



Frankly

The Fulbright Alumni e.V. Magazine



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Letter from the Editor



Dear readers,

It is my pleasure to present the 2016 edition of the FRANKly, which is dedicated to celebrating the 30th anniversary of the German Fulbright Alumni Association.

2016 is a special year for the German Fulbright Alumni Association as it marks 30 years of promoting transatlantic cultural exchange and friendships, offering the opportunity to network, and supporting current German and American Fulbright grantees. What started on January 24, 1986, with a small group of 16 enthusiasts, grew over 30 years into a vibrant community of over 1,200 members. Each year, the association celebrates the Fulbright spirit with numerous national events such as the Winter Ball, the Welcome Meeting, and more – not to mention the incredible work of our regional chapters, which offer a great variety of activities to our members.

A crucial part of our organization is the FRANKly, the Alumni Association’s yearly journal devoted to informing our members and the outside world about the work of the Alumni Association. Since December 1987, the publication date of the FRANKly’s first edition, this magazine has undergone tremendous change, and I am proud to be part of this process. Thanks to Martin Kohler’s great support, I felt confident to take on the challenging task of editing the 30th anniversary edition. I am also grateful to Astrid Weingarten, our graphic designer, as well as to our proofreaders Andreas Schoberth and Hans-Christian von Steuber, and, of course, to all contributors to this year’s edition.

This year’s FRANKly honors the 30th anniversary of the German Fulbright Alumni Association by looking back and reflecting on the history and the traditions of our association, while at the same time shedding light on more recent developments and progress. Wiltrud Hammelstein’s article examines our association’s large network of international relations and invites us to share the international encounters of a long-standing member of the Alumni Association. Furthermore, I am proud to introduce you to the Fulbright journey of our oldest member, John Hensel, whose life story proves that the saying holds true: ‘Once a Fulbrighter, always a Fulbrighter.’ Our newest members, Franziska Eyo and Dunja Nofal are just starting this journey. In an interview, they lay out their visions for the future development of the Alumni Association. Similarly, Mohammad Khanjar, Fulbright Diversity scholar, reflects on the effects of such scholarships on the lives of recipients and the Alumni Association as a whole. To conclude our ‘Jubilee-section,’ David Patrician provides insights into the challenging, but rewarding task of building and maintaining an active regional chapter.

Enough said – enjoy reading!

F. Schmid

Franziska Schmid,
Mainz, August 2016



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Greetings from the President



Meet the Board

Dear Fulbrighters and Friends,

It is my pleasure to introduce our 30th anniversary edition of the Frankly. First, I want to honor the great editorial work of Franziska Schmid, who was very engaged with this special Frankly issue. Furthermore, I want to thank the many different authors for their contributions, which make the 2016 Frankly even more special.

Our anniversary Frankly invites you to look back at the last three decades of the German Fulbright Alumni Association, sums up where we are now, and offers glimpses into the future.

Founded in 1986 in Frankfurt, the German Fulbright Alumni Association published the first Frankly in 1987. Starting with the first “PowWows,” conferences, and many other events in the following years, the association grew fast and reached 1000 members in 1997. Today, with 1278 members, the German Fulbright Alumni Association still is a well-known Alumni Association in the Fulbright family worldwide. Many of the cultural and political events organized in the past still exist today and are complemented by new events with different societal and scientific topics every year.

In 1996, a group of highly committed Fulbright Alumni founded the Association of Friends and Sponsors of the German-American Fulbright Program, an association that provides funding for the Diversity Initiative of the Fulbright Program to send young high-school graduates with an immigration background abroad. By supporting the Diversity Initiative through the Association of Friends and Sponsors every year, as well as by strongly contributing to the Save Fulbright Initiative in 2014, which prevented the Fulbright program from a \$30 million cut, the German Fulbright Alumni Association has made important societal contributions we can be very proud of.

Let us use these experiences and successes to revive the spirit of our association for more projects and events that have the potential to really change something. Especially in a world that sees itself faced with many crises at the time, we are an association to make a difference.

Enjoy reading our 30th anniversary Frankly and get inspired by the past, present, and future of this great Alumni Association!

Vanessa Wergin

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 currently working as a PhD student and research associate at the chair of sports psychology at Technische Universität München, where she focuses on the topics of 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 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.

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 M.S. degree in Aerospace Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. Back in Germany, Ning was elected Vice President Members in February 2015. He welcomes new Fulbright grantees and is eager to enhance the Fulbright network for a more inspiring and valuable experience.

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 has been directing all internal/external communication of the association.

Meet the Board

Thevagar Mohanadhasan Vice President Events

Thevagar (**Tru:gar**) 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 responsible for 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.

Florian Grigoleit Treasurer

Florian Grigoleit is a Ph.D. student in computer science at the Technische Universität München.

He spent his Fulbright year 2010-11 in Pullman, Washington. After returning from the USA, he participated in various Fulbright Alumni events and, in 2015, he was elected as treasurer.



Vanessa Wergin



Ning Wang



Martin Kohler



Thevagar Mohanadhasan



Florian Grigoleit

The Extended Board

Franziska Schmid FRANKly Editor

Franziska Schmid is a Ph.D. candidate in American Studies at Johannes-Gutenberg University in Mainz. She spent her Fulbright year in 2010-2011 at Hood College in Maryland. Since then, she had the opportunity to return to the U.S. on a research grant from DAAD. Currently, she is doing archival work as a Ralph Waldo Emerson fellow at Houghton Library, Harvard University. Since 2016, Franziska is in charge of editing the FRANKly.

Fabienne Rudolph Outreach

Fabienne Rudolph graduated with a BA from Hochschule Darmstadt, majoring in Digital Media/Sound before receiving a Fulbright stipend and moving to Boston, MA in 2013. Whilst there she attended Northeastern University and successfully graduated with a M.Sc. in Music Industry Leadership in May 2014. Upon returning to Germany, Fabienne has continually been active in the Fulbright Alumni Association, attending regional events of the Frankfurt, Mannheim-Heidelberg and Berlin regional chapters. She currently works at Boosey and Hawkes Music Publishing as a Copyright and Creative Services Administrator.

Dunja Nofal Diversity Initiative

Dunja Nofal was born on November 20, 1995, in Berlin. She is German and of Palestinian origin. After graduating from high school in summer 2014, she was granted a scholarship by the Fulbright Commission and studied for a month at the University of Kentucky. After coming back from the U.S., she started the European Volunteer Service (EVS) in London and worked in the small human rights organization CADFA (Camden Abu dis Friendship Association). Currently, Dunja is attending the University of Potsdam in her second semester studying politics and economics. One year after her return to Germany, she became a member of the Fulbright Alumni e.V. is holding the Fulbright Diversity Chair in the extended board since January 2016. In her free time, she tutors children who are looking for asylum in Germany and is active in SPD (Social Democratic Party) and Jusos.

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.

Holger Schöner Mailing Lists

From 1997-98, Holger enjoyed his stay in Boulder, Colorado, while working towards a Master of Science degree in Computer Science. In the meantime, he finished his PhD at the Technical University of Berlin, gained experience in industrial data analysis in Austria, and is currently working in Germany. He started his Fulbright alumni career as head of the Regional Chapter Berlin, then became Vice President for Communications from 2001-2003, followed by a now long history as mailing list manager.



From left to right: Franziska Schmid, Dunja Nofal, Henning Blunck, Holger Schöner; not shown: Fabienne Rudolph

The Extended Board

Jan Schacht Webmaster & Coordinator for the Welcome Meeting

As a webmaster, Jan manages all technical issues concerning our website, email addresses, editor accounts and other IT-related aspects. He reports to the board and works closely with designers, editors, regional chapters, and event organizers. As a coordinator for the Welcome Meeting, Jan is the first contact to the board for organizing the Welcome Meeting 2016 in Hamburg, taking place on the weekend of Oct 21-23.

In private, Jan is working as a research associate for the project “Intercultural Perspectives, Social Media and the Press” at the CCCOM at Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (HAW Hamburg). During his undergraduate studies with a major in information management, he was selected for the “Diversity Initiative” program by the German Fulbright Commission. He also worked for NBC Philadelphia, where he was placed as a fellow in an exchange program initiated through GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit). He then continued to work for Apple and a German software company before taking part in a research project about the influence of social media on brand management in a renowned communications agency called Richards Partners in Auckland, New Zealand. In the context of his graduate degree in media and information studies at HAW Hamburg, he specialized in the fields of participatory communication and internet technologies.

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 25 - 28, 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.

David Duwe Sponsoring

David Duwe is 29 years old and currently resides in Hannover and Hamburg. Since early 2016, he is the proud father of a girl. During his time as a Fulbright scholar in 2012/ 2013 and 2013/2014, he had the pleasure to spend two years in San Diego, CA. There, he pursued his MBA studies with an emphasis on Finance (Venture Capital) and Entrepreneurship. Simultaneously, he co-founded his first healthcare company. He now wishes to use his knowledge on financial and investor relations to support the German Fulbright Alumni Association in securing financial funds for its activities and endeavors.

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.

Bernd Riedel Mentoring

Whether you call it mentoring, coaching or advising, the FAeV is developing new integrative structures to tap into the interdisciplinary and intergenerational knowledge and network potential of our great Fulbright Alumni community. We aim to facilitate the exchange of topical expertise, foster professional development and bolster our network by building links between the different generations of Fulbrighters. That means building confidence, encouraging knowledge exchange and turning experience into actionable advice. The FAeV mentoring team takes the first steps towards a Fulbright Alumni Leadership Program, organizing and moderating Design Thinking workshops to this end, most recently at the Berlin Seminar and at this year's FAeV strategy meeting in Mannheim.

Bernd spent two years as a Fulbrighter in New York at the Parsons School for Design (2011 - 2013). As a Parsons Dean's Scholar, he completed a MFA in Transdisciplinary Design and was a DARPA-funded researcher at the Parsons Institute for Information Mapping. His focus lies on the use of design to navigate complex systems and speculate on possible futures. Back in Berlin, he teamed up with fellow German Fulbrighter Eugen Litwinow and Dorothea Vögler, his former Brooklyn roommates, to found the Ellery Studio for Creative Strategy and Design Thinking.

Jürgen Simon Archive

At the age of 30, the German Fulbright Alumni Association has accumulated documents, publications and notes, which reflect the spirit of the past decades as well as the ongoing activities. To develop the structure for preserving the Association's documents for future generations of Fulbright alumni, this Extended Board position was created in 2015.

With a Fulbright travel grant plus a direct exchange fellowship of Christian-Albrechts-University at Kiel, Jürgen continued his student life at the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University, Bloomington, IN. Years later he returned to Germany with an MBA and a Ph.D. in Business. He worked in various positions in banking and finance, followed by jobs as administrator and instructor for universities of applied sciences.

Alexander Wilkerson Internationales

Alex Wilkerson is originally from Cincinnati, Ohio and has been living and working professionally in Berlin since his arrival in Germany with Fulbright in 2011. Alex was an English teaching assistant at the Hermann-von-Helmholtz Gymnasium in Potsdam and currently works in managing global communications for Bombardier Transportation in Berlin, after having already gained valuable experience working with various Berlin-based start-ups. He graduated with distinctions from The Ohio State University in 2010, having focused on German language, history, international affairs, and English creative writing. Alex has recently returned from Armenia as part of the XV European-American Young Leaders Conference in Yerevan by Global Bridges e.V.

Alex is currently the International Coordinator for the association (since January 2016) as well as the chair of the Berlin chapter (since May 2015).

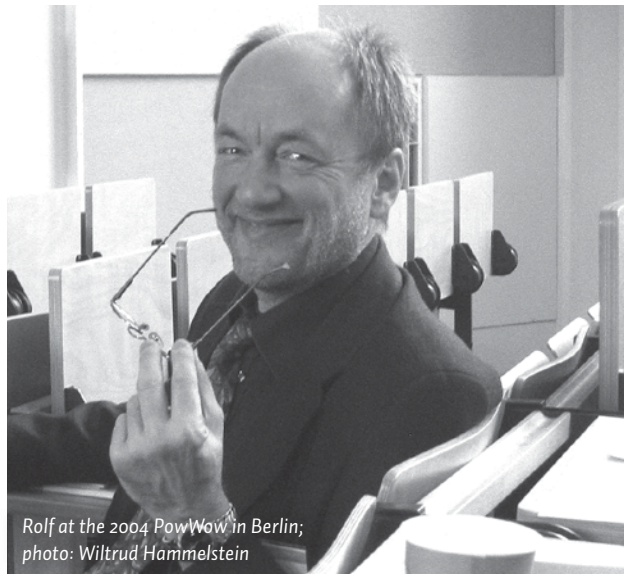
The member of the Extended Board not featured here are **Steffen Schmuck-Soldan**, Jürgen Mulert Award. **Arlinda Ramaj**, PowWow **Hermes Winands**, Datenmanagement



From left to right: Jan Schacht, Elke Handschug-Brosin, David Duwe, Dagmar Schreiber, Bernd Riedel, Jürgen Simon, Alexander Wilkerson

Dr. Rolf Hoffmann – In Memoriam

Executive Director, German-American Fulbright Commission, 2004-2016



Rolf at the 2004 PowWow in Berlin;
photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein

“I grew up sailing small keelboats. They’re ok, but a bit boring. You don’t get wet. I’ve been sailing small catamarans, Hobie Cats, lately. They’re faster, more exciting, and you definitely get wet.”

Rolf and I were out for a beer one spring evening in Berlin, talking about Fulbright, politics, and sailboats. It was clear that this thrill-seeking sailor was not an average bureaucrat, but an entrepreneur with an appetite for challenge, risk, and adventure.

We were both new in our respective positions in 2004: Dr. Rolf Hoffmann just became the Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission, and I was the newly-elected president of the German Fulbright Alumni Association (“FAeV”). I lived in Berlin at the time, so it was easy to meet, and we did so frequently. There was a lot of work to do – we were organizing a joint event, the PowWow 2004 on the EU Expansion, set to take

place in March. The planning of the PowWow was already well underway, and there was much to be coordinated on the executive level with the Fulbright Commission and the U.S. Embassy. Thus, Rolf and I closely cooperated from the start.

