, oversized chess board, outdoor bowling lane, and soccer field. Here the kids connected quickly and easily. We adults did well, too, discussing ideas for the next two days' adventures. Friday would be a long, but manage-



The scouts studying the map



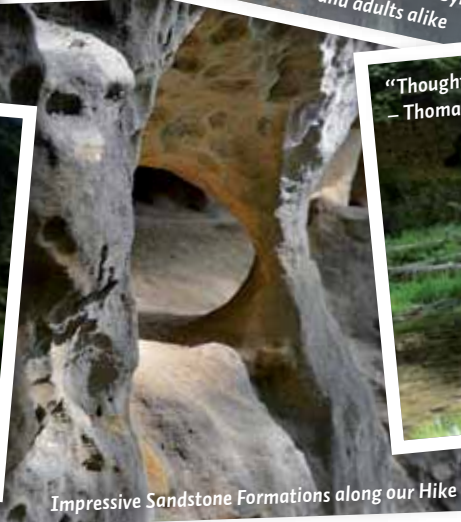
View of the Elbe River with the town of Koenigstein in the back



Getting off the bus for the hike to the Rock Labyrinth – a natural playground for kids and adults alike



Idyllic Boat Ride along the Czech Border



Impressive Sandstone Formations along our Hike



"Thoughts come clearly while one walks."
– Thomas Mann

able hike in the Kirnitsch valley, and on Saturday we would go bouldering at the "Labyrinth". Many of the other families have been coming here every year, and they seemed quite excited about these choices – so it sounded good to me.

Before going to bed Thursday evening, I spent some time on the balcony of our room, gazing out at the Elbe river, breathing in the cool fresh air, thinking about the slow and steady flow of water, and the passage of time.

The entire group met early Friday morning to drive up to Hinterhermsdorf at the top of the Kirnitsch valley. After a sunny, tall and leafy start, our hike led us to a deep and narrow gorge with towering sandstone formations. Centuries ago, lumberjacks built a dam here to enable controlled flash-flooding of the valley to transport felled trees down to the Elbe. Somewhat more recently, a boat service was established, today ferrying "Fullies" and families through the gorge – where we could marvel at rock formations that resembled a crocodile, an elephant's head, and a sleeping sheep.

After the boat ride, our hike led us up and down the steep banks of the river, through the forest, along ridges, down again through rocky crevasses, and along the warm and grassy valley floor. The kids found sticks and rocks, the adults found plenty of good conversation, and Amalie the dog ran up and down the length of the group. The slow and steady flow of Fullies didn't notice the passage of time. Before we knew it, we were almost back at our starting point, where we rewarded ourselves for our 20 kilometer achievement with coffee and ice cream.

On Saturday we all left the hostel on foot, and took the small ferry across the Elbe to the town of Koenigstein. Here we caught a bus up into the Biela valley, where we hiked to the "labyrinth of cliffs". Sunshine, cool air, fresh green leaves, good company, and beaconing boulders – now that's a good start to any day. When we reached the "labyrinth", it was easy to see how fitting the name is: giant boulders, 3-5 meters high, are strewn about, next to and on top of each other, forming caves, crevasses, passages, and deep drops. This was enough to challenge the young, the old, and the foolish (no one from our group in that category, of course).

I was curious to see how Emil would handle all of this, since he is not what you might call "physically confident" – he'll squeal with fear of heights when standing on a chair. Surprisingly, though, something about those rocks did it for him, and he was soon climbing, jumping from boulder to boulder, and disappearing through small holes and tunnels. "I'm an excellent climber" he exclaimed. Emil was so busy leading me around the labyrinth that we couldn't get back in time for the group picture.

In the afternoon the group split up – some went to find a swimming pool, others to visit the Koenigstein fortress atop the butte of the same name, and the die-hard hikers trekked from the labyrinth back to the ferry across the river and home to the hostel.

Another evening followed with good food, good company, and children playing in the setting sun next to the ever-flowing river. This was just so easy and relaxing. Thank you, Elke, for organizing this event. We'll be back again next year.



