

2008 Calder Research Fellow Selected

American Friends has awarded the 2008 William M. Calder III Fellowship for Classical Studies to Dr. Wolfgang Polleichtner. Dr. Polleichtner is a 2008 recipient of a Feodor Lynen Fellowship.

Dr. Polleichtner studied Classics, German, and philosophy at universities in Ireland, Switzerland, the United States, and Germany. Polleichtner's MA thesis dealt with the influence of Plato's techniques in constructing dialogues on Thomas More. His dissertation investigated the philosophical and literary background of Aeneas' emotions in Vergil's *Aeneid*.

Dr. Polleichtner currently is working on his *Habilitation* at the Ruhr-Universität at Bochum, Germany, on Thucydides. As part of that project, Dr. Polleichtner will study Livy's debt to this great Athenian historian, working with Professor Timothy Moore in the Department of Classics at the University of Texas at Austin.

The Calder Fellowship is made possible through a generous gift from William M. Calder III, William Abbott Oldfather Professor of the Classics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a recipient of the Humboldt Research Award in 1997.

American Friends awards one Calder Research Fellowship annually to a young, highly qualified German scholar to pursue research in classical studies with an established scholar who previously received a grant from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

Additional information on the Calder Research Fellowship can be found on the American Friends website at: www.americanfriends-of-avh.org/programs_and_services/calder.html.

AvH on Display

To increase visibility of the programs of the Humboldt Foundation, American Friends participates in a variety of scholarly meetings and scientific conferences. American Friends will exhibit at these meetings:

October 16, 2008

NIH Job Fair for Postdoctoral, Research, and Clinical Fellows
National Institutes for Health – Bethesda, Maryland

November 15-19, 2008

Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience
Washington Convention Center – Washington, DC

January 11-15, 2009

Transportation Research Board – 88th Annual Meeting
Marriott Wardman Park Hotel – Washington, DC



NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION

Alexander von Humboldt Professorship

Germany has taken another major step to ensure that it attracts the best research talent from around the world.

The Alexander von Humboldt Professorship enables leading international researchers to come to Germany for a period of five years and base themselves at a German university or research unit. Award winners will have the freedom to create their own working conditions and will pursue research in Germany virtually unaffected by administrative constraints.

The award, totaling 5 million EUR for academics in experimental disciplines and 3.5 million EUR for researchers in theoretical disciplines, is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. The funding is designed to increase Germany's long-term international competitiveness by attracting cutting-edge academics to Germany to carry out research and cooperation in the joint development of new strategic research focus areas. Up to ten awards are scheduled to be granted annually.

Academics of all disciplines from abroad who are internationally recognized as leaders in their field are eligible to be nominated for an Alexander von Humboldt Professorship. Nominations may be made by German universities; non-university research institutions may also submit nominations jointly with a German university.

The deadlines for nominations in 2009 are January 15, May 15, and October (date not yet determined). For more information, go to www.humboldt-foundation.de.

Foundation Unveils Revamped Website and E-newsletter

In June, the Humboldt Foundation launched a redesigned website featuring a streamlined look and a user-friendly design. The website, available in English and German, provides easy access to information and applications on the Foundation's current sponsorship opportunities. For Humboldtians, the site is a service portal that can be used to update contact information, post academic articles, and use the Network Online to search for other Humboldtians.

In addition, a new electronic newsletter features news, stories, portraits, and interviews from the Humboldt network of more than 23,000 researchers worldwide. The newsletter also provides links to recent press releases and issues of *Humboldt Kosmos*. To register for the newsletter and the Network Online, visit www.humboldt-foundation.de.

About Strata

Strata is the newsletter of American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, an organization established in the United States in 1999 to promote scholarship and cross-cultural understanding by supporting the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. The logo of American Friends is based on Humboldt's scientific representation of the mountain Chimborazo in Ecuador, which he climbed in 1802.

About American Friends

American Friends of the AvH Foundation is a tax-exempt charity within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. American Friends appreciates gifts of any amount and can receive contributions by check, by credit or debit card (see our website), or in appreciated property (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, or real estate). American Friends accepts bequests and is honored to receive memorial gifts. For further information, contact Cathleen Fisher, Executive Director, at cathleen.fisher@americanfriends-of-avh.org.

STRATA

Fall 2008



From the Executive Director

These are exciting times for American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. As we report in this edition of *Strata*, at the end of the year, we will be joining forces with the Alexander von Humboldt Association of America. The two organizations have long shared a common commitment to advancing the goals and programs of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Through our amalgamation, we hope to create a stronger, united partner in the United States for the Humboldt Foundation.