I was pleasantly surprised at Rolf’s immediate enthusiasm for our alumni association. He used to tell how he would brag to the directors of other Fulbright Commissions about the active and dedicated members of the German Alumni Association. Rolf enthusiastically encouraged a close cooperation and coordination of our two organizations for events such as the PowWow and many more. Rolf made a point of meeting

the entire FAeV Board, accepting invitations to events, actively and vocally showing his support. George W. Bush was still in his first term as president of the United States, and fiscal priorities were changing. Support for the Fulbright Program in countries with close ties to the US, such as Germany, was waning. Dr. Hoffmann recognized the trend and developed the “Diversity Initiative,” a program dedicated to sending young German students with migration background on a short-term program to the US. I was impressed with this innovative and strategic reaction to changing times. Furthermore, it was an eye-opener for me. Obviously, I was aware of minorities in German society, but had not considered the “exponential” effect of a program specifically targeted at students with migration background. Not only were these young people experiencing the world differently by visiting the United States – for many of them this was the first time they were seen and felt as Germans. Rolf’s passion for the Diversity Initiative left a lasting impression on me.

The Diversity Initiative also affected and lastingly changed the FAeV. The Association was 18 years old, “of legal age,” we liked to joke. There were many ongoing discussions about taking the Association to a more professional level, vs. keeping the spirit of volunteerism, accepting the inherent amateurism. Most members agreed, however, that the Association could and should “give something back:” we should put our money where our mouths are and help fund academic exchange. By joining and donating to the Association of Friends and Sponsors of the German American Fulbright Program, the FAeV helped to fund the Diversity Initiative. The FAeV is extremely proud of its involvement in this program, and of the talented young people it has been able to sponsor. This level of institutional cooperation is built upon the foundation of trust and cooperation established through our encounters with Dr. Rolf Hoffmann.

In April 2005, J. William Fulbright would have turned 100 years old. The FAeV decided to celebrate this centennial with a special event in Frankfurt, to which Harriet Mayor Fulbright, representatives of many transatlantic organizations, the U.S. ambassador, and German foreign ministry representatives were invited. The U.S. Embassy initially politely declined to participate, proclaiming that they “celebrate programs, not people.” I speculate that this was a reflection of the political context at the time: Fulbright had been an outspoken Democrat who warned of adverse effects of pre-emptive strikes. Nonetheless, we had Rolf’s support during the planning of the event, and when the day came, he attended as a speaker. Finally, the acting U.S. Ambassador attended after all.

Programs are important. The Fulbright programs are immensely important, and especially dear to the hearts of those who have been privileged to participate. But programs are created and run by people. The people behind them matter a great deal.

Dr. Rolf Hoffmann brought his skills, ambition, wry smile, jovial and personable manner, strong convictions, passion and perseverance to the Fulbright Program and the Fulbright community. We have much to be thankful for. He will be sorely missed.

Joseph Kristensen

*Fulbright Teaching Assistant,
Königs Wusterhausen 1995-96
FAeV President, 2004-2006*

30 Years of International Relations



By Wiltrud Hammelstein

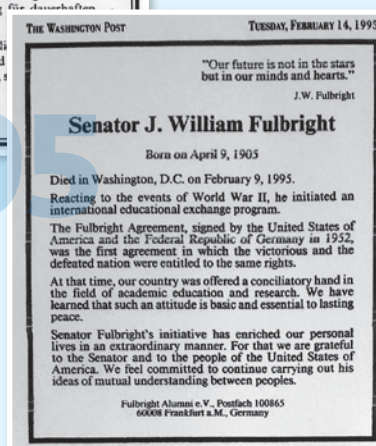
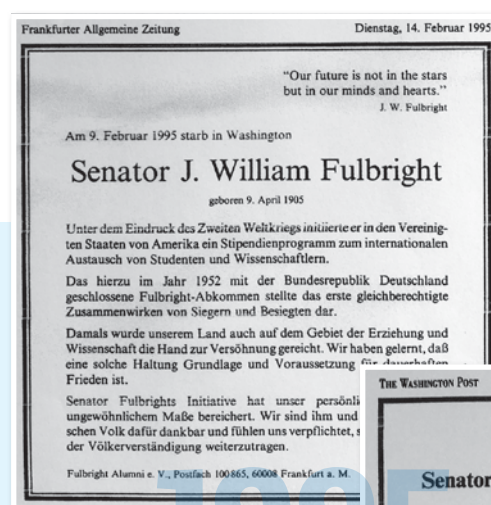
For a Fulbrighter, it is “natural” to look beyond one’s own horizon and be internationally minded. This curiosity has brought every one of us across the Atlantic, and out of our comfort zone at least once – namely when going on our Fulbright. Thus, it is not surprising that the German Fulbright Alumni Association (GFAA) has been active on an international level from its very beginnings despite its institutional setup: founded in 1986 as a typical German “Verein,” the GFAA mirrored German federalism with its regional chapters, and called the monthly meetings “Stammtische.”

When I heard that this FRANKly was an anniversary issue celebrating our first 30 years, I thought that it might be a good idea to write about our international relations as these seem to be a bit unknown to the younger Fulbrighters of recent years. As a member of the “analogue” generation, I have a collection of all paper-copies of the FRANKly at home. It was an interesting journey to dive into our history, which brought back great memories.

The FRANKly articles of the early years were written for the most part in German. This changed in 1998 with the 11th issue when we went to all English to be able to send out the FRANKly to non-German readers, like all Fulbright Associations in the U.S. and Europe. You can find most of the editions online on our website.

In the very first years, the board and the regional chapters were seemingly busy to get the association up and running, and focus on the internal development. A position as advisor to the board for “International relations” was introduced in 1991, and a year later the position of Vice President for International Relations was established to reflect the importance of reaching out to others outside of Germany. Ten years later, when the board structure was changed in 2002, the task of “international relations” was integrated into the president’s role. Since then, the presidents have chosen to propose the position of advisor for international relations as they see fit.

It is, however, far more important what we as an association and individual Fulbrighters DO to enhance mutual understanding on an everyday basis. And here our association and its members have been very engaged from the start!



1st FAA Europe conference Paris 1996 – participants

Our very first PowWow in June 1987 had already a representative of the Belgian Fulbright Alumni Association as a guest speaker. At that time, the Belgian Fulbright Alumni Association was already 40 years old. No surprise that the first international conference for European Fulbrighters took place in Brussels and Antwerp in May 1993 with about 110 German Fulbrighters among the 190 participants from European countries and the USA.

The desire to enhance the collaboration between the European Fulbright alumni associations (FAA) led to the first working meeting in Paris in 1996. Representatives of five Fulbright Alumni associations – France, Belgium, United Kingdom, Spain and Germany – met to learn more about each other and discuss common projects. One result of the Paris meeting was that a member of the Spanish FAA volunteered to host our first mailing list on his Madrid university server. Another outcome was the 1998 working meeting in Straßburg, organized mainly by the German FAA. All European Fulbright Alumni Associations were invited, and 11 were present. The German FAA sponsored some participants travel from the Eastern European FAAs. At this meeting, the Spanish FAA offered to host the next meeting, which took place in Toledo in 2000.



Budapest 1996 – German participants with keynote speaker Randall Woods on a Danube cruise ship

This time, the meeting was opened to the general public and participants of our association outnumbered the ones from the host country. We Germans do love to travel ;-)

1996 was a milestone year for the enhancement of our international relations especially in working with the U.S. FA. We as German FAA celebrated our 10th anniversary with a “Decennial” PowWow in Berlin together with the 50th anniversary of the Fulbright Program worldwide. The U.S. Fulbright Association took this anniversary as an opportunity to organize its annual meeting outside the USA as a first worldwide conference in Budapest. This took place just a week after our PowWow, and we shared Randall Woods as a keynote speaker, who had written a biography about Senator Fulbright, and spoke at both meetings*. A couple of our members attended the Budapest meeting and established ties to the U.S. FA, which are still maintained to this very day: members of our associations have taken part in the annual meeting of the US FA for now 20 years, which is unique in the Fulbright community. And some of us have become (lifetime) members in the U.S. FA.

When the US FA organized another annual meeting in Athens in 2004, a great number of German FAA members



Toledo 2000

*There are no articles on the Budapest conference in the FRANKly but in our other paper publication FAIN 5/96.

30 Years of International Relations



traveled to the Greek capital. There, it was decided that the U.S. FA would hold their annual meeting in the city of the Summer Olympics, which took us to Beijing in 2008, and London in 2012. Fulbright Associations from Morocco and Argentina cooperated with the U.S. FA to organize the annual meeting in Marrakech in 2006 and Buenos Aires in 2010. German FAA participation was ensured in all of them.

Besides the participation in Fulbright conferences around the world in the past 20 plus years, the German FAA organized several international conferences (for the very most part in Berlin): “Quo vadis USA” in 2002, “EU Enlargement” in 2004, “The German FAA at 25: shaping a changing world” in 2011.

At the London Fulbright conference in 2012, a workshop for the European Fulbrighters was organized to revitalize the network of European Fulbright Alumni associations. One result was the 2014 international conference in Berlin “Entrepreneurs in a borderless world,” which was co-organized by the German and French FAAs and sponsored by funds from the U.S. Department of State.

The active engagement of the German FAA and its members in international activities over the past 30 years has earned us high respect, and the reputation of a role model within the Fulbright community worldwide. When Senator Fulbright passed away in 1995, the German FAA was the only FAA which had an obituary on the same day in a German and U.S. newspaper (the FAZ and Washington Post). When we organized a “Centennial PowWow” on the 100th birthday of Senator Fulbright on April 9th 2005, his widow Harriet Mayor Fulbright gave us the honor of accepting our invitation, and came to Frankfurt to give a very personal talk on the life of her late husband. German FAA members played a key role in establishing the Swiss FAA in 2007. When the European Network of American Alumni Associations (ENAM) was founded in 2011 by the U.S. Department of State, our then president Benjamin Becker was elected to the board of ENAM. And as a final example: our Frankfurt chapter helped organize the first TedxFulbright meeting outside the USA in 2012 in Frankfurt.

Besides participating in Fulbright conferences on all but one continent (Australia would be the last frontier in the Fulbright world), our members have traveled to numerous

countries around the world, met with local Fulbrighters and contributed articles and photos to the FRANKly. You can find stories on international activities in nearly all our FRANKlys. I personally would love to see many more to come in the next 30 years!

The introduction of the internet, and especially social media, has helped to bring the international relations of Fulbrighters and FASAs to a new level. Information on FAAs and their activities can be found online, which means that communication among Fulbrighters is easier, faster and less expensive. The German FAA has been using these new technologies from an early stage: at our 2002 Pow-Wow “Quo vadis USA” in Berlin, our speaker Nancy Snow participated via teleconference from her home in Los Angeles as she was not able to travel. For a workshop at our 2011 silver anniversary conference in Berlin, we skyped in one moderator from Uzbekistan who had not been able to obtain a visa to come to Berlin in person. And the latest example of a successful use of social media was the participation of numerous German Fulbright alumni in the 2014 campaign #savefulbright which got more than 27000 Fulbrighters and friends of the Fulbright Program from

around the world to sign a petition to stop the proposed cuts for the Fulbright Program in the U.S. budget.

How will we organize our international relations in the next 30 years? Technology will certainly help us communicate and organize more efficiently and with less cost, and to stay in touch or participate in conferences e.g. via livestreams when we cannot travel there. For me this does not, however, substitute the personal encounters in foreign places, outside our borders and comfort zones. Fulbrighters are experts in this, and have the task to enhance the mutual understanding of people with their own engagement. The FAAs are great places to work together and break down walls. This is now more needed than ever!



The Fulliman goes Tenerife – Semana Santa trip of Spanish FAA to Tenerife, 2003



Athen 2004 – trip to Sounion



TedxFulbright Frankfurt 2012 – speakers and organizers



Washington 2013 with Harriet Fulbright



London 2012 – European FAA representatives

All photos by Wiltrud Hammelstein

“As Time Goes By...”

A Fulbrighter (1953-54) Reminisces

by Johannes (John) Hensel, Director, International Information Systems Group, 3M, (retired)

Franziska Schmid’s 2016 call for articles referred to a January “Mitgliederversammlung” in which it was established that the oldest member is 83. It must be me because I turned 84 on Valentine’s Day. As I put my thoughts to paper – it is June 6, memories take me back 72 years. It is 1944, we are somewhere in the Sued-Harz in the Latina KLV-Lager (Kinder-Land-Verschickung), away from the daily air raids. The D-Day allied invasion had begun, signaling the end of one dictatorship. But no, one wasn’t enough. After a short stint of US Timberwolves’ liberation, the Soviets took over establishing another dictatorship.

With Abitur in hand, the last one to be recognized in the West, I made it to Berlin. The Freie Universitaet, thanks to the United States, became our place of studies without oppression.

The brave Humboldt U students had fought for us to get the FU. Some of them paid with their lives. I suggest to my younger Fullies to look into the beginning of the FU. A monument has been erected there for those who suffered the ultimate sacrifice.

Berlin – in my days was a “frontline” city. The eyes of the World were on us. The Berlin Airlift, the Berliner’s determination to be free, and the democratization of our lives were important milestones. The impact of the downfall of the Nazi regime and the emerging news about the unspeakable, inhuman atrocities have been so profound, that, to this day, I am emotionally affected.

Berlin afforded me the opportunity to go into the world and satisfy my curiosity. But prior to that, hard work had to be done: BusAdmin/Econ at the FU, Werkstudent at Telefunken GmbH, service at the Kreuzberg’s MCC



Student at FU Berlin early 1950s

“Neighborhood Home”, pursuing American English at Dr. A. Sieben’s Interdenominational Church at Clay Allee, earning money to survive by washing cars at the US Vice Counsel’s home in Garystrasse, cleaning Westend lady’s carpets organized by the FU “Heinzelmaennchen” organization, netting one DM minus 10% per hour, and “organizing” food etc.. Remember, the Ostmark wasn’t worth much. Also, we “escapees” stayed away from the Soviet Sector.

