

STRATA

AMERICAN FRIENDS

OF THE ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT FOUNDATION



AvH President Robert Schloegl met with Boston-area Humboldtians during his visit in August

BACK ROW: Dr. Katja Yang (AvH), Professor Sally Sedgwick, AFAvH president Christian Haenel, AvH president Robert Schloegl, Professor Miklos Porkolab, Mr. Timothy Brooks

FRONT ROW: Dr. Johanna Seibert (AvH), AFAvH Director of Advancement Ms. Jessica Hamilton, AFAvH Board member Dr. Andrea Stith, Ms. Rachel Nadkarni, Professor Kathleen Coleman, Professor Stephen L. Buchwald, and Professor Margarita Balmaceda

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OUR MISSION -

To become a leading source in the United States for the promotion of national and international networking, exchange, and creative collaboration among scientists, scholars, artists, and other professionals, consistent with the goals of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation of Germany.

OUR VISION -

To mobilize the intellectual curiosity, creativity, experience, and passion of Humboldtians to shape research, higher education, and professional development in the United States and beyond.



THE TIME FOR SCIENCE DIPLOMACY IS NOW. THIS IS THE TIME FOR HUMBOLDTIANS.

Christian Haenel

Alexander von Humboldt was a German naturalist and explorer whose primary focus was scientific exploration and research.

Alexander von Humboldt was also a science diplomat whose work had significant international implications. He fostered international cooperation through collaborations with scientists and scholars in the countries he visited and established political connections and exchanged knowledge across borders. Humboldt's insights profoundly influenced political decisions related to trade, agriculture, and environmental conservation and his work embodies current definitions of science diplomacy, such as that of Nina V. Federoff, former Science and Technology Advisor to the US Secretary of State:

Science diplomacy is the use of scientific collaborations among nations to address the common problems facing [...] humanity and to build constructive international partnerships.

Today, science diplomacy is more important than ever. Our societies face challenges that affect everyone on the planet—global warming, public health, and international security, to name just a few. At the same time, rhetoric—and policies—on de-globalization, renationalization, and decoupling have entered the political and societal mainstreams. Such “de-s” and “re-s” are poison for scientific progress. After all, climate change does not stop at the border between a democracy and an autocracy, and viruses do not care about the political views of their hosts. If we want to tackle global challenges, we cannot afford to think and act in regional spheres.

Our world needs leaders who drive scientific exchange and research collaboration across borders, and across sectors, be they in academia, the private sector or nonprofit sphere, or the public or philanthropic sectors. We need science diplomats, and we have many in our global network—30,000 Humboldtians. When it comes to science diplomacy, Humboldtians have been there, done that. In addition to being experts in their relevant fields, they all are experienced practitioners of international exchange and collaboration.

The mission of American Friends of AvH is to cultivate the network within the network, that is, the community of US-based Humboldtians. We aim to engage these almost 6,000 brilliant minds and influential voices as much as possible. The list of our activities since the beginning of this year keeps growing. We have engaged on topics such as AI, diversity, equity, and inclusion, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the future of US-Chinese science and research exchange, cancer research, and so on. Our approach is always transatlantic, our perspective is always global.

We are also building strategic partnerships with other like-minded organizations to further elevate our brand recognition and impact on both sides of the Atlantic. Since I began outreach efforts around the United States, we have received substantial interest from potential partners. This is largely due to the fact that we bring a great asset to any partnership—our network of almost 6,000 Humboldtians. This is a network that extends across the United States—beyond the beltway, between the coasts, from the North to the South.

American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation aspires to be a driving force in international science and research exchange and collaboration. To achieve this, we rely on our Humboldtians as experts, speakers, co-developers, advisors, and partners—and as science diplomats.

Please get in touch if you would like to work with us in tackling the most urgent global challenges of today. We look forward to sharing more about our upcoming programs and initiatives. Exciting things are on the horizon, such as programs on sustainable AI, neuroscience and robotics, historical memory in international relations, fake news and deteriorating trust in science, and more. Next spring, we plan to co-shape the Johns Hopkins University Science Diplomacy Summit 2024 in Washington, DC. We invite you to collaborate with us on that, and on all our other programs. Because the time for science diplomacy is now. And this is the time for US Humboldtians to shine.

HUMBOLDTIAN DONOR STORIES | IMPACT MAKERS

DR. ELISABETH MALSCH

GIVING BACK TO SUSTAIN THE HUMBOLDT EXPERIENCE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION (STP 2004)



American Friends of AvH (AFAvH) is grateful to individuals who demonstrate their commitment to the Humboldt experience and ethos through their major and planned gifts, and through their involvement in the US Humboldt network. We recently engaged Dr. Elisabeth Malsch in a conversation about the impact of her contributions to American Friends of AvH.