English Garden Amphitheater;
photo: Andreas Schoberth

Regional Chapter Munich

The Secrets of the Munich Stammtisch

by Andreas Schoberth

As Martin Söhngen has already pointed out last year, you could write the report for the regional chapter Munich by copying lines from last years' reports. It seems that we follow a year-round program that has stood the test of time. Just to remind you, this standard program includes, but is not limited to: the 4th-of-July BBQ, the local Welcome Meeting, Thanksgiving Dinner, Wichtel-Stammtisch right before Christmas; enriched by some Radl tours, attendances of english-speaking performances like the one in the romantic English Garden amphitheater, the occasional bowling, hiking, skiing, and of course the mandatory visit to the Wiesn.

Sounds uninspired to you? Even boring? Attendance numbers prove otherwise. The first three events mentioned above regularly attract more than 20 Alumni each, returnees and grantees alike. The Turkey Dinner even tops out at well above 40. More than ten usually show up for the Stammtisch, and this – at least to me – is the key for the continued high level of activity and commitment in our regional chapter. It's here where you meet people in an unpretentious setting and, maybe, find new friends. But actually how do you draw a dozen Fullis of all ages, known and unknown, month after month to an event that by its very name sounds a lot like a meeting of old sports drinking beer and playing cards all evening, better known as "Altherrenstammtisch"?

I have to extend a little before I can answer that question. In the early 2000s, attendance of our Stammtisch shrunk to four or five Fullis on average for seemingly no reason. As usual, we went to the same place for about a year or two before looking for another monthly venue. Among the criteria were: easy to reach by public transport, smoke-free, outside seating in



English Garden Amphitheater:
The Merry Wives of Windsor;
photo: Andreas Schoberth

summer, not too loud, and not too expensive. Still, people became less and less interested. We don't know the reasons, but we know how we changed that.

First, we decided to meet each month at a different place. The locations were selected from different city quarters to give Alumni living nearby more reason to show up. Those who attended no matter where also got more out of it, because it was a charming way to get around town and try new restaurants you haven't been or heard of before. Last not least the motivation of the local orga team increased as well – we were to choose the places that interested us most.

Second, we started to announce the next venue through our mailing list about one week in advance. This timing proved to be the most effective, getting people not too early ("I forgot it ...") or too late ("I'm already booked otherwise ...") into the loop. Ever since, and almost no matter where, our monthly jour fixe attracted enough Fullis to make for an entertaining and inspiring evening.

So, let's bring out a toast to the Stammtisch as the cornerstone of local Fulbright Alumni activities!



Stammtisch at Aumeister;
photo: Andreas Schoberth

Regional Chapter Rhein/Ruhr

From Rhein to Ruhr

by Ines Winkler and Michael Vetter

With the start of 2015 the regional Chapter Rhein-Ruhr got two new coordinators: Michael and Ines.

The first event planned by us happened still in December 2014 – a visit of the Christmas Market which we combined with an ice hockey game (Düsseldorf against Iserlohn). The plan was to go to the Christmas market after the game but we actually ended up enjoying our Glühwein right at the stadium.

As the Regional Chapter Rhein-Ruhr covers quite a huge area, we decided to offer a quarterly Stammtisch at changing places. We started in 2015 with a Stammtisch in the Unper-



Photo: Herbert Hollmann

fekthaus in Essen. In June, we met at the Café Lieblings in Düsseldorf. On September 30, we will meet at Café Ferdinand in Bochum. By selecting these locations in different cities of the Rhein-Ruhr-area we hope to attract as many Fulbright alumni as possible to attend our Stammtisch, meet old friends and greet new Fulbrighters.

As this year's 4th of July was on a Saturday, we had the perfect opportunity to celebrate the 4th of July actually on July 4th! Therefore, we planned a potluck-style BBQ where we provided the basic stuff for a tasty BBQ: burger patties, sausages, meat, dips, vegetables and beverages. Axel offered his house and garden in Bochum for the BBQ. He and his wife were wonderful hosts and Axel excelled as BBQ chef. The other guests brought salads, desserts, dips etc. so that we had plenty of food. Although it was supposed to be the hottest day in 2015, we spend a wonderful sunny day together (mostly in the shadow though).