Back in 1944, my sister introduced me to black listening of a station “Soldatensender Calais”, beamed from the Dover area to German soldiers stationed in France. If caught, it would have meant jail, KZ, or death for my sister. Besides news, it featured Jazz. I was hooked. Berlin’s AFN with Mark White and Sgt. George Hudak opened up a Blick into the United States, its culture, society, religion, and people. And did we learn good ol’ American English. George m.c’d jazz at the “Badewanne,” Nuernbergerstrasse, when Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, etc. were in town. His “Frolic at Five”, starting with Harry James’ ‘9:20 Special” was followed by “Hey, hey, what do you say, guys and girls.” It still rings in my ears. Three plus most intense years in Berlin were crowned with a Fulbright Grant. My dream came true!

Prior to my sailing August 27, 1953 from Rotterdam, I had experienced the Berlin June 17, 1953 East German uprising against communist oppression. Nowadays, cold war media reporting often highlights the Hungarian (1956) and Prague (1968) uprisings. East Germany was first. The crossing was magnificent. Students and immigrants were in a joyful, yet thoughtful mood. We were approaching “Das Land der unbegrenzten Möglichkeiten!” We had left our comfort zone. That, however, did not enter my mind. When young, one can do “almost” anything. And so it turned out to be.

Bluffton College, now University, in Ohio, a small college, became my home for the academic year. We seven foreign students were fully immersed in the social, cultural and religious life of the American Way. In 1953, the Cold War was at its height. My first-hand experience behind the



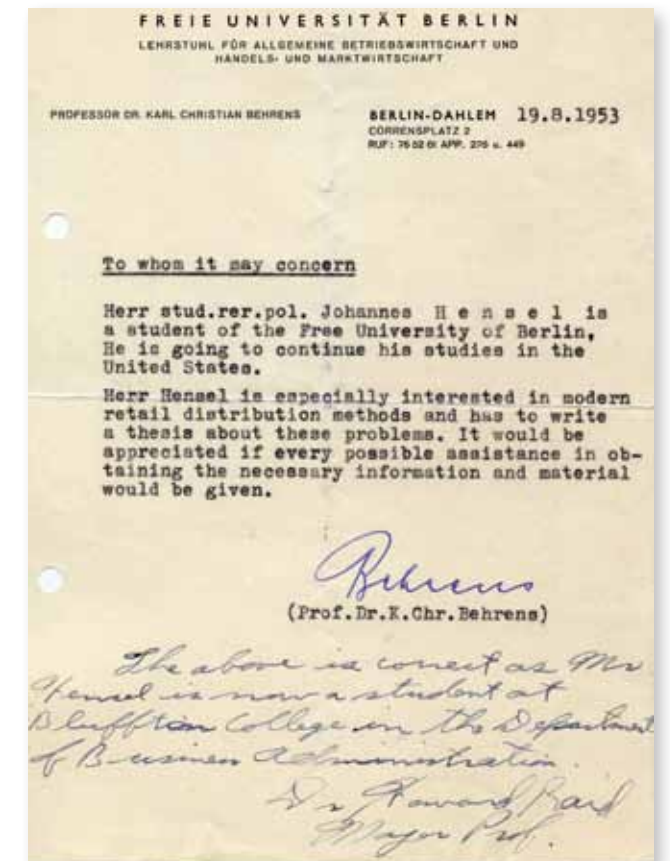
Bluffton College foreign student’s panel discussion; Prof. Lenz & Ladies’ Association

Iron Curtain netted me many speaking engagements at many clubs and associations. The fees of \$ 5 to 25 were most welcome, my only source of income, until I was blessed with some “steady” work during my semester vacation. Besides all that, I attended a ten-week “Student-in-Industry” Seminar at the MN U hosted by the YM/YWCA. Fourteen students and fourteen coeds governed themselves in a cooperative manner. All were from all corners of the USA, except three foreign students. The seminar goals were: 1. Work & group experience. 2. Lecture & program development. 3. Personal gains. 4. Recreation participation. Everyone had to “pound the pavement” to find a job for the duration. Not so easy in the 1954 recession.

My Diplom-Vater Prof. Dr. Behrens at the FU had encouraged me to research modern marketing systems in the USA, which could be applied in Germany. The Supermarket Institute, North Dearborn Street, Chicago, took me under its wings, supplied me with reams of research material, and invited me to the nationwide Supermarket Convention in Cleveland, OH, April 1954. Life of a Fulbrighter is full of miracles. There, among thousands, I am seated in the second row with a most well-known, motivational speaker, Mr. Bill Gove, of 3M Company. That special banquet evening changed my entire life.



John with friend Darnell Thomas at Bluffton’s Student Lounge 1954



My Diplom Vater at FU, Berlin

Fast forward, here I am in Minneapolis, in June, and jobs are scarce. Bill Gove’s postcard landed in MN via my College. He wanted to invite me for dinner with family. I called, he asked “what gives,” a job needed? Come to 3M’s HQ in St. Paul, “yes, hallelujah!” The HQ looked majestic. Bill calls Personnel (HR) “Hey, Charlie, here is a young man from Berlin. He needs a job for the summer.” “But, Bill, Charlie says, the exec’s kids want the jobs”. Bill: “Listen, Charlie, thanks to these folks in the frontline city of Berlin, we can still sing our Christmas carols in Freedom.” I started the next day in the Service Department. The nine-week job at 3M, one of the most respected companies in the world, launched my career. But first things first. After the Seminar, I drove a repossessed 1954 Cadillac from Fargo, ND, to Las Vegas. From there, I greyhounded across the mountains to Alhambra, LA, in time to start a three-week job at Futterman’s Supermarket, East Boyle Heights. Valuable experience for my research of Modern



Driving repossessed Cadillac from Fargo, ND to Las Vegas with Seminar Fellow Student 1954



An immigrant in New York 1955. What a City!

Marketing. My friend Nikki T., her sister and GI husband introduced me to Hwy ONE, Big Sur, Carmel, Monterey, Seaside, and Oakland's Mills College, where at that time David Brubeck had "taken time-out" to study and teach music for awhile.

A \$ 99 Greyhound Bus ticket took me from Oakland, CA, via Moline, IL, Chicago, IL, Bluffton, OH, to New York. Sadly, time had come to board the MS "Berlin," the former Swedish "Gripsholm", a great 1930's ocean liner. A most fantastic Fulbright Year had come to an end, but the experience and impact of that year has lived on forever. The reception afforded us by the American people so close after Germany's defeat, was so heartwarming and was received with utmost gratitude.

In our days, once in the USA, it was up to us individually to succeed. We had no Fulbright guides or mentors "over there." By going the extra mile, by taking initiatives at all times, by being curious about everything being offered and observed, the Fulbright year is full of promise. I hear that a number of today's students feel, they cannot spend a year away from their goal to make money. To me that is shortsighted! It is such a unique experience, that it will impact one's life forever. I did it, I will be thankful always, and know: "Once a Fulbrighter – always a Fulbrighter."

Mr. Gove of 3M became my sponsor. With the words "we want you at 3M," he and judge Murphy in St. Paul, MN, prepared the immigration papers.

I had come back to Berlin from the States October, 1954, ready to pursue my Diplom-Arbeit. However, my lifetime decision was made. I am going! August 27, 1955 my ship the MS "Johann van Oldenbarnevelt" sailed from Rotterdam. In those days, emigration still felt like saying

Goodbye to the Old Continent. The decision was correct. Just two months later, my sponsor struck out on his own, moving to Coral Gables, FL, to become a highly respected, renowned motivational speaker. I started my 3M career mid-September 1955 in International Operations, St. Paul, MN. My 36 years at 3M covered worldwide product management and executive positions in Geneva, Tokyo, Stockholm and St. Paul, MN.

Uncle Sam called me February 1957. I served two years on active duty in Ft. Chaffee, AK, Ft. Sill, OK, Darmstadt, and Babenhausen. It was still the height of the "Cold War". We, in the artillery, were prepared to stop any Soviet tank invasion through the Fulda gap. I was reminded of the statement by the only SED teacher we had in Leipzig in 1948 "Meine Herren, by 1950 the socialist, progressive forces will be at the Rhein." Besides my FDC responsibilities, I taught two periods of German under the auspices of the U of Maryland, overseas branch, to the Group's officer corps. A BS with one foreign language was required at that time to maintain the officer status.

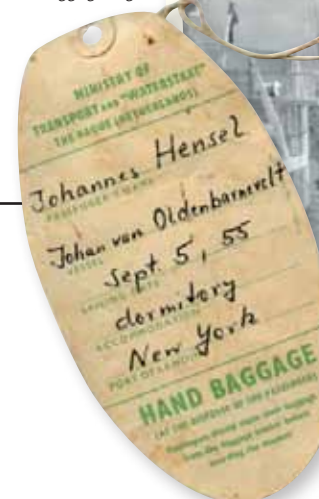


Christmas 1955, my 'American Dad' and Mrs. Gove, my sponsors



My DoS ID Card

Luggage tag



Good Bye – Europe, 1955 Rotterdam

Throughout my career, and all what goes with it, focus was on work. When I retired in 1991, I did international consulting, but enjoyed more and more seeing "the other side of the story." I also started to delve into the past, to recall my life. I joined the US Fulbright Association and subsequently the Fulbright Alumni, e.V. How this happened is a unique story. In the early 2000's, I received an email from Bettina Ross, Fulbright Commission, Berlin: "I am sifting the FK archives and found your card from 1953. Where is he now? I searched <Johannes Hensel> and found your search for a Lt. William Smith of the US Timberwolves (104th INF DIV), who befriended you in April, 1945." Long story short, Bettina found me and I found William Smith in Salem, OR.

The Washington, DC Fulbright Association covers a huge area and really does not allow the close-knit relationship as demonstrated by the Fullies. At one time or another, Washington DC tried to develop the chapter activities. I submitted my thoughts, but nothing came of it

Messrs. Hoffmann, Rohr, Becker, Patrician, and their team members welcomed me to the Fulbright circle. A highlight for me was my attendance at "Fulbright at Sixties" in Berlin. When I told my professor at the US Army War College, which I had the privilege to attend for a time, that I'll be joining 500 Fulbrighters in Berlin, he said, that I probably would be a "Historical Artifact" at that Conference. It was an outstanding experience!

Having been involved with a number of associations all my life, I can truly state, that the Fulbright families in Germany have built up and nursed a great network. To name a few, the Frankly, the Mitgliederverzeichnis, the Winterball, the Chapter Stammtische, the sailings and mountain walks are signs of a very active, lively association. Senator Fulbright's idea of "World Peace through Mutual Understanding" is to the point and embraces everything. It includes diversity, multicultural, and all the fashionable

expressions used today. For example, the word diversity. Doesn't it bring up the word "difference"? Perhaps the Frankly will discuss it?

Academia in the USA has brought about "speech codes" at the universities. Political correctness is favored. As an "old" Fulbrighter, who has experienced dictatorships, I would love to see "Akademische Freiheit" practiced as we did at the FU in the Fifties.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you for letting me voice what is on my mind, in my heart and memory. You may wonder if I stayed single all this time. No! I met my wife Catrina in 1967, have enjoyed 48 years of being married, and have two daughters.

My best wishes and congratulations accompany you all on your road to the Sixtieth Anniversary 2046. We had a saying at 3M "The Road to Success is Always under Construction!" May the Fullies always be constructing.

Johannes (John) Hensel
Sarasota, Florida, 2016

Johannes (John) Hensel

John Hensel, born in Halle/Saale near Leipzig, escaped the Soviet Zone to West-Berlin in 1950 after graduating from classical Gymnasium. As a student of Business Administration and Economics at the Free University, he came to the USA with the first contingent of Fulbrighters. His 36 year career with the 3M Corporation took him to Geneva, Tokyo and Stockholm, covering all areas outside the USA. He served with the US Artillery Battalion during the early Cold War overseas. He is a US Army War College Alumni, an eyewitness to WWII, and a life-long student of 20th Century military conflicts.



Introducing our Newest Members



1.

How did you get in touch with the Fulbright alumni and what were your motives for joining our association? Where do you see the biggest advantages of remaining part of the Fulbright family after the expiration of your grant?

Franziska:

Approximately one month after returning from the U.S. in September 2014, I attended my first Fulbright event: Thanksgiving in Berlin. There, I had the opportunity to meet my friends, who returned with me from Kentucky, and to get to know other returnees and current U.S. scholars. I didn't only enjoy the fantastic meal (like really, I have never managed to make mashed sweet potatoes more delicious than the one I ate there), I also appreciated the nice talks I had. My second Fulbright event was the winter ball 2015 in Munich. That was the first time I really got in touch with the "Fullis". In the annual general assembly of the Fulbright alumni, I gained an insight into the association, its structure and the various activities it organizes annually. I really liked the family atmosphere, which is why I signed the membership form right after the meeting. The biggest advantage of being part of the Fulbright alumni association is being part of a big family whose members share similar, but still always unique experiences. At every Fulbright event, you meet many open-minded and exciting people of different ages with interdisciplinary backgrounds. This means a great and valuable network, where members can act as advisers, which is undoubtedly precious- especially for the younger members who just start their careers. Last but not least, the FA association gives me the chance of reviving the memories of my U.S experience and celebrating the American way of living in Germany.

Dunja:

My first Fulbright alumni experience was at the Welcome Meeting in October 2015. Upon joining the association, I knew that I would like to add on my Fulbright experience back home in Germany. At this event, I was able to feel what Fulbright spirit means. I met a dozen of interesting und nice people, enhanced my knowledge during workshops like "the perfect interview," and shared interesting stories about my time in the U.S. It was quite interesting to listen to other Fulbright alumni, who stayed at other states in the U.S. and shared their stories and reflected on their travel experience. Their stories showed me how diverse the U.S. is. All in all, the Fulbright network has given me a lot of opportunities to develop myself and to broaden my horizon. I have built friendships and I have got to know new options for my life and career.