Dr. Malsch is a leader in the forensics practice at Thornton Tomasetti in New York and serves on the American Friends of AvH Board of Directors. She also chairs our Program committee, leading the organization in the creation and implementation of a suite of impactful programming that engages and supports US Humboldt alumni, and extends the Humboldt experience to the next generation.

Through generous financial and time contributions to American Friends of AvH, Dr. Malsch emphasizes her motivation to support AFAvH is rooted in the spirit of giving back in honor of her Humboldt experience that provided connection, interaction, and scholarship that the AvH promotes in pursuit of a better world.

“American Friends of AvH seeks to invite new people into this experience by reaching out to communities that haven’t previously had the same connection, as we continue to share the spirit of interaction and connection through exchange, which is really important as we face so many global challenges. By supporting American Friends of AvH, I help open the door for others to connect to this network and bring their brilliant selves to it,” Dr. Malsch said.

American Friends of AvH programs strive to cultivate and connect the US Humboldt alumni network and extend the experience of connection through scholarly exchange to future Humboldtians, as well as to those who appreciate the Humboldtian spirit of transatlanticism and scientific diplomacy.

“My favorite AFAvH program is the Humboldt Dialogue series. What I love about the Humboldt Dialogues is that anyone who is interested can engage and connect with this amazing network of really accomplished people—from Nobel Laureates to diplomats—and invites open conversation on the topics of our time. I like the inclusivity of the program that I find to be uniquely American,” Dr. Malsch said.

When asked directly about the impact of American Friends of AvH, Dr. Malsch enthusiastically declares, “AFAvH programs stretch the tight muscles in examining the topics of our time that we may take for

granted when only viewing them from the American perspective. Just as Humboldt wrote letters as a way of learning from others nearly two centuries ago, we at American Friends of AvH continue to open the door, from this side of the Atlantic, to see and learn from other cultures.”

The unrestricted gifts we receive support our mission to sustain the US partnership with Germany and extend the benefits of the Humboldt experience to a new and inclusive generation of US scientists, scholars, and professionals.

“This ability to connect with other people who are curious through the Humboldt connection—in my case a fellowship—is a gift. Now, the gift of being part of American Friends is to connect across cultures in the United States (and back to Germany and the many cultures connected via the Humboldt network). This connection is precious and leads to unexpected good things that impact our world for the better,” said Dr. Malsch to conclude our conversation.

American Friends of AvH is grateful for all of Dr. Elisabeth Malsch’s gifts of time, talent, and treasure she generously and tirelessly contributes. If you are interested in getting involved and contributing to American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, contact Jessica Hamilton, Director of Advancement, via email: jhamilton@americanfriendsofahv.org.

“By supporting American Friends of AvH, I help open the door for others to connect to this network and bring their brilliant selves to it.”

American Friends of AvH was pleased to welcome three new additions to our Board of Directors this month and we wanted to introduce them to the US Humboldt alumni network.

FEATURED SCHOLAR

An Interview with John W. Boyer



John W. Boyer is Senior Advisor to the President and the Martin A. Ryerson Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of History at the University of Chicago. He served as Dean of the College from 1992 through June 2023.

AFAvH: Tell us about your background and your experience as a Humboldt Research Fellow.

A: I am a historian of Central European history at the University of Chicago,

specializing in the history of the Habsburg Empire. I was fortunate to receive a Humboldt Fellowship in 1980–81 to the University of Munich. My sponsor at Munich was the prominent German historian Thomas Nipperdey. The fellowship enabled me to do research in Munich and in Vienna on what would become my second book, *Culture and Political Crisis in Vienna: Christian Socialism in Power, 1897–1918* (University of Chicago Press, 2015).

AFAvH: Tell us about a recent book or project.

A: My most recent book is a large history of the Habsburg Empire and modern Austria, entitled *Austria 1867–1955* (Oxford University Press, 2022), as part of the *Oxford History of Modern Europe Series*.

I have been to Vienna many times in order to complete the research for this book, but my Humboldt fellowship was of critical importance to helping me gain access to many archives and library collections that were also useful to me much later in writing the Oxford book.

Continued on page 5

FEATURED SCHOLAR

An Interview with Emily Yates Giulioni



Emily Yates Giulioni is chief innovation officer at the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA). She previously served as Philadelphia's smart city director and was a German Chancellor Fellow from 2010 to 2011.