Besides the Stammtisch in the end of September, we will soon start planning this year's Thanksgiving festivities – so stay tuned!



Photo: Michael Vetter



Photo: Michael Vetter



Photo: Michael Vetter

Regional Chapter Frankfurt

The Frankfurt Fullies

by Franziska Schmid

The previous months have been filled with numerous and diverse activities for the Frankfurt Regional Chapter. In continuation of a longstanding tradition, the group is meeting every month for our “Stammtisch” which allows us to embark on a culinary journey through numerous Frankfurt restaurants and bars. Our monthly meetings are the ideal occasion to casually get together, keep in touch with fellow Fulbrighters, and exchange the latest news while enjoying food from various regions and countries.

In addition to our monthly meetings, our calendars were filled with numerous special events such as our Thanksgiving dinner in the “Arche Nova” with over forty attendees, the Independence Day BBQ at Christa and Knut Mittwollen’s house, or our hike along the Limes in the beautiful Taunus region. Furthermore, our chapter had the opportunity to participate in Cem Yüctas’ Authenticum, an interactive exhibition which displayed his latest works, and in events organized by the US consulate such as the ‘Black History Month’ and ‘Earth Day International.’

For the sixth time, Cem Yüctas invited us to the dwellings of Nektar Design for a wine tasting session which led us through South Africa’s wine regions. To prevent the wine from getting to our heads too quickly, a wide array of food – ranging from Mettwürste to Zwiebelkuchen – was served. Throughout the evening, Cem and his colleagues introduced us to the world of advertising by presenting short video clips which they found noteworthy and entertaining.



At Cem’s exhibition Authenticum: The Frankfurt Chapter and the artist; photo: Cem Yüctas

Our year was rounded off by two cultural events: the musical “Ghost” in the English Theatre in Frankfurt, and a guided tour through the exhibition “Monet and the Birth of Impressionism” in the Städel Museum. Our guide familiarized us with the emergence and development of Impressionism, and shed light on Monet’s revolutionary painting techniques. Being the most successful exhibition in the museum’s 200 year history with over 400,000 visitors, the Fullies were vitally impressed with Monet’s “wutzige” (quote tour guide) style of painting.

At this point, I would like to thank Carsten Kuschnerus, Isabelle Boeddinghaus, and Mario Reichel for their unrelenting efforts in organizing and coordinating the activities of our regional chapter. Many thanks also go to Aline Klingberg, who confidently manages our finances, and to Rheinhard Koch for maintaining our website!

Are you a recent returnee or have you been back in Germany for a while, but haven’t gotten around to joining our group? Please feel free to check upcoming events on our website <http://www.fulbright-alumni.de/regional-chapters/frankfurt.html>, or write to us ([rc.frankfurt\(a\)fulbright-alumni.de](mailto:rc.frankfurt(a)fulbright-alumni.de)) if you have any questions.

The View is worth the Hike; photo: Knut Mittwollen



4th of July: The Buffet; photo: Knut Mittwollen



“O! say can you see by the dawn’s early light...”; photo: Knut Mittwollen



Wanderlust; photo: Knut Mittwollen

Regional Chapter Dresden

Thanksgiving night, always a delight

by Elke Handschug-Brosin



Thanksgiving Dinner Regional Chapter Dresden, November 29, 2014

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’re around in the area. Even though we do not have regular Stammtisch gatherings, we are looking forward to welcome you to our Thanksgiving Dinner 2015!

Regional Chapter Hamburg

Moin aus Hamburg!

by David Patrician

Our Hamburg Chapter has had a fun and interesting year. One of our major highlights was hosting the Fulbright Alumni Welcome Meeting this past November. The Welcome Meeting is a great chance for returning Fulbrighters to learn about the alumni association, meet fellow Fulbrighters and explore the host city. Activities included a welcome reception at the US Consulate General, a day of seminars and social activities, a fun evening in Hamburg's Reeperbahn district and the option of several Sunday afternoon tours, including one of a WWII bunker next to Hamburg's main train station. A big thank you goes out to Charlotte Horn and Marion Schweighart for helping organize this event. We are looking forward to hosting this event once again in October!