2.

During our strategy meeting in April, we discussed possible mission statements for our association. What would be your personal Fulbright Alumni mission statement?

Franziska:

According to Forbes, a mission statement should answer the following questions: What do we do? How do we do it? Whom do we do it for? and What value are we bringing? I would therefore propose that Fulbright Alumni means connecting ideas and open-mindedness of students and academics by offering a platform which promotes active exchange, shares and discusses the American culture and builds friendships.

Dunja:

Fulbright Alumni means to meet highly motivated people you feel connected to from the beginning. Through the Fulbright grant and experiences in the US, there are a lot of things to share and to learn. The Fulbright alumni group lives by its members. Everyone is a unique individual and adds something to the group spirit. This spirit develops by connecting and supporting each other as much as possible. This gives us the possibility to become active together and make a change.

Franziska Eyo, at the age of 19, the currently youngest Fulbright Alumna. After her high school graduation in 2014, she participated in the Fulbright Diversity Initiative, a four-week summer school at the University of Kentucky, which addresses students with a migrant background. She joined the FA association immediately after her stay in the U.S. Currently, as a scholar of the German National Academic Foundation and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, she is studying Global Business Management with a focus on international finance at Augsburg University in the fourth semester. During her studies, she did a volunteering project in Tanzania and will study next semester at the Shandong University in China.



Dunja Nofal is currently a student of politics and economics at the University of Potsdam. After graduating from high school in summer 2014, she was granted a Fulbright Diversity Scholarship, and studied for one month at the University of Kentucky. Being a student in the U.S. even before visiting a university in Germany was a unique experience for her. The taste of campus life in the U.S. motivated her to go abroad again in her prospective studies. A year after her Fulbright experience in the U.S., Dunja became a member of the Fulbright Alumni e.V. In addition to her active membership, she also serves as the Fulbright Diversity Chair in the extended board.

3.

As a new member, where do you see potential fields of development for the alumni family? Which goals and plans do you wish for, are you seeking to realize, or have been already set in motion?

Franziska:

I already stated in the previous question that the network and the connecting aspect legitimizes an alumni association. Being a quite young member also means that I was growing up in a time in which digitization and social media became increasingly important in the everyday life. This is why I see a big potential in establishing a more elaborated communication platform, where people can easily interact and create content. The platform would not only offer the opportunity to discuss hot topics in an interdisciplinary forum, it might also raise the members' motivation to participate in the association's activities due to the new dimension of accessibility. People can suggest and share interesting events by posts and give feedback resp. vote on proposals by organization teams concerning activities, e.g. in the regional alumni groups.

Dunja:

The Fulbright family is incredibly diverse and contains many special characters with individual career progressions. To get in touch with these people, exchange views and experiences, is a really rewarding experience especially for new members of the Fulbright alumni association. An increase in exchange between the new and older members of our organizations would be a great addition to our association. I was very excited when I heard that a mentoring program should be established. In my opinion, this is one of the best ways to connect new and older members more effectively.

Diversifying Fulbright, Diversifying the Alumni:

Reflections on My Academic Stay in San Antonio, Texas, with the Diversity Initiative

Last summer, Trinity University in San Antonio/Texas hosted a group of German students as part of the Discover America via San Antonio program initiated by Fulbright. With the support and cooperation of the German-American Fulbright Commission, twenty German students were able to experience college life in the US. The program contains three main elements: inclusion of the Germans in the International Student Orientation and New Student Orientation, and enrollment in the courses 'American Society and Culture' and 'Social Entrepreneurship.' The visitors, including me, were housed in the dorms of Trinity University with resident mentors.

The diversity initiative enables students to get to know the American lifestyle and everyday-life at an American university campus. At the same time, the diversity initiative shows American students how Germany is shaped as well by multiculturalism. While leading the Fulbright program in important new directions, the diversity initiative also has an effect on the Alumni Association as the alumni will get to know different customs, attitudes and cultures. The diversity initiative enriches the Alumni Association as it introduces new perspectives, thus allowing the Association to pursue their goal of promoting cultural understanding.



When I arrived in the USA, I hoped to improve my language skills, and to get to know life on an American university campus. The Discover America via San Antonio program that is offered by the Fulbright Commission and Trinity University was an amazing experience and will always stay in my memory. Not only the city of San Antonio and the campus of Trinity University have impressed me, but also the wide range of classes, workshops and excursions.

Living on campus was a new and fantastic experience because one encounters students from various backgrounds, which facilitates intercultural understanding – understanding about different cultures, but also an altered understanding of my own country. The DASA program allowed me to experience the American college spirit firsthand – I felt like a “Tiger” to a certain extent when I entered Mabey Dining Hall. Even though we stayed at Trinity for the short period of three weeks, I was able to take full advantage of my limited time there. Especially the little things such as conversations about life in the US, education or politics made my journey and my stay at Trinity very special. Ultimately, by bringing me in contact with people from different cultures, the DASA program heightened my awareness and broadened my perception of these crucial issues.

Our group of 20 Germans with migrant background attended a wide range of classes, which continually confronted us with new perspectives. For example, during our “American Society and Culture” class we made an excursion to Bexar County Jail. The second week, we talked about social issues, entrepreneurial skills and non-profit organizations. Enhancing our leadership skills, the DASA program encouraged us to become involved and to apply these skills to social problems in Germany.

Hallway oft the CSI (Center for the Sciences and Innovation);
photo: Mohammad Khanjar



The German Fulbrighter's
visiting Six Flags; photo:
Halil Dogan



The „birthday“ fountain;
photo: Mohammad Khanjar

In addition to being a great adventure, the DASA program raised my awareness of social issues, and taught me to think outside of the box. Moreover, I had the pleasure to meet unique people and to strengthen the connection with them so that we can build bridges and create a network.

Having experienced university life and American lifestyle, I now feel encouraged to spend a semester abroad in the US for a longer time. Most importantly, I was able to network with American students, as well as with Germans. Being confronted with a huge variety of origins, languages and beliefs, I deepened my understanding of other cultures. The Fulbright Diversity Initiative motivated me to participate in the Alumni association and to take over an active function within the organization. Being a member of the

Alumni Association enables me to connect with people, creating and discussing new ideas. The close contact with other alumni will give me the opportunity to shape my career and to get new impulses for future projects within and outside my home country Germany. Overall, I can say that the Diversity Initiative was not only a program for three weeks, but will last as a memory and motivation for a lifetime.

Mohammad Khanjar

Mohammad Khanjar is currently studying Political Science and Economics at the University of Potsdam in Germany in his third semester. From 2012 until 2015, Mohammad, the son of Lebanese immigrants, was awarded a scholarship of an organization that supports students with migrant backgrounds, and who are committed to volunteering and helping social causes. Right now, he is a grantee of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. He is a mentor and tutor for elementary school students. After his high school graduation in summer 2015, he was rewarded with a Fulbright Scholarship enabling him to attend summer classes at a Liberal Arts college.



Tiger Rally during a soccer match; photo: Anh-Viet Dinh

Happy 30 Year Anniversary to the German Fulbright Alumni Association!



by David Patrician

I will never forget the day I received the news that I was accepted to the Fulbright young journalist program, which meant that I could live and work in Germany for a year. That year turned into almost a decade, but more on that later.

I did my Fulbright exchange back in 2006, and had the chance to work in Cologne for the Westdeutsche Rundfunk (WDR) as a guest journalist. The year started off with a little soccer tournament known as the 2006 World Cup! During this time, I was able to work as a local TV reporter (broadcasting in German), moderate public viewing events (one time in front of a crowd of 40,000 British fans), and got to experience Cologne like very few Americans ever have. After my year was up, I decided to stay in Cologne, and continue working for the WDR.

In 2012, I moved to Hamburg and wanted to meet up with some fellow Fulbrighters. Unfortunately, Hamburg's alumni group was not very active at the time, so along with a few people in the Hamburg area we began to meet and actively reach out to our Hamburg alumni. The alumni spirit is still relatively new in Germany, so sometimes it took an extra call or email to get people to come out to the events.

We began having regular Stammtisches, and I was amazed at what kind of Fulbright Alumni we had living in Hamburg. We had Fulbrighters working in the US Consulate General, another was a producer at NDR Television... we even had a few Fulbrighters building airplanes over at the Airbus factory! During one of our meetings, we decided to organize a Thanksgiving Bowling Night. We had over 30 people attending the event, and had a

fun time meeting fellow Fulbrighters and "trying" to bowl a decent game. I am happy to say that this event has become a tradition, and we are looking forward to our 4th annual Thanksgiving Bowling Night this upcoming November. In addition, we hosted the 2014 National Welcome Meeting. This is chance for Fulbrighters who have recently returned from the US to meet up in Germany, meet fellow returnees and become familiar with the Alumni Association. It went so well that we were able to host the Welcome Meeting again last year with over 120 participants attending! Hamburg looks forward to hosting this event for a third time in 2016.

Our goals as an alumni group are simple: we want to provide a platform for Fulbrighters to meet, exchange ideas, professionally network and have a good time. We have also begun inviting our current American Fulbrighters to events, giving the alumni a great chance to relive their Fulbright experience, and also pass down some words of advice and stories from their time in the US. In addition, we started the "Discover Hamburg" series where we meet in different locations around town. Some of the places we have met include the US Consulate General, museums, a Freezers ice hockey game, the Amerikazentrum in Kiel for the Kieler Woche, and of course a few



First Thanksgiving Bowling Night



On the USS Mount Whitney during the Kieler Woche



David Patrician
Hamburg Regional Coordinator
Fulbright Alumni Association

local beer breweries ☺. An area which we are starting to explore is attracting Fulbright families. It is a challenge to get Fulbrighters from ages 35-50 to our events. Many people in this age range are starting families and simply do not have the time to attend our meetings. We hope to offer some family friendly events in the near future and are open to suggestions.

The development and growth of the Hamburg Regional Chapter has been a team effort. I was happy to lead the charge, but was also privileged to have a group of motivated Fulbrighters, who took the time and energy to help get our regional group up and running again (special thanks to Jakob Liss and Kay Dethlefs). As I am approaching my 10th year living and working in Germany, I truly believe in the motto: once a Fulbrighter, a Fulbrighter for life!

On behalf of the Hamburg Regional Group, and some of our Schleswig-Holstein friends, we wish the Alumni Association a happy 30th anniversary and continued success!



Meeting US Consulate General Nancy Corbett (4th of July Party)

Remembered

By chance we realized shortly after the General Assembly (Mitgliederversammlung) on January 23, 2016, that one of our members had passed away a few years ago. To communicate sad information more steadily we established this permanent column for remembering Fulbright Alumni and their lives. And we hope that we will not have to print an entry in every future Frankly edition.

Celebrating the Lives of Alumni and Friends

Karl Sommer, Dr.	23.12.1925	Alfred Maria Polczyk	09.10.1951
Klaus Murmann, Prof. Dr.	03.01.1932	Helga Shroff, Prof. Dr.	01.07.1926
Weddig, Fricke Dr.	22.07.1930	Christian Adams	27.05.1964
Bernd Schulz	15.07.1941	Hella Breitschuh	30.11.1966
Marco Tomaselli, Dr.	11.07.1939	Florian Goebel	18.10.1972
Jürgen Mulert, Dr.	16.08.1938	Hermann Rupieper, Prof. Dr.	23.02.1942
Manfred Gillner	26.09.1935	Franz Hillenkamp	18.03.1936

Prof. Dr. Helga Shroff

01.07.1926 - 28.01.2012

Helga received a Fulbright research grant for studying Chinese culture (Sinologie) in 1985. When she left for the USA, she already had been a professor at Heilbronn University teaching philosophy and English. She joined the Fulbright Alumni Association in 1988 and served on the Extended Board as Coordinator for Elder Fulbrighters from 1992 to 1998.



Photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein

Helga attended most of our national events. As one of our oldest members she inspired and enriched us in the numerous stimulating discussions we had with her. The topics covered her vast knowledge in her special field East Asian

philosophy and culture, as well as impressive stories about her life from the post-war years to the presence. I will never forget her scary report about having been stuck in an elevator of her residential home, unnoticed for almost a day just before Xmas Eve.

Helga's vibrant personal appearance at our Fulbright Alumni events in her colorful dresses with big pieces of

ethnic jewelry and her sheep-shaped backpack will be sadly missed.

Jürgen Simon

New Members



Welcome to the Fulbright Alumni e.V.! As a member, you become part of a unique network of change makers. Participate in our national and regional activities, meet inspiring people and contribute new ideas!