AFAvH: Tell us about your background and your experience as a German Chancellor Fellow.

A: My career path has not been linear, but the consistent thread throughout is my growing

knowledge of city systems. I pursued a degree in Landscape Architecture with the intent of becoming a golf course architect. However, I had amazing professors who instilled in me a passion about the space between buildings and how it affects people. It was the start of a passion for city systems and spaces. Since then, I've dabbled in economic development, urban planning, sustainability, data, and technology. My time as a German Chancellor Fellow further strengthened my love of cities and my awareness of the key role that collaboration, communication, and partnerships

play in implementing successful projects and programs. Additionally, I continue to keep in touch with many of the contacts I made in Germany and with other Chancellor fellows and continue to learn from them.

AFAvH: Tell us about the research you conducted while on your fellowship.

A: Prior to the fellowship, I was a neighborhood planner for the District of Columbia planning office. I was looking for best practices in how to incorporate

Continued on page 5

FEATURED SCHOLAR

An Interview with Hugo Sanabria



Professor Hugo Sanabria is an Associate Professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Clemson University.

AFAvH: Tell us about your background and your experience as a Humboldt Research Fellow.

A: My academic journey began with a BS in Physics Engineering from Tec of

Monterrey, Mexico. Subsequently, I pursued an MS and PhD in Physics at the University of Houston, working under the supervision of Dr. John H. Miller. Following my graduation, I secured a postdoctoral fellowship from the Gulf Coast Consortia, delving into the study of learning and memory at the molecular level under the mentorship of Dr. M. Neal Waxham at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. Thanks to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation research fellowship, I moved to Düsseldorf, Germany with my family

and continued my research at Heinrich Heine University. There, I worked under the supervision of Dr. Claus A. M. Seidel, contributing to the development and enhancement of single-molecule fluorescence methods for investigating the structure and dynamics of proteins.

The AvH fellowship significantly influenced my personal life, enabling me to deeply immerse myself in a new culture, learn a new language, travel to new places, and forge meaningful connections with new friends and colleagues.

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Boyer from page 4

AFAvH: What motivated you to join the AFAvH Board of Directors?

A: I am very grateful to the Humboldt Foundation for helping me in my research at a critical time in my career. I had already published one book and gained tenure as an associate professor at my university, but I needed to move forward with the research for my second book. Second books are critical to the careers of

humanistic scholars—if one can write a successful second book, it is much easier to write a third and a fourth book as well (I have written five books so far over my career). Without the support of the Humboldt Foundation, my second book project would have been significantly more difficult for me to accomplish in a timely way.

AFAvH: What do you hope to help AFAvH accomplish as a new addition to the Board of Directors?

A: I am eager to help support the work of the Foundation in encouraging more scientific contacts among American, German, and other European scholars. The latter point is worth emphasizing: Humboldt has an immensely powerful reputation across Europe as a sponsor of high-quality research, and I believe that it is important that the European dimensions of the Humboldt network be emphasized. 🌐

Giulioni from page 4

climate adaptation and mitigation more effectively into waterfront development. Selecting Hamburg as the city for my fellowship was an easy choice! My host was HafenCity Universitaet, which was great because I ended up engaging in EU-level research projects in addition to my research project. I learned a lot about the nuances of development in Germany, but the biggest takeaway

for me was the broad network I developed.

AFAvH: What motivated you to join the AFAvH Board of Directors?

A: There are only a few moments in my life that I feel clearly led me to where I am right now. My year as a German Chancellor Fellow was a catalytic year—it shaped me personally and professionally in ways that I am grateful for each day. I think this

is something that everyone should get to experience, and I want to help support that.

AFAvH: What do you hope to help AFAvH accomplish as a new addition to the Board of Directors?

A: I hope that I bring a new perspective to the Board, and I hope to help find ways to expand the impact of the programs offered by the AvH. 🌐