Discussion with Prof. Hoover; photo: David Patrician



Welcome Meeting 2014 in Hamburg; photo: Charlotte Horn



Tour of US General Consulate in Hamburg with Michael Gray, Consul for Political and Economic Affairs; photo: David Patrician

In addition to our regular Stammtisches, we began our own informal project: "Discover Hamburg!" Alumni were able to suggest locations and events around town where we could meet up and explore the city. In April, we visited the Völkerkunde Museum and met US Professor Elizabeth Hoover (Brown University) to discuss about the Native American Traditional Gardening Movement. In May we had a private tour of the US Consulate General. Heiko Herald, Information & Program Specialist at Consulate, gave our group a ninety minute tour of the Consulate and provided us with insight into the working day to day affairs at a consulate. Thank you to Benjamin Gebauer for helping organize the tour.

Due to the time difference (the game was on in the middle of the night) we could not meet to watch the Women's World Cup Final this past July. However, we still wanted to congratulate the US Woman's Soccer Team on winning the World Cup!!!



Getting ready to take a tour of the Hamburg Elbphilharmonie; photo: Jürgen Simon

Regional Chapter Berlin

Gruß aus Berlin

by Alex Wilkerson

This past year has seen a whirlwind of great events, meet-ups, and celebrations for the Berlin chapter – plus a new Regional Coordinator! After years of attending the Berlin chapter events and being engaged in the Fulbright community in Berlin, I decided to volunteer and take over responsibilities as Regional Coordinator from Benjamin Becker in June. I would like to give a warm thanks to Benjamin and previous Regional Coordinators for their fantastic work and exciting events in recent years. Now, let's get down to some of the past year's highlights in Berlin:

Last year in September, Fulbright alum John (Johannes) Hensel paid a surprise visit to the Berlin chapter's usual Stammtisch. John was among the first Germans to visit the USA on a Fulbright Scholarship, and later emigrated and became a US citizen. He has since stayed in close contact with the Fulbright community. Thanks to John for the great visit and reminiscing on the beginnings of German-American relations within Fulbright!

Additionally, the Thanksgiving celebration in November went off without a hitch. Staying true to the idea of "Fulbrighters and friends", we were generously hosted by DAAD alum Henry van Wagenberg and his roommates at the time. More than 30 guests contributed to the potluck buffet and enjoyed a delicious turkey from Berlin's famous KaDeWe.



Thanksgiving in Berlin; photo: Benjamin Becker



Surprise visit from John Hensel (right); photo: Benjamin Becker



Handover to Alex; photo: Laura Lasswell



Fourth of July BBQ – near Mauerpark in Berlin; photo: Amanda Gläser-Bligh

Aside from some great Stammtische (regular happy hour meet-ups) such as a bowling night and a visit to a micro-brewery run by some young Americans, we had a blast at the chapter's annual Independence Day cookout and potluck this year. On the Fourth of July, we gathered together in a wonderful grilling space near Berlin's infamous Mauerpark. We enjoyed the opportunity to network with regular and returnee alumni while sharing our previous Fourth of July and Fulbright experiences in the US. Family and friends of the Berlin chapter also joined in and relished in some great hamburgers, hotdogs, and other American specialties.

So far, a great start for the Berlin chapter this year – and I'm excited to contribute more engaging events and Stammtische! As always, you and your friends are invited to join in. Stay updated on the Berlin chapter happenings by subscribing to our mailing list, liking us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/fulbrightberlin>), and checking out the German Fulbright Alumni Association's event calendar.

Regional Chapter Mannheim

Love Confessions to A City

by Han Le and Benjamin Pflieger

Whoever stops by Heidelberg-Mannheim, will not easily let go of the magic that embraces the two cities. Located in Germany's finest region, the regional chapter is surrounded by the Palatinate Forest in the west, the Odenwald in the east, the neighbor Frankfurt in the North and the capital of the Baden region Karlsruhe in the South. Great masterminds and poets, such as Goethe and Heine, crossed the Rhein-Neckar Area and deeply fell in love with it – and so do U.S. Fulbrighters who come here every year for studying, research or teaching assistants.