Agata Juretzko	Berlin	Johannes Striebel	Münster
Abdulsettar Mahdi	Kiel	Yuliya Dubianok	München
Silke Pinno	Nürnberg	Christoph van der Broek	Aachen
Esther Täubert	Hamburg	Tobias Mayer	Berlin
Jan Weber	Siegen	Anne Schmidt	Bernburg
Stefanie Rathe	Garbsen	Johannes C. Püllen	Grevenbroich
Franziska Bechtel	Dreieich	Volker Schüttenhelm	Wilnsdorf
Ulrike Acker-Thomsen	Hamburg	Richard Sprenger	Hamburg
Jonas Wilzewski	München	Christoph Althoff	Berlin
Felix Pohl	Schlangenbad	Christopher Hanke	Arendsee
Mathis Kreitzscheck	Göttingen	Amos Schikowsky	Bonn
Bernd Wurth	Lippstadt	Bernd Riedel	Berlin
Marina Kohl	Fulda	Amy Austin	Berlin
Hanna Schwank	Berlin	Julia Müller	Ransbach-Baumbach
Johanna Hans	Hamburg	Kristina Baudemann	Flensburg
Matthias Schröer	Düsseldorf	Anna Hölzer	Saarbrücken
Alexander Siegfried	Altenbeken	Simon Böhrer	Bonndorf
Benita Pungwe Mpala	Münster	Elisa Grosch	Hildesheim
Annalena Pohl	Langenzenn	Sebastian Bocklitz	Göttingen
Magnus Dorsch	Adendorf	Arlinda Ramaj	Frankfurt
Lukas Willi Bingel	Krefeld	Thomas Kraubitz	Berlin
Brigitte Ostermeier	München	Jens Frische	Bochum
Sven Störtte	Krefeld	Philipp Schneider	Hamburg
Thomas Rometsch	Wildberg	Nina Steinhäuser	Villingen-Schwenningen
Christoph Neyer	München	Manuel Bewarder	Berlin
Jan Schacht	Hamburg	Kilian Zuchan	Lütten Klein



PowWows / Focus Conferences

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

A selection of past events:

- 2014 International Fulbright Conference “Entrepreneurs in a Borderless World”, Berlin
- 2011 The German Fulbright Alumni Association at 25: Shaping a Changing World, Berlin
- 2009 change@crisis, Munich
- 2007 Climate Change, Erlangen
- 2005 J. William Fulbright Centennial, Frankfurt
- 2004 EU Enlargement, Berlin
- 2002 Quo vadis USA, Berlin
- 2001 Nutrition, Calw
- 1999 Biotechnology, Frauenchiemsee
- 1998 Intercultural Communications, Frankfurt
- 1997 Managing Public Organizations, Frankfurt
- 1996 A Chance for Global Understanding, Berlin
- 1995 Environmental Strategy, Heidenheim
- 1994 Where is our New Frontier? Stuttgart
- 1993 Market Leadership and Brand Names, Böblingen
- 1992 Health, Cologne
- 1991 German Reunification and the Future of German-American Relations, Berlin
- 1990 Signs for Tomorrow’s Architecture, Landscape, and Urban Development, Darmstadt
- 1989 The French Revolution in American and German Perspectives, Regensburg
- 1988 The United States and Germany: Corporate Cultures in Comparison, Mannheim

History and Purpose

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

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

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

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

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

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

Activities

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

National Events

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

General Assembly & Winterball

Every year, all members are invited to the General Assembly. At the Assembly, each board member reports on his or her activities during the year, followed by the election of a new board. After the General Assembly, the Winterball takes place to mark another year in celebration. The weekend event is held in a different city every year and is one of our annual highlights.

Welcome Meeting

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

Strategy Meeting

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

Sailing Trip

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

Family Weekend

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

International Activities

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

- 2015 International Fulbright Conference “Water Act“, Paris
- 2015 Fulbright Association 38th Annual Conference in Atlanta
- 2014 Fulbright Association 36th Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.
- 2012 Fulbright Associatons 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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Enrichment Through Exchange

by Alyssa Dowler



As members of the Fulbright community we are constantly embracing challenge and opportunity. Lucky for us, membership in this community also includes embracing a new family of individuals who have shared and continue to share in our experiences. The first major event of the year following August's Orientation in Wermelskirchen found roughly 140 Fulbrighters, past and present, as well as other distinguished guests, in Hamburg for the annual Fulbright Alumni Welcome Meeting. A two-day event, the Welcome Meeting proved to be a marathon of activities intended to promote engagement, facilitate dialogue and to create a platform for intercultural exchange and understanding.

The weekend's activities were kicked-off on Friday, October 16th with a wine reception at the U.S. General Consulate, beautifully located on Hamburg's own Alster. Smartly clad guests and ample wine created a dynamic atmosphere where conversation and networking abounded. Included in the night's roster of speakers were Consul General Nancy Corbett, Deputy Cultural Attaché Fiona Evans, and President of the German Fulbright Alumni Association, Vanessa Wergin. Each speaker utilized their unique cultural and professional backgrounds to highlight the value of the Fulbright experience and to stress the importance of more general transatlantic exchange. The bulk of the weekend's events would take place the following day, Saturday the 17th at Amerikazentrum.

In opening, David Patrician, a former participant in the Fulbright Young Journalist program and current regional coordinator of the Fulbright Alumni Hamburg Chapter addressed the crowd. Patrician shared anecdotal accounts from his time spent in the elusive North Korea. While there, Patrician gained a rare glimpse into a country which has faced much speculation due to its extreme isolation from the curious eyes of the world. North Korea proved to be a challenge for even a seasoned journalist as he was confronted with a vastly different cultural and political climate. Rather than stigmatizing these differences as abnormal, Patrician seized his time in North Korea as an opportunity to expand both his cultural knowledge and also as an opportunity to enrich others about the importance of cultural understanding.

Following Patrician's presentation, the crowd engaged in ice-breakers aimed at facilitating exchange between Fulbrighters past and present. Minister-Counselor for Management Affairs at the U.S. Embassy, Jeffrey VanDreal gave the evening's key-note speech. Having completed tours in places such as Georgia, Russia, and Germany, VanDreal discussed his time as a veteran member of the Foreign Service, sighting his Fulbright experience as one of the most influential in his career. A crowd-pleasing highlight of his presentation, VanDreal shared an anecdotal telling of one of his most memorable acts of diplomacy to date; Döner Diplomacy. While researching



Welcome Speech by
Consul General Nancy Corbett



Wine reception at U.S.
Consulate General Hamburg



Fiona S. Evans, former Deputy Cultural Attaché, U.S. Embassy Berlin,
and Vanessa Wergin, President German Fulbright Alumni Association



Ice-breaker to start the day:
speed networking

Concluding party



in Berlin in the 80's, VanDreal was in contact with individuals living in East Berlin. In an attempt to bridge the gap created by the Wall, VanDreal secreted a Döner into the Döner-less East, thus epitomizing the weekend's theme of cultural exchange.

VanDreal's speech ended in a Q&A during which the crowd had the opportunity to tap his wealth of experiential knowledge. After all questions had been answered and discussions had been had, the day continued with a series of workshops. Each workshop allowed attendees to address a unique topic ranging from the integration of minority communities through a transatlantic lens to interview skills. After some optional tours the evening ended with a communal dinner and a night out on Hamburg's Reeperbahn.

Come Sunday, with a flurry of activity and events now in the past, everyone met for a sprawling brunch during which new connections were further solidified and attendees left feeling full and fulfilled. With the complete support of the Fulbright Alumni Association behind them and feeling more enriched by their experiences and new-found networks, everyone left Hamburg empowered and determined.

All photos by Wiltrud Hammelstein



Winter Ball 2016 – Behind the Scenes

by Jürgen Simon

It is not just a ball, it is a weekend full of events. It starts with the Get-Together on Friday night, continues with the annual General Assembly (Mitgliederversammlung), culminates in the festive ball, and ends with lots of food at the Sunday morning brunch before taking off to the guided tours of Berlin, or for departing back home.



A Berlin character at the barrel-organ; photo: Thomas Weißschnur

Since 1992, we dance in festive gowns or dinner-jackets on the evening of the General Assembly. The historic objective of the Association's Board was to boost the attendance. Those General Assemblies sometimes may be considered rather formal and occasionally dull. By combining them with an attractive social event, which the members' partners could attend as well, the Board expected more members to take part in the internal affairs of the Association. Over the years, this idea has proven to be (mostly) successful.

Starting the Planning

To host 230 guests for an illustrious weekend requires some preparation. Starting the process only takes one person. In our case, it was the head of our Regional Chapter who, in spring 2015, came up with the idea to celebrate the Winter Ball 2016 in Berlin. The initial enthusiasm quickly spread and led to the formation of a core organizing team.

Identifying the Time and Location of the Event

Historically, the General Assembly has always taken place in the 1st quarter of a calendar year. We learnt quickly that there were only a few weekends not affected by winter vacations, carnival and local industrial fairs which boost prices for hotel accommodation. Our search left us with two possible dates.

Then we looked for a suitable event location available on any of those dates. We wanted a place which reflects the typical Berlin flavor and which is different from recent locations; that excluded neo-renaissance festival halls (Munich 2015), modern downtown hotels (Freiburg 2014), or the townhall (Hanover 2013). Therefore, we looked for an attractively restored industrial site, of which there are quite a few in Berlin. Ideally, it should be centrally located, accessible by public transport, and flexible enough to host a yet unknown number of participants.

We found the Universal Hall in Berlin-Moabit. It once was one of a handful of Berlin waste water pumping stations, built in 1889-1890 in the style of the pre-World War I brick architecture. The space could easily seat the expected number of guests, the service team proved to be extremely accommodating and cooperative, and the downtown location made the search for nearby sites for the other weekend activities very easy.

Budgeting

For more than two decades, similar weekends have been organized by other Fulbright Alumni chapters. But for budgeting purposes, previous Winter Ball events are not necessarily comparable due to different local price levels, availability of sponsoring, as well as seating capacity and dancing space. In the planning process we hoped for 150 guests, even 180 in a best-case scenario. In the end we had a record participation of 230, which allowed us to generate a cash surplus for the Association.



Honoring the Board and Organizing Team; photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein

More Planning

The other weekend activities were organized around the Winter Ball location: for the Friday Get-Together we identified the restaurant „Filmbühne“ within walking distance to the Berlin train station Bahnhof Zoo. For the General Assembly on Saturday morning, we found a university lecture hall of the TU Berlin, opposite to Bahnhof Zoo. And the Sunday morning brunch was booked at the restaurant „Lichtblick,“ neighboring a central subway station.

Last Minute Decisions

Whether the overwhelming response to our invitation was due to the attractiveness of Berlin, the sizeable regional chapter, the proper timing, or any reason yet to be identified: for the organizing team this unexpected, but pleasant development meant that we had enough money to spend on extras such as a room decoration



Get-Together; photo: Thomas Weißschnur



Reception Team; photo: Thomas Weißschnur



The Room fills up; photo: Thomas Weißschnur



Socializing during the break at the MV; photo: Felix Irmer



The Board and the Members; photo: Christina Ruoff



Voting at the Mitgliederversammlung; photo: Felix Irmer



The beautifully decorated Universal Hall; photo: Thomas Weißschnur



Champagne Reception; photo: Thomas Weißschnur

in the colors of the US flag, a big birthday cake, and a historic barrel-organ player (Leierkastenmann) during the champagne reception. And – maybe most important for the many passionate dancers among our guests – we were happy that despite the record turnout we still had a large dance floor.

The Weekend

The Get-Together set the tone for a great weekend. Fortunately, the „Filmbühne“ offered enough space for a record crowd of more than 120 guests, including a member of the FAEV Beirat and a representative from the US Embassy.

At the General Assembly on Saturday morning the approx. 70 members re-elected the entire Board, and continued with heated debates over proposals to be decided by the Assembly. Our choice of the caterer and his hot chili con carne proved to be a very good one to pacify us. At the end, there was just enough time for a cup of coffee in one of the nearby cafés and a make-up session in front of the mirror.

The doors for the Ball opened at 6:30 p.m. Shortly after 7 p.m. the guests of honor took their seats and addressed the crowd: first, Michelle Logsdon, the US Embassy's Cultural Attaché, accompanied by her husband, Deputy Chief of Mission Kent Logsdon, then the Fulbright Commission's late Executive Director Dr. Rolf Hoffmann. At that time nobody knew that it was his last speech to us.

At midnight, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the German Fulbright Alumni Association. When planning the Winter Ball weekend, we were aware of the anniversary as such. But we realized much later that we actually could dance into this anniversary as the Association was founded on the very day of January 24, 1986. And dancing into the new decade is what we did until 2:00 a.m. In between, at midnight, we joined into a „Happy Birthday Fulbright“ choir, then listened to the jazz tunes of professional singer Mariam Lazizi, and enjoyed the huge birthday cake.

The Sunday morning brunch provided splendid food from a buffet filled with a large variety of tasty bread spreads, salads, and desserts. By around 1:30 p.m., all of the four different tours were en route to attractive sites in Berlin in the winter sun, and after a great weekend short of sleep.

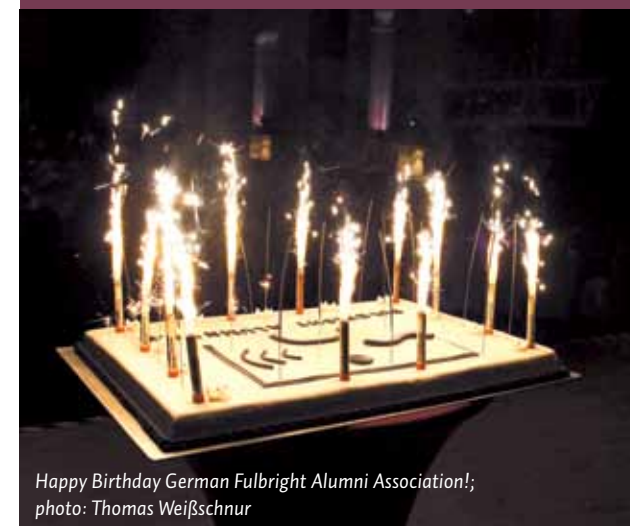
On Sunday evening, the organizing team met for a last time to finish the leftover chili con carne, and reminisce the past three days.

Epilogue

It was lots of fun (plus a little bit of work...). A big Thank You to our guests, the Board members including the Frankfurt office, and a great team!



Dancing into the 30th Anniversary; photo: Thomas Weißschnur



Happy Birthday German Fulbright Alumni Association!; photo: Thomas Weißschnur

Strategy Meeting, Mannheim

April 23 – 24, 2016

by Herbert Schwörer

It was a very frosty weekend when the Fulbright Alumni e.V. met for its strategy meeting in April. The International Youth Hostel in Mannheim, directly located at the river bank of the Rhein, offered a splendid work environment for the group of 25, who adequately represented the diversity of the Fulbright Alumni network ranging from founding members to recent returnees.

Friday evening offered the opportunity to reconnect, chat and to meet new members. Instantly, the memories of the Winterball or past common experiences were exchanged and the Fulbright spirit became visible – which was a perfect warm up for the strategy work on Saturday and Sunday.