DONOR HONOR ROLL • January 1, 2022–December 31, 2022

\$1000 and over

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Sudhakar Reddy
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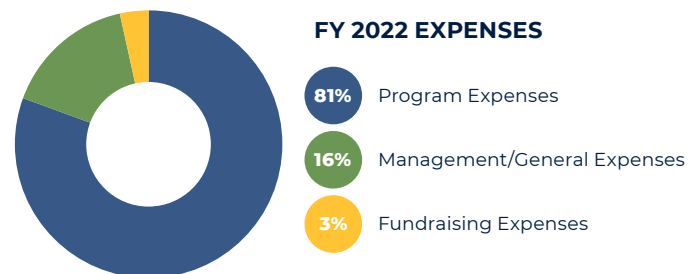
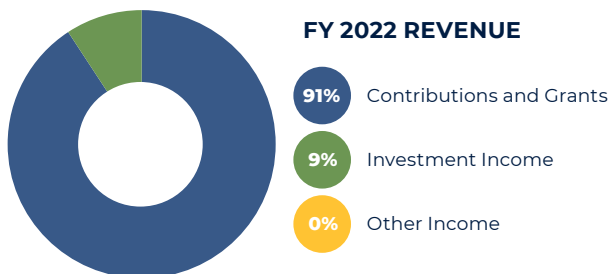
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AUDITED REVENUE & EXPENSES | FY 2022 \$1.0 M BUDGET



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Robert Frakes	Peter Kahn	Curtis Menyuk	Klaus Schmitt	Sven Treitel
B. Ronald Frost	Dennis Kehoe	Carmelo Mesa-Lago*	Meinhard Schobeiri	Klaus Truemper
Jack Giesecking	Andreas Keil	Josef Michl*	David Leon	Alexander Tzagoloff
Robert Gilbert	Edward Keller	James Roger and	Schoenbaum	Roger Vogler
Geoffrey Giles	George Kenagy	Kathleen Milch	Julian Schroeder*	Min-Chi von Trentini
James Goehring	Wolfgang Ketterle	Ognjen Miljanic	Lenhart Karl Schubert*	Matthias Vorwerk
Yury Gogotsi	Ruth Klausner*	Ernest Moniz	Paul Schwartz	Sigurd Wagner
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Gerald Alan Goldin	John Kovar	Bruno Nachtergaele	Peter Sedwick	Richard Walker
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Lewis Harvey Jr.	Robert Louden	Mark Rectanus	Joseph Richard Smyth	Christoph Wolff
Susan Heller-Zeisler	Paul Michael Luetzeler	Thomas William Reps	Janis Little Solomon	Joe Wong
Edith and Lane	Stephen Mackwell	Simon Richter	Alexander Soudackov	Ya-Hong Xie
Hemaspaandra	Charles Maier	Richard Rigg	John Staddon	Hyuk Yu
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Larry Hickman	Christina Markert	Matthew Roller	Holly Stein	James Ziegler
Stefan Hofmann	James Markham	Guillermo Rosas	Herbert Steiner	
Jiri Janata and	Steven Martinson	James Rovnyak	Andrea Stith	
Mirosława Josowicz	Thomas McCarthy	Joseph Sanger*	Jenny Strauss Clay	
Bahram Javidi	Brian McCook	William Saul	Eric Sundberg	
Peter Jelavich	Kevin McCrimmon			
Cassandra Johnson	Kenneth Robert			
Gaither	McLeish			

*Denotes individuals who made multiple contributions in 2022

Sanabria from page 5

AFAvH: Tell us about the research you conducted while on your fellowship.

A: While conducting research in Germany, we focused on examining the dynamic movements of enzymes during catalysis. The outcomes of this work were documented in several publications and laid the groundwork for establishing my research group at Clemson University in 2014. Subsequently, we have broadened the scope of this approach,

employing it to observe various biomolecules involved in neuronal connections, gene regulation, and other processes. Leveraging this newly developed methodology, we have crafted dynamic structural models with near-atomic resolution.

AFAvH: What motivated you to join the AFAvH Board of Directors?

A: I decided to accept the nomination to the AFAvH Board because of the impact the AvH fellowship had on my career and personal life. I see Board membership as a way to pay it

forward to the ever growing community of fellow Humboldtians. It is my pleasure to support the AFAvH mission and vision.

AFAvH: What do you hope to help AFAvH accomplish as a new addition to the Board?

I want to keep promoting excellence in research and cooperation between academics in the United States and Germany. I also want to ensure that we find equitable practices and promote diversity in science and research. 🌍

COMING UP IN 2024

American Friends of AvH will attend the following meetings in 2024.

Southeast German Studies Consortium Workshop

Tuscaloosa, AL | February 22-23, 2024

European Career Fair

Boston, MA | March 1, 2024

American Physical Society Meeting

Minneapolis, MN | March 5-7, 2024

EU Open House Day at the German Embassy

Washington, DC | May 4, 2024

American Chemical Society Meeting

Denver, CO | August 19-21, 2024

Society for Neuroscience Meeting

Chicago, IL | October 6-8, 2024