With two internationally renowned, top-ranked universities and a dense accumulation of top research institutes, 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 well established "Stammtisch", and often bids a joyful farewell to German students from the region headed to the US.



Celebrating the German-American Friendship at the Thanksgiving Dinner with Julianne's incredible cooking skills!

All photos by Benjamin Pflieger



BBQ at the Neckarwiesen, Heidelberg



Having Glühwein at the Christmas Market in Mannheim

In general, the Stammtisch meetings are held regularly, alternating between Mannheim and Heidelberg. Due to seasonal events, the chapter gathered together at the Mannheimer Kapuzinerplanken Christmas Market or for a 4th of July Stammtisch in a Heidelberg Brewery. Two of the chapter's annual highlights include the legendary Thanksgiving dinner at Julianne McCall's and a BBQ at the Neckarwiesen in Heidelberg organized by Jon Hendrie. Thanks to both of you, that was incredible!

Looking back to all the great events we shared in the regional chapter, we are looking forward to the next year with old as well as new Fulbrighters! If interested in participating in or learning of the regional chapter Mannheim-Heidelberg's regular activities or for information regarding future events, please send an email to [rc.mannheim-heidelberg\(a\)fulbright-alumni.de](mailto:rc.mannheim-heidelberg(a)fulbright-alumni.de) or visit the calendar on fulbright-alumni.de.



Full House at the Thanksgiving Dinner

Regional Chapter Köln/Bonn

A year of transition

by Isabel Wasgindt

A recent highlight of our past year's activities was certainly our traditional 4th of July barbecue. On probably the hottest day in recent history in Bonn, a hungry crowd gathered in Isabel's garden to celebrate Independence Day in true American backyard style. Watermelon slices in large quantities helped us stay cool before the grill was fired up. Fulbrighters from near and afar had contributed with fruits, salads, grilled steaks, sausages and corn cones. We all spent a joyful, relaxed, sunny day with inspiring talks among old and new friends that culminated in Uli's fantastic dessert!



4th of July Party; photo: Georg Dörner



On other occasions, we teamed up again with the Deutsch-Amerikanische Gesellschaft Köln and the Freundeskreis Köln-Indianapolis. Together, we enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner in a typical Cologne – Brauhaus – a very original setting, that added a specific "Kölsch" touch to the event.

Thanks to a close relationship with the Amerika Haus e.V. (special thanks, Wiltrud!) we have access to a wide range of discussions, talks and cultural events related to German-American issues. Public events are announced via our e-mail list to offer an additional source of information for Fulbright Alumni in Cologne & Bonn.

So the spirit is very much alive in our Fulbright group, even though some active members have left the region. If you want to participate in our activities, we encourage you to contact our regional chapter at [rc.koeln.bonn\(at\)fulbright-alumni.de](mailto:rc.koeln.bonn(at)fulbright-alumni.de) to let us know you are in the area. Even though we do not have regular Stammtisch gatherings, we are always happy to see new faces at our spontaneous cultural and cooking events!

Regional Chapter Franken

4th of July in Franconia

by Silke Pinno

Sweltering heat, 97°F in the shade. Barbecue? That really was a bit too much at that moment. Therefore, the 4th of July BBQ of the alumni group Franconia started with refreshing iced tea – with mint! – and an astounding variety of muffins and cupcakes in an actually somewhat cooled down apartment in Erlangen. That was the way to spend the day. With an inspir-

ing exchange of recipes, and later of memories of the USA. Returnees as well as old-timers recalled their experiences with food, trips and roommates – is it edible? Is it doable? Are they bearable?? Or are we the ones not able to cope here...? That's what cultural exchange is about. And once again it was plain to see that the year abroad leads to an abundance of experiences each of which is very precious in its own way. In the evening, the designated pitmaster bravely went outside to slay the steaks (and veggie foods), but alas, the heat was still the stronger opponent to best. With plenty of food, wine and talk time passed quickly until the evening hours.