A key topic that was initiated at the General Assembly in January was to look again at the mission of the Fulbright Alumni, and to determine what it means to each and every one today. Burning questions to tackle were how the mission could help to be creative in identifying focused activities that carry out the Fulbright vision and, evenly important, how the mission could energize the members all the way into the regional chapters.

With such challenging aspirations ahead, Bernd Riedel and Herbert Schwörer took the lead in preparing and facilitating the workshop. At the very beginning, the group realized that this would not be about very long and potentially tiring discussions. Rather, everyone got engaged and remained active throughout the entire workshop. No surprise, Senator Fulbright's words served as a starting point:



Group Photo

We are guided by the idea of the program's founder, Senator J. William Fulbright, to bring together people of different nations and contribute to world peace through better international understanding.

“There is a multiplier effect in international education and it carries the possibility – the only real possibility – of changing our manner of thinking about the world, and therefore of changing the world.”

– J. W. Fulbright

These statements guided the founding members of the Germany Fulbright Alumni members 30 years ago in putting the mission into words:

Our Mission

Based on the personal and educational experience, it is the overriding mission of the German Fulbright Alumni association to

- Strengthen and support cross-cultural contacts and exchange between Fulbrighters from all around the world;
- Encourage dialogue and interaction between international scholars, experts, and activists on topics important to the political, social, and cultural life of nations.



Deep Dish Pizza Dinner



Mannheim City Tour

But what does such mission mean to each Alumni individually? In order to gain a deeper understanding the group worked on reasons why one would be active in carrying the Fulbright spirit and got very explicit on how we would like to be seen in carrying out the mission. Sharing the broad range of interpretations amongst the group stimulated an almost endless amount of activities that could contribute to bringing the mission into action. It became apparent that all the “what” we could do would need to face the reality check: what can we realistically implement?

All participants agreed that it would require the combined work of the Board, the Extended Board, the leaders of the Regional Chapters, and each individual Alumni to turn the Fulbright spirit into motion. With time and resources being limited, the main driving force for any Alumni will be the passion for the Fulbright spirit – which each participant captured in his/her very personal mission. The following examples illustrate the diversity:

- *Fulbright macht neugierig, stark & verbindet – Menschen, Gedanken, Geschichten Freundschaften & erzeugt neue Perspektiven*
- *Inspire, share perspectives, have fun and learn!*
- *Fulbright Alumni connecting people, bridging continents, sharing ideas.*
- *To foster German-American friendship – Mutual understanding / closer transatlantic partnership through exchange, education & visits*
- *Fulbright for Life: To contribute to world peace durch meinen bescheidenen persönlichen Beitrag, zusammen mit Gleichgesinnten, denn 1 + 1 = 3*

Guided by the clarity on why we want to be active as the Fulbright Alumni, additional workshops were conducted to brainstorm, share, and determine new ways to shape the Alumni work and activities in the Regional Chapters. With



Presenting the ideas and results



Conversations and discussions

the objective to grow our base of members, a specific focus was given to establish a way to systematically approach new grantees and returnees.

Meeting at various events, members of the Fulbright Alumni network are very active in exchanging ideas, sharing knowledge and supporting each other – much of what could be labeled as ‘mentoring.’ The team took the time to look more specifically at which elements, characteristics and types of interactions would be important to make mentoring an official component in carrying out the Fulbright spirit.

Extensive work during the strategy meeting was also invested in the area of outbound representation and communication. Whilst considerable amount of work has already been put into new concepts for web presence, social networks and visual identity, the responsible team took advantage of the collective knowledge and opinions present at the strategy meeting. Therefore, they were able to make significant progress in laying out a clear path to implementing the new ideas.

All participants left on Sunday not only with concrete work results but also with new inspiration, and the collaborative experience of being able to make an impact in the spirit of Senator Fulbright.

All photos by Wiltrud Hammelstein



Berlin Seminar concluding party at Alte Pumpe;
photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein

Celebrating Connections: Reflecting Upon the 2016 Fulbright Berlin Seminar

by Jasmine Omeke, 2015-2016 Fulbright Research Grantee

Amidst the cling of plates and buzzing chatter, the 62nd Fulbright Berlin Conference came to a close at the Alte Pumpe in Berlin. The eclectic Fulbright 2015-2016 cohort shared their achievements, experiences with acclimating to their towns, comparisons between European schooling systems, and more. Good food and drink eased the exchange, and before long, the excitement moved to the dance floor, adorned with a giant pump, a remnant of the venue's past as a key waste water pumping plant, constructed in the 1880s. The festivities went into the wee hours of the morning. This well-deserved dinner was not only a celebration of each participant's accomplishments over the course of the grant period, but also a close to a week-long conference, jam-packed with constructive activities and presentations.

The conference, held from March 20th to 24th, came to a running start with grantees exploring Berlin during that Sunday afternoon. A range of tours were offered, such as a street art tour, a typical sightseeing tour for Berlin, a visit to the German parliament, and the Palace of Tears ("Tränenpalast"). Moving beyond the surface, Fulbrighters on the street art tour learned that the Berlin graffiti scene has strict guidelines. Artists cannot simply paint over another artist's work if they seek to be respected in the community. Participants on other tours gained insight into the contested history of Berlin and how the city chooses how

to meld its historical underpinning with new urban developments. After the tours returned, the conference was ushered to a start with a welcome dinner and introduction with logistical information. In an unforgettable speech, a former Fulbright journalist recounted his experience as a hostage of Somali pirates and synthesized this experience in relation to current developments in the EU.

During the dinner, Fulbrighters from various countries were reunited and introduced to one another. Chronicling their time in Europe was no easy feat. As English teaching assistants, particle physicists, classics scholars, anthropologists, mathematicians and art historians explained their experiences, they translated their work from field related jargon to relatable terms. The first night was good practice as each grantee found ways to translate their work into a global context, one of the aims of the Fulbright grant.

The pace of the conference switched gears on Monday. American grantees and German grantees preparing to go to the United States in August participated in small group discussions, ranging from gender issues in Germany, modern art initiatives, the refugee situation and its influence in the classroom, trade policy between Europe and the world, and more. After the small discussions, all groups shared their findings with the entire assembly. Later that



Fulbright Alumni workshop warm up; photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein



Musical entertainment at the Berlin Seminar Opening Ceremony
by Joe Nykiel and Désirée Brodka; photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein

night, the opening ceremony was held at the University of the Arts. This event was jammed packed with an interesting array of festivities. Three researchers and one English teaching assistant (ETA) presented their work. We learned about glacial melting and its impact on the environment. The presenter likened the amount of melting to the size of the Bodensee, an unforgettable moment that made his work more accessible to grantees. An ETA shared his search for Jewish history in majority-Catholic Spain.

Another researcher demonstrated how laboratories in Stuttgart used varying techniques to limit the impact of car crashes on the driver. The final panelist explained her research and shared that she would soon give birth to her first child. Two former Fulbrighters, a pianist and an opera singer, two former Fulbrighters, provided attendees with an enchanting performance full of drama and humor. We were regaled with the song, "Why Can't a Girl Have a Fling."

Representatives from the German government and university officials were also in attendance. Ending the night, two Fulbright researchers were given awards for their research accomplishments.

After this ceremony, Fulbrighters were given another chance to network and meet one another. American and German grantees exchanged perspectives and advice.



Author and journalist David Patrician gives opening remarks to Fulbright grantees about the Fulbright mission and the alumni association; photo: Jasmine Omeke



Cottrell-Fulbright Award recipients; photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein

Germans going to the USA in August found Americans from the towns or universities that they would be traveling to in the coming months. American grantees who had not seen one another since their orientation meetings reconnected and made plans to visit one another before the grant period came to a final close.

On Tuesday, the focus of the conference slightly changed. Moving to the Rathaus, the group was given the chance to speak with the mayor's Chief of Protocol and Foreign Policy Advisor, Dr. Volker Pellet. He discussed Berlin as a changing organism, prone to new incursions from developers, but also with a mindful lean to the past and preservation of monuments. Fulbrighters were also given the chance to hear other grantees tell their experiences as part of the European Dimensions Panel. Four panelists regaled conference goers with information about topics ranging from how they acclimated to their host country to their research objectives and goals. Researcher Laura Carter discussed her research project pertaining to French society and how the influence of immigration policy. McKenzie Kuhn, a grantee in Sweden, and Serina Robinson, a grantee in Norway, shared challenges they faced upon arrival in their host country and pictures showcasing the serenity of the Swedish and Norwegian countryside. Directly after this session, the Fulbright alumni association offered a session called "Act on Diversity: Design" in which two



Fulbright Alumni workshop participants; photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein

former German grantees from the Ellery Studio described ways in which design concepts can be diversified.

Wednesday began with some small breakouts among English teaching assistants and researchers. This final day of the conference was the last chance for project presentations. One Fulbrighter explained how he is experimenting with techniques for classroom education. Another researcher detailed his observations of bats and their echo-location abilities in varying conditions. Each presentation was a testament to the diversity of Fulbright projects and how grantees used intellect and creativity to carry out their research and teaching ambitions.

As the saying goes, "Time flies when you're having fun." As the presentations came to a close, Fulbrighters were given a last chance to explore the city and get ready before the closing dinner at the Alte Pumpe.

Let the mingling commence! The farewell party at the Alte Pumpe on the final night was an opportunity for Fulbright grantees to network among great company and good food.

Coming full circle, the conference was a great way to pay homage to the accomplishments of each grantee and optimistically look forward to the further impact of the program as German grantees prepared to go to the United States. Throughout the conference festivities, it was clear that the Fulbright program has a connective power that Fulbrighters will capitalize on in the years to come.



Fulbright Young Leaders Meeting

by Andrea Freiberger and Ning Wang

The regional chapter Munich organized a half day event called the „Fulbright Young Leaders Meeting – Meet the Fulbright Spirit“ on December 5, 2015 at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich. This was an open event for every fellow Fulbrighter and attracted around 35 fellow Fulbright scholars and a few current US Grantees. The people came from different regions in Germany. Most of them graduated in the US no longer than five years ago. The speakers were invited to represent the diversity of the Fulbright program.

The event was divided into three sessions. The first session covered topics which the Fulbright Alumni worked on in the USA or are currently working on in Germany. It covered concepts of the future of aviation, astronomy, or current themes in artificial intelligence. We also got an inside from a former intern at Facebook, who explained us how advertisement in the digital age works. Connections were made, how scholars' personal and professional focus shifted based on their experiences in the States. The speakers revealed interesting details about their fields of expertise and created a room for interdisciplinary discussions and inspired people to discover new perspectives from other professions.



The second part offered perspectives of the Fulbright program itself, and all presentations gave personal insides about each speaker. A scholar of the Diversity Initiative showed us his summer school experience. A US Teaching Assistant reported about her current time in Bavaria, as well as one German scholar, who reported about her former experiences in the USA and how challenging it was sometimes to work against common stereotypes some pupils have about Germany and Bavaria. It was also very inspiring to listen to one speaker's two-year experience as a college student and how he was able to build sustainable friendships and professional connections. He teamed up with a

Fulbright scholar in the field of creative strategy and design thinking.

During the break, two networking activities motivated the audience to meet the speakers and the others at a personal level. It is very surprising how much common ground we all share.

The last session covered the speakers' current career experiences and the questions: What came next – after their Fulbright experience? What was the motivation behind their current career step? What are challenges and specific elements in their particular field? How could they build on their Fulbright experiences? With their individual stories we learned about the preferences and difficulties of entrepreneurs, consultants, communication managers, TV moderators and PhD students. Persistence, self-confidence, curiosity and the courage to try something new – best with people you really like to work with and who are passionate about their theme – seem to be key elements to success. The day ended with a communal dinner in the city of Munich.

We would like to give a very special thanks to our guest – Anthony Miranda for his excellent words in the beginning to set the right tone for this event. We also deeply appreciate the grant of the US Consulate General, Munich.

In a nutshell, this event helped us to remember how precious the Fulbright experience was and showed us how powerful it can be to have a better mutual understanding as Senator Fulbright envisioned for a better future.



All photos: Florian Grigoleit



WATER ACT! Symposium

Building Consensus through Awareness – Paris, November 19-21, 2015

by Julien Vick, President France Fulbright Alumni & Water Act Association,
and Juanita Caspari, Vice President France Fulbright Alumni & Water Act Association



Visiting Austerlitz non-potable water plant



L'amitié franco-allemande-américaine
(Julien Vick, Martin Kohler, David Patrician)



Visiting la Place de la
République to pay our
respects to the victims
of the November 13
Paris Terrorist Attacks;
photo: Martin Kohler

On November 20, 2015, the Hotel de Talleyrand of the Embassy of the United States of America in France hosted a major event of France Fulbright Alumni Assoc.: the WATER ACT Symposium.

The previous day, on November 19, the symposium started with a cocktail reception held at the Hôtel de Lauzun under the auspices of the City of Paris, represented by Mrs. Marie-Christine Lemardeley, Deputy Mayor for research and universities, and Mrs. Celia Blauel, Deputy Mayor for water.

There was also a ground visit on Saturday, November 21, to the Austerlitz non potable water plant (Eau de Paris) which concluded the conference.

France Fulbright Alumni organized the Water Act symposium, on the eve of the COP21, with the objective of contributing to the realization by its members and those of other European countries of the role that water has in the environment and in climate change. The stakes of climate change generally considered quite distant from everyday life in both time and space are acknowledged nowadays like a major worry throughout the world.

The idea was to exchange points of view on scientific, technical, and management questions concerning water in everyday life, and to further investigate on the major concerns of public policies.

The symposium presented new approaches (or not very well-known approaches) and original ideas on water, putting special attention on climate change. Taking into consideration the subjects concerning adaptation and mitigation, the symposium presented analyses and

examples which pretend, among other things, to increase resilience, improve health, and promote economic development, the protection of the ecosystems and the quality of life.

The quality of the event was enhanced by the attention given to aspects such as the diversity of the participants and regional and thematic experiences. The symposium gave the floor to the stakeholders on the subject of water.