Winner of the Mulert Award

This year's recipient of the Jürgen Mulert Memorial Award on Mutual Understanding is Jörg Wolf for his project



Atlantic Review Promotes Candid Dialogue on Transatlantic Relations

The blog Atlantic Review stands for analysis and commentary on transatlantic issues from security and economics to pop culture and Fulbright. How do US and German politicians want to use the transatlantic partnership? What are Europeans and Americans expecting from each other? How do think tank experts, journalists and other citizens perceive, analyze and comment on US, German and EU foreign policies? Are we increasingly drifting apart since the end of the Cold War, the Iraq war and the NSA allegations or can we find common ground and work towards a Renaissance of the West, implementing our joint values?

These are some of the central questions Atlantic Review has addressed since 2003. The goal has always been to apply Senator Fulbright's ideal of promoting mutual understanding and the acquisition of empathy by trying "to see the world as others see it, and to allow for the possibility that others may see something we have failed to see, or may see it more accurately."

It all began during the transatlantic crisis over the Iraq war, when sharp disagreements were discussed everywhere, including on the Fulbright mailing lists. Together with my fellow Fulbrighters Scott Brunstetter, Jörg Geier and Sonja Bonin I have sent a "press digest of reading recommendations" to Fulbrighters and other friends. This newsletter then turned into a blog to reach a wider audience and promote an online debate with other bloggers and commenters.

From left to right:

Jörg Wolf

Jörg Wolf comments on US experts commenting on Europe. With a sarcastic headline.

Atlantic Review is read around the world. Literally.



We have written more than 1.000 blog posts covering a wide range of topics from the war on terrorism and human rights, NATO, Iran, Russia, to books and cultural diplomacy. Atlantic Review strives to confront anti-American sentiments in Europe and Anti-European sentiments in the US as well as ignorance on both sides.

These articles have been debated by hundreds of readers and commentators, especially in the 2000s at the height of the "blogosphere", when Facebook was not yet the main social media. I have tried to present fairly US criticism of Europe and vice versa, while also contributing towards raising the level of (online) debate. I have, however, also joined the debate with my own views addressing misunderstandings, superficiality and bullshit on both sides of the Atlantic.

The most popular article with more than 48.000 unique page views compares the murder rates in the United States and Germany. The top ten articles are quite diverse: One article criticizes the unfair portrayal of a German 9/11 victim in the movie "United 93", who happens to have been a German



Award ceremony at the Winterball 2015; photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein

Fulbright Alumnus. Another one is about celebrating Black History Month in Germany, a great US tradition that Germany should learn from. Other popular articles are more light-headed stories, like "Kinder Surprise Eggs Banned in the United States" or "Europeans are Taller than Americans". Atlantic Review has also featured NGOs run by Fulbrighters and regularly criticized all attempts at funding cuts to the Fulbright program and other educational exchanges.

Over the years it became more difficult to find the time for such a volunteer project, but the honor of the Mulert Award is a great motivation to write more and also to encourage more US, German and other Fulbrighters to blog on www.AtlanticReview.org about their experiences studying and working around the world and to share their views about how we can best make use of the unique transatlantic partnership (and friendships). It's too important to leave it to the politicians and the usual "experts". Maybe you, dear reader, would like to get involved?

Jörg Wolf works for the Atlantische Initiative e.V. in Berlin as Project Manager and Editor of atlantic-community.org, an open think tank on foreign policy with more than 8,500 members world-wide. Jörg was a Fulbright Scholar at Johns Hopkins University in 1999/2000. In his free-time he goes hiking, blogs at atlanticreview.org or tweets at [a\)transatlantic](https://twitter.com/a)transatlantic).



Mulert Award 2016 – 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 2016 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 January/February 2016.
- project summary and author biography in the 2016 issue of the FRANKly magazine as well as on the Association's website
- full travel support

The Call for Nominations will be accessible online until December 1st, 2015.

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

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

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22-24, 2016
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For more information check
www.fulbright-alumni.de/wb2016