On the one hand, several scientific disciplines were represented (hydrology, geology, chemistry, economics, geography, organism, engineering) coming from scientific entities such as the Académie des Sciences, CNRS, and different universities (Paris I Sorbonne, Northern Arizona University, Goethe Universität). On the other hand, water professionals and industrial parties were present, as well as representatives of public agencies, the civil society and international NGOs (Waterrock US, Green Cross).

Finally, the Symposium also enjoyed the attendance of political parties which, by their sole presence, contributed to the attainment of the objectives.

The symposium showed, on the one hand, a multiple approach of the various forms of water – rivers, lakes, resources, urban water, tap water – and, on the other hand, the presence of representing stakeholders – scientists, private sector, public agencies, cities, civil society, indigenous communities. The presentations were on important examples of the European Union, the United States and of several other countries.

Unless otherwise stated, all photos by France Fulbright Alumni



The Water Act Symposium group

Water Act Symposium was sponsored by the Embassy of the United States in France.

Collaborators:

- Senate of the French Republic
- City Hall of Paris
- CNRS/GDRI Group of international research of the CNRS “Water Governance in the Americas” CREDA Center for research and documentation on the Americas, CNRS / Université Paris3

Support:

- Eau de Paris, Green Cross, Veolia Environnement, Suez Environnement, Climespace

Associates:

- Fulbright Franco-American Commission, Fulbright Alumni Assoc. France, German Fulbright Alumni Association, ENAM, and Circle Andrew Young.



Julien Vick



Juanita Caspari

Fulbright Family Weekend 2016

by Uwe Geiss

Where Königstein/Saxon Switzerland
When May 5-8, 2016
Who about 10 Fulbright families with many children from all around Germany and beyond
What Hiking, Rafting, Ice cream stops, coffee breaks, talks about „everything and one thing“

Since 2001, Elke Brosin has been organizing an alternative meeting for Fulbright Alumni with children: the Fulbright Family Weekend. Living near Dresden, she chose the Saxon Switzerland region around the Elbe valley south-east of Dresden as the location for our Family Weekend. To make it worthwhile, it has become a tradition to use the long weekend after Ascension Day for the yearly get-together. Many of the participants have returned frequently, and have seen the children grow from little toddlers to tall teens. And Fullies without children are welcome, too! This year's age range went from 4 to over 50.

Saxon Switzerland is well known for its beautiful and very diverse scenery with woods, rocks, hills, valleys, small canyons, streams, and, of course, the Elbe river. Therefore, most activities are focused on exploring the area either on foot or by boat. The kids love running around the sometimes very narrow trails, climbing on some of the smaller rocks or paddling down the river. As the children have grown older, and the younger can be looked after by the teens, the parents have more time for talks, catching up, and a nice coffee.



This year was another wonderful four-day get-together for Fullies from as far away as Denmark. As I missed the arrival day on Thursday, I met the group on Friday morning at the ferry in Koenigstein. The group welcomed another latecomer and me with a personal serenade! While some stayed back to have a relaxing day at our lodging at the "Family Oasis" on the other side of the river, the majority started out on a hike

over some of the "Steine," the famous steep and rocky table hills of Saxon Switzerland, on the south bank of the Elbe. The first stops was the dark "thieves cave" and the wonderful oversight from the "Quirl". The weather was beautiful, not a cloud in sight. We continued to the "Pfaffenstein" next and took the many steps through the "Nadelöhr" to reach the top. At the inn it was time for our lunch break. We also took a look at the "Barbarine," the rock needle at the southern tip, which used to be a widely known climbing spot, but is now closed due to erosion.

Having walked back down the easy trail, it was time for a bit of soul searching: who wanted to continue, and who preferred the shorter way back to Koenigstein for more time at the ice cream parlor? The group split about two to one. The smaller part continued on to the "Papststein." Not all children had their parents with them, but that is never a problem during the Family Weekends. We stopped at the inn at the hill top to have ice cream. Finally, two fathers took the smaller kids to the nearest bus station in Papstsdorf to catch a bus back to Koenigstein. The other three fathers – all the mothers had opted for the earlier return to Koenigstein :-) – and an older son hiked back to Koenigstein, where they met the others when they arrived by bus. Everybody came together again for dinner and a nice evening of talks and making plans for the next day at the Family Oasis. As usual, the tired kids were very much active again as soon as the trampoline and the soccer pitch were in sight!

The following day, a majority went rafting down the Elbe all the way to Pirna. The group enjoyed the sunshine and cool tailwinds as their rafts meandered down the river. At least one of the boats had more captains than sailors, and struggled to maintain a steady course. This had the advantage of viewing the fortress, the bluffs of the Bastei, and all the other scenery from every angle, though. Steffen, an English teacher at a German school, lead a boat in various camp songs, which helped with morale and



Marvelling at the beautiful scenery



Tough decisions to make



Uwe, our tour guide

good cheer. After reaching Pirna 40 km downstream, the group enjoyed hard-earned ice cream cones and a nice walk through the old town before returning with a local train to Königstein. (rafting paragraph written by Joe Kristensen)

The members of three families chose a second hiking day. The kids chose the destination, the "Labyrinth" (maze), south of Koenigstein. It is a hill top that has many boulders and rocks so there are many different passageways, caves, tunnels, climbs, and resting places – a perfect outdoor playground for everybody with a good balance. The kids love it and the parents have to let go! For the return, we again split between bus users and hikers. However, the next bus from nearby Bielatal was much later (which we couldn't check online – no internet in the woods!), so they ordered a taxi. The hike back over the "Nikolsdorfer Waende" (walls of Nikolsdorf) was shorter and more interesting. We also passed the Koenigstein castle with its high walls and many gates. The group met again at Koenigstein – for ice cream and coffee, of course!

To acknowledge Elke's work to keep the Family Weekend going over the years, the group pitched in for a little present with a very special wrapping: the Fulbright Family Weekend Bag 2016 with signatures and paintings by the groups' members – small and tall.



the Diebeshöhle – one of our stops

After breakfast on the fourth day, we had to say goodbye. For most of us, Ascension Day weekend 2017 will see us return to Koenigstein!

All photos by Elke Handschug-Brosin

Regional Chapter Stuttgart

By Fabian Flohr

In 2016, the Regional Chapter (RC) Stuttgart was primarily concerned with re-establishing ties to non-active alumni, and winning new members. Like in the previous years, we organized our traditional Skyline Chili Dinner on March 19th, and our Independence Day BBQ on July 3rd. A special “Thank You” goes to Jan Makowski and Andreas Eisele, who opened their homes for these traditional events, and who were amazing hosts.

Every two years, the German-American Center Stuttgart organizes the “American Days” in Stuttgart, a festival in Baden-Wuerttemberg that promotes a multitude of cultural events on topics related to the United States. It is sponsored by official partners such as the Robert Bosch Foundation, the German-American Center Stuttgart, the Federal State of Baden-Wuerttemberg, the U.S. Embassy, and the city of Stuttgart (<http://www.americandays.org>).

The Stuttgart Fulbright Alumni were invited by the German-American Center and the James-F.-Byrnes Institute to take part in this great event. As part of the official program of the American Days, we organized an open Meet Up for current grantees, and those who are interested in our work, the Fulbright program, and transatlantic dialogue.

In addition, we host our successful monthly Meet Up on the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm (Restaurant Amadeus, Stuttgart). This year, Jan Makowski passed on the coordination of the RC to Fabian Flohr in order to be able to invest more time to his venture LuxFlux.

Thanks to the dedication and fantastic work of Jan Makowski, and the great support of Jan Eller and Andrew Johnson the transition went smoothly. Thank you!

Regional Chapter Munich

Munich on the Go

by Andreas Schoberth

In addition to the monthly Stammtisch, the Regional Chapter Munich offers a variety of events throughout the year:

- a local Welcome Meeting for grantees and returnees in October,
- the traditional Thanksgiving Dinner at the end of November,
- gift-swapping at the Wichtel-Stammtisch right before Christmas,
- a visit to the Magnolienball as a warm-up to the Fulbright Winterball,
- seasonal outdoor activities like skiing, hiking, biking, and beergardening,
- and, of course, an Independence Day BBQ in early July.

Variety is the spice of life. Therefore we try to add new events to our established program every year, even if it means digging into the history of the local chapter to revive some ideas from past years.



70 year Fulbright Program reception; photos: US Consulate General



Day trip to the mountains; photo: Andreas Schoberth

Almost a decade ago we visited the famous Augsburger Puppenkiste – time to repeat this feat, we thought, and did so on a Sunday afternoon in September of last year. First, Fulbright Alumnus Joachim Wahlich, who is a capacity as a city architect, gave us a city tour and told us about the ups and downs of historic and present-day Augsburg. Afterwards we attended the play “Der kleine Wassermann”. Grown-ups and kids alike greatly enjoyed the day and were almost moved to tears by the play.

We also re-established the cinema group, a special-interest mailing list for film buffs, organized by Astrid Fontius. The group meets about once a month to go to the big screens. Astrid suggests a selection of movies and dates to be voted on in a Doodle ballot. The first movie we saw was the latest Star Wars, Episode VII, but we watch movies from practically any genre.

Early in December, initiated by our association’s national board, the first Fulbright Young Leaders Meeting took place at the University of Munich. It brought together young experts from a wide range of backgrounds. As it is the custom with all Fulbright Alumni events, the local chapter took charge of the organization. For a comprehensive report, see the separate article on page 41.

Another innovation that was implemented in Munich is the Buddy Program. It was conceived at the Strategy Meeting in Mannheim and aims to pair local Alumni and German grantees even before they leave for the US. We all remember how many questions we had before we left for our Fulbright stay. Through the Buddy Program we want to hand some of our experience on to the next generation of Fulbrighters. 13 grantees from Munich and five other cities in southern Bavaria are participating in the pilot run, which started in June

Augsburg city tour; photo: Joachim Wahlich



Kocherlball; photos: Birgit Ostermeier

Did you know that the Fulbright Program celebrates its 70th anniversary this year? To mark the occasion, US Consul General Jennifer Gavito hosted a Cocktail Hour for local grantees and alumni at her Munich residence. A lively crowd of about two dozen Fulbrighters gathered on the lawn on a sunny afternoon and chatted about all and everything. Then Mrs Gavito brought out a toast to the Fulbright spirit and addressed past and future aspects of the program.

Would you voluntarily get up at 5 am on a Sunday morning and dress up in a Dirndl or Lederhosen to dance together with thousands of like-minded people? If so, you should have come with us to the famous Kocherlball, which takes place once a year at the Chinesischer Turm in the English Garden. It has its origins in informal meet-and-dance events of some 150 years ago, when maids and servants gathered early on Sunday mornings to have some fun time before they had to get back to work.

Best wishes from your Regional Chapter!



Augsburger Puppenkiste; photo: Joachim Wahlich

Regional Chapter Frankfurt

By Mario Reichelt

The Frankfurt regional chapter is a large and very inventive chapter due to its interesting mixture of both new and long-time committed members, running from their early 20s to late 50s. The main activity is the “Stammtisch” – the first Thursday of the month, no matter whether this is just a normal Thursday or even a holiday. During the years we had met at strange dates like new year’s day, May 1st or other holidays that happen to coincide with a first Thursday. Not even the soccer match Germany vs. France could keep us from gathering – of course: we had chosen a restaurant with TV. We try to invite to different locations covering international and local cuisine from African to Frankfurt Äbbelwoi restaurants.

At the “Stammtisch” we discuss latest news from here and there, personal and global issues and, of course, the next fun things we could do: outdoor events hiking or biking, cinema, museum (guided tours), theatre or even dance sessions.

A few traditions have been set during the last ten years. The chapter runs with Mario Reichel as regional chief: During the summer, Mario invites the flock into his house for a BBQ on the terrace – of course only together with his wife Evi. In November, we gather for the famous Thanksgiving Turkey dinner at the Arche Nova restaurant. In their green atmosphere we get a whole turkey on the table. Around 40 youngsters and other young-at-hearts from around Frankfurt, Americans and partners in



mind set from PPP to mix up and celebrate. The December gathering is preceded by a stroll on the large Christmas market at the Römer – sometimes a few very bold enter in the merry-go-round. The Städel Museum invited to a “dialogue of master pieces” – we took a guided tour and a restaurant discussion afterwards. The week after that the usual suspects came together for the yearly assembly, this year in Berlin – and could dance the night at the Winterball event.

In February this year, we had again a musical at the English Theater, this time The Life, a multi-award winning musical which lays bare society’s seedy underbelly. Set in a red light district, The Life tells the story of Queen, a destitute woman who has turned to prostitution to support herself and her man. Telling herself its only temporary, Queen soon discovers that breaking out will tear her world apart...

For many, many years we celebrate “4th of July – Independence Day” at the house of Christa and Knut Mittwollen in Offenbach usually the Saturday after. For those



Independence Day BBQ; photo: Knut Mittwollen

sportive enough, the Saturday afternoon start with a bike tour. At the evening we gather for a BBQ and just relaxing. Many thanks for Christa and Knut. This is event is also a farewell party for those who start their Fulbright journey.

The year with the regional chapter has another highlight: the traditional Art Wine Social at Cems Yucetas’ Frankfurt studio, which offered wines – this year from south Americas and homemade dishes (potluck). Thanks to Cem for inviting us again even though he and his young family are not even in Frankfurt anymore.

For quite a few years, our chapter has been managed by a team consisting of Isabelle Boeddinghaus, Carsten Kuschnerus and Mario Reichel, as well as our talented web manager Reinhard Koch and not to forget Aline Klingberg, our excellent treasurer – not only responsible for our regional chapter but also several times for the big event Welcome Meeting.

Lucky in Frankfurt, we can join events from the US consulate like discussion rounds about the election and similar affairs over there. Also a cooperation with the “young chapter” of the DGAP (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik eV) lead to several interesting evenings, just to mention the panel discussion with Tarek Al-Wazir.

Being new in Frankfurt is all about making new friends, exchanging experiences and getting to know Frankfurt. We turn around in Frankfurt, not just in the center, for interesting “Stammtisch” locations and other events. Feel free to have a look at our website <https://www.fulbright-alumni.de/regional-chapters/frankfurt.html> or just come and visit us in person. All our events are announced in the newsletter and written in the calendar. Just put your address in! We are always glad to welcome you at our chapter and happy to receive new input!



Winetasting; photo: Mario Reichelt

Regional Chapter Dresden

by Elke Handschug-Brosin



Thanksgiving Dinner Regional Chapter Dresden



Our three American guests

The regional chapter Dresden held a Thanksgiving Dinner November 28, 2015. We were happy to welcome three Americans to the party (see also the photo). Bernd made an excellent turkey as always and we had pumpkin pie for dessert – hand-made by our American guests. It was a feast!

All photos by Elke Handschug-Brosin

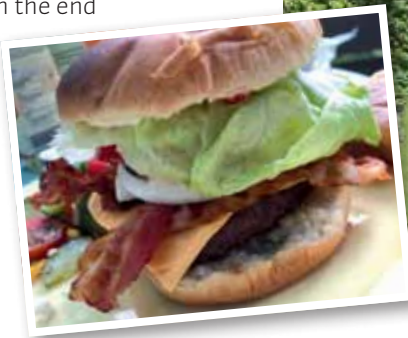
Regional Chapter Duesseldorf/Rhein-Ruhr

By Michael Vetter and Ines Winkler

The chapter covers many cities and challenges the RC coordinators' planning for every Stammtisch. So we continued to choose different cities for each Stammtisch to enable everyone to join. At the beginning of 2016, we set our quarterly Stammtisch dates for the whole year to make planning easier. We hope it'll work out and more Fullies will join our get-togethers.

Besides the Stammtisch events, it is Thanksgiving and July 4th that brings the group together. Thanksgiving 2015 was hosted by the Martin family. We chose Sunday after Thanksgiving to celebrate, and about 14 Fullies and partners/families attended our dinner with a delicious turkey and many different American dishes. Roughly half a year later, we celebrated the Independency Day BBQ one day early in Essen in Doris' garden. Although the weather reminded us of April at first, in the end it was a perfect day (and setting) for our annual BBQ.

In order to offer more than eating, drinking and talking in our RC :) we are planning a half-day-conference on education in the digital age in early November. So stay tuned!



Regional Chapter Franken

Independence Day homemade

By Désiree Doyle

The Franconian Regional Chapter is very small, only consisting of approximately forty members. That makes parties a very exclusive event. Even so, four members came together to celebrate July 4th, i.e. ten percent. Which other chapter can be so proud and claim ten percent membership being present at a party?

It was a nice afternoon and we started the party at about 5 p.m. We had noodle salads, baguettes, mixed salad, corn, and meat on our table. A really delicious selection for the main course, but the very best was still waiting for us: triple chocolate cookies. They were so extraordinarily tasty and melted on your tongue. An experience to die for, trust me!

And a medium sweet red wine to go with it all. What else can make a perfect day?

We kept on talking until 10.30 p.m., a really thrilling conversation: We started with stories about our studies – what has changed between the eighties and today? We found out that a lot of challenges are still the same. We then turned to religion – what is special about the American Bible Belt? We then changed to philosophy – what is faith all about – and finally ended up with science fiction.

All in all, everybody enjoyed this party and went home very happy.

Regional Chapter Hamburg

Moin aus Hamburg!

By David Patrician

It has been an exciting and busy year for the Hamburg Chapter. Once again we had the privilege of hosting the Fulbright Alumni Welcome Meeting this past October. The Welcome Meeting is a great opportunity for returning Fulbrighters to learn about the alumni association, meet fellow Fulbrighters and explore the host city. We had a record turnout of over 120 participants! A special thanks to Aline Klingberg for helping plan and organise the event. We are looking forward to hosting the Welcome Meeting once again in October.

In November, we continued the tradition of our Thanksgiving Bowling Night. This event has become one of our annual highlights and we enjoyed an evening of bowling and fun. Some other Stammtisches this past year include exploring Hamburg's Christmas Markets, touring a few local breweries, visiting lectures at the Amerikazentrum and attending a theater performance at Hamburg University.

Over the past few years, we have reached out to the current American Fulbrighters in Hamburg and invited them to join our events. The alumni enjoy seeing what current Fulbrighters are doing and also sharing stories from their time abroad. Two of our American ETA Fulbrighters, Alex Swanson and Sarah Sexton, became active in the Access Program. The English Access Microscholarship Program (Access) provides a foundation of English language skills to talented 13-20 year-olds from economically disadvantaged sectors through after-school classes and intensive sessions. Access gives participants English skills that may lead to better jobs and educational prospects. Participants also gain the ability to compete for and participate in future exchanges and study in the United States. A great program that truly captures the Fulbright spirit ... great job girls!

Finally, on a private note, I and many of our alumni were deeply saddened to hear the news of the passing of Dr. Hoffmann, Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission in Berlin. Over the past few years I had worked with him on several projects and was proud to call him a friend. Rolf, you will be missed ... but not forgotten.



Regional Chapter Mannheim-Heidelberg

Greetings from Mannheim-Heidelberg!

by Benjamin Pflieger

Located in one of Germany's finest regions, the regional chapter Mannheim-Heidelberg encompasses everything between the Palatinate Forest in the west and the "Odenwald" in the East. The chapter's boundaries boast two internationally renowned, top-ranked universities. Several students from abroad choose to study in Mannheim-Heidelberg on a Fulbright scholarship.



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

Generally, the regional chapter meets either in Mannheim or Heidelberg. Some of the chapter's annual highlights include a traditional Thanksgiving dinner and a 4th of July Independence Day BBQ.

Last year's Thanksgiving served as another testimony to Julianne McCall's incredible cooking skills. Participants at the event enjoyed one of the most delicious turkeys ever! It is with great regret that we need to say good-bye to Julianne McCall, who will move back to the States later this year. Julianne, you have been the most amazing host in all those past years. Thank you for all your hard work. We will miss you dearly, but we have no doubt that you will succeed in whatever you want to accomplish. We wish you best of luck! I am feeling very blessed that our paths have crossed. Take care.

If you want to join our activities or for information regarding future events, please send an email to rc.mannheim-heidelberg@fulbright-alumni.de or visit the calendar on fulbright-alumni.de.

All photos by Benjamin Pflieger



Regional Chapter Berlin

Staying Connected in the Capital

by Alex Wilkerson

The Berlin chapter and friends have been experiencing a fantastic year and start to 2016 thus far – check out what we've been up to!

We had quite an exciting Thanksgiving party last year, and with the support of the US Embassy in Berlin, were glad to host 50+ attendees. This time we held it at a local community center in Kreuzberg that supports and provides education for disadvantaged urban youth. Not only were many Fulbrighters in attendance, but we were also joined by friends and alumni of the Parlamentarisches Patenschafts-Programm (PPP), among others. After a quick run out to grab the cooked bird, I came back to the venue shocked to see twice as many hungry faces as when I had left – and was able to successfully carve the turkey in front of the crowd thanks to the help of Fulbright alumnus Ahmad Shawabkeh. We also had a big clean-up crew at the end of the night, and as in the spirit of Thanksgiving, the Fulbright community truly is a family and it is great to see such teamwork and friendly support within the network. You guys rock!

However, certainly the greatest highlight of our year thus far was the annual Winter Ball and General Assembly, this time held at Universal Hall, a historic 'Berlinerische' pumping house in the Tiergarten area. And what better way to celebrate: the occasion of this year's Winter Ball and General Assembly took place over the 30-year anniversary of the signing of the statutes of the Fulbright Alumni e.V. It was an honor to come together and commemorate this historic date by dancing the night away into the association's anniversary!

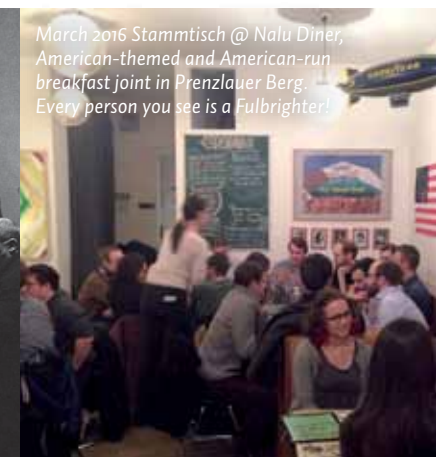
Alex and Ahmad serving up the bird to the hungry spectators



Feelin' the music – Brown University Jazz Band @ Prachtwerk, Berlin



March 2016 Stammtisch @ Nalu Diner, American-themed and American-run breakfast joint in Prenzlauer Berg. Every person you see is a Fulbrighter!



In Berlin, we try to host each normal Stammtisch at a myriad of locations around the city, both to accommodate the varying locations of all our alumni and also to just try out something new. In February, we had some great discussions at cult jazz bar 'Yorkschröschchen' in Berlin's Bergmannkiez, while in March, we tried out 'Nalu Diner', a Hawaiian-owned Americana restaurant in Prenzlauer Berg – one of the only American-style breakfast diners in the city that will serve you a bottomless cup of joe! Aside from various cafes in Tiergarten and Kreuzberger areas, we also had our June Stammtisch at Prater Garten, one of the city's oldest Biergartens and one that is full of life – plus they serve excellent beer!

We were also invited to check out the Brown University Jazz Band at Prachtwerk in Berlin-Neukölln, a great place owned and operated by a Fulbright alum. The Brown University Jazz Band put on an amazing set – they were just closing up their world tour and Berlin alumni were invited to come check them out.

More recently, alumna Laura Lasswell started an amazing new project: she is coordinating a running club for refugees in Berlin, supported by a grant from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. The refugee situation in Berlin is very serious, with the refugees often having little to no opportunities for social engagement. It's great to have fantastic alumni engaging themselves to help try and improve their situation!

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.



Winner of the Mulert Award

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



Global Colleagues

Last year, 193 member states of the UN agreed on 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets contained in the so-called 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To achieve these goals, new interdisciplinary research is urgently needed that can help understand and overcome global challenges such as inequality, climate change, or health pandemics. Young scholars, and especially a new generation of poverty and sustainability researchers, will play a major role in this process. We need their ideas and approaches, local and global knowledge, and above all their constructive critique of policy that can inform policy-makers – and keep them on their toes.

Poverty research needs to be interdisciplinary and engage with policy. But it also needs to be global and equitable. Many researchers, especially those who are in the early stages of their careers, and who are working at less well-resourced regional universities or colleges in the Global South, can feel distanced from global networks and the

kinds of research support available elsewhere. So how can we best promote the next generation of poverty and sustainability scholars, especially in the Global South?

We think that academic micro-partnerships can be a big part of the answer. Last year, a team of volunteers and I set up Global Colleagues, a one-to-one academic partnership program between poverty scholars in the Global North and South. Together with the organization Academics Stand Against Poverty (ASAP) we matched nearly 70 scholars in micro-partnerships from all around the world – from Bangladesh to Germany, from the US to Zimbabwe. The spectrum of research topics is huge and ranges from institutional safeguards for children's rights in Nigeria, to Indian identity politics, global food security, tax evasion by mining companies in Africa, ocean acidification and small-scale fisheries, ethnocultural justice, rural insurgency in Mexico, public services delivery in Cambodia and critical development studies.

The one-year partnership connects pairs of colleagues to engage in a mutually beneficial exchange. The partnership enables experienced researchers already embedded in rel-

evant networks to better understand the context of their younger colleagues and, ideally, opens up opportunities for research collaboration on poverty-related issues. The primary goal of micro-partnerships is to help colleagues in the early stages of their career. More experienced colleagues support them by providing feedback on their research and professional goals, recommending books and articles, giving guidance on targeting publications, and where possible, making introductions and identifying conference and funding opportunities. Ideally, the learning is mutual: we designed Global Colleagues as a partnership, not a mentorship program – and we tried to incorporate this in our day-to-day management.

To better understand expectations and concerns of young scholars, we recently completed a survey of scholars in the early stages of their careers, asking them about their perspective on poverty research, academia in the North and South, as well as their views on partnership programs. We were astonished to see how much an unfunded program like ours can achieve and how much demand there is for similar micro-partnership programs. We are enthusiastic to share our findings – and are now looking for partners that can help us scale these insights. More of our work can be found at www.collab2030.org; the cohort website can be found at gc.academicsstand.org. I am very grateful for the recognition of our work with the Jürgen Mulert Award and would like to thank the German Fulbright Alumni Association, ASAP, my team of volunteers and – above all – the participating colleagues.

Dr. Robert Lepenies is the recipient of the WZB A.SK Social Sciences Post-Doctoral Award 2015 at the Social Science Center Berlin, and teaches at the FU Berlin. He has studied and worked at the European University Institute, the Hertie School of Governance, the University of Oxford, the London School of Economics, and Yale University.



Robert Lepenies at the Award Ceremony with Vanessa Vergin; photo: Wiltrud Hammelstein



Global Colleagues around the world

Dr. Prince Osei-Wusu Adjei

has been one of the participating colleagues of the first cohort. He specializes in Poverty Reduction and Rural Development Strategies, Decentralization and Local Governance at the Department of Geography and Rural Development at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Ghana. Throughout the year, he collaborated with Prof. emerita Else Oyen, a highly influential expert in the field of social policy and poverty who worked at the University of Bergen (Norway).



Mulert Award 2017 – 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 2017 Mulert Award. Nominees must be former participants of one of the many Fulbright programs. Nominated projects may be professional or volunteer, and may have 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 on March 18, 2017, in Mainz
- project summary and author biography in the 2017 issue of the FRANKly magazine as well as on the Association's website
- 500 EUR monetary support for the awarded project
- Networking opportunities within the Fulbright Alumni community
- full travel support

The Call for Nominations will be accessible online until November 27, 2016.

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

Contact:

Steffen Schmuck-Soldan
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