American Friends is undergoing other important changes in its leadership and structure. In July, Dr. Daniel Fallon succeeded Dr. Robert Grathwol as president of American Friends. We also welcome three new members to our Board: Peggy Kuo, a former German Chancellor Fellow, and Dr. Jaan Laane and Dr. Anrim Meyburg, both Humboldtians and currently president and vice president of the AvHAA, respectively.

Following amalgamation, a new Alumni Council will shape a program of activities to develop and strengthen ties among Humboldtians in the United States, building on the initiatives and ideas of alumni. Carrying on the tradition of the AvHAA, the Alumni Council of American Friends will continue to sponsor a lecture in Dr. Hanle's name.

As the new Executive Director of American Friends, I am pleased to carry on the good work of my predecessor, Ms. Donita Moorhus, who, along with Dr. Grathwol, have built a strong foundation on which we will build in the coming years. Both Dr. Grathwol and Ms. Moorhus continue to serve on the American Friends Board.

I look forward to working with our partners at the Humboldt Foundation and our American alumni as American Friends embarks on the next phase in its history.

Cathleen S. Fisher, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Daniel Fallon Named New American Friends President

American Friends is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Daniel Fallon as President of American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

Daniel Fallon, who assumed the office on July 10, 2008, has a long history of engagement in Germany and German-American educational exchange and issues.

Daniel Fallon retired in 2007 from Carnegie Corporation of New York, where he supervised grant making as Chair of the Education Division. He is *Professor Emeritus* of Psychology and *Professor Emeritus* of Public Policy at the University of Maryland at College Park, where he also served as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. Professor Fallon also held earlier appointments as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Texas A&M University, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Colorado at Denver, and Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences and of Harpur College at Binghamton University.

Dr. Fallon has published widely on learning and motivation, on academic public policy, and on comparative higher education. He is the author of a prize winning book, *The German University: A Heroic Ideal in Conflict with the Modern World* (1980).



Dr. Fallon was a member of the Selection Committee for German Chancellor Fellowships from the USA from 2000 to 2005. He has been a member of the former TSHP Advisory Board since July 2003 and a member of the International Advisory Board of the AvH since 2007. Professor Fallon serves the German government as adviser to its excellence initiative for higher education, and is a member of the *Stiftungsrat* of the Stiftungsuniversität Hildesheim and a member of the *Hochschulrat* of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum.

Dr. Fallon succeeds Dr. Robert Grathwol, who has served as president of American Friends since its founding in 1999. Dr. Grathwol continues to serve on the Board of Directors of American Friends.

American Friends and Alexander von Humboldt Association of America (AvHAA) to Join Forces

The Alexander von Humboldt Association of America, the alumni association for Humboldtians in the United States, will amalgamate with American Friends by the end of 2008. The move is intended to create a stronger foundation for alumni networking and for representation of the Foundation's interests in the United States.

Both organizations share a long-standing commitment to advancing the goals of the Humboldt Foundation and scientific and scholarly exchange between the United States and Germany.

Founded in 1992, the AvHAA has supported the network of Humboldtians in the United States through its local chapters, national meetings and other activities.

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American Friends was founded in 1999 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to furthering the goals and promoting the programs of the Humboldt Foundation. American Friends took over the tasks and activities previously carried out by the Humboldt Foundation's U.S. Liaison Office in Washington, DC.

In a letter to AvHAA members, Georg Schütte, Secretary General of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, lauded the decision "to create a stronger partner and clearer voice in our shared efforts to recruit the next generation of Humboldtians and deepen international cooperation among highly talented researchers."

In preparation for amalgamation, the American Friends Board of Directors has expanded to include Jaan Laane and Arnim Meyburg, the current President and Vice President of the AvHAA, respectively. Laane and Meyburg will join Barbara Becker-Cantarino, Raymond Erickson, and Geoffrey Giles—all Humboldtians and AvHAA members—on a newly-formed Alumni Council. In partnership with Humboldtians, the American Friends Alumni Council will organize programs to develop and strengthen ties among Humboldtians and provide a voice for alumni in the United States.

American Friends will continue to reach out to the scientific community in the United States to help identify and interest top-level scientists in the sponsorship opportunities of the Foundation.

American Friends Board Welcomes New Members

American Friends is pleased to announce the election of three new members to the Board of Directors in April 2008. All are Humboldtians.

Peggy Kuo is Chief Hearing Officer for the New York Stock Exchange. Previously, she was counsel with the law firm of WilmerHale in New York City. From 1998 until 2002, she was a trial attorney with the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, where she prosecuted war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. She has also been a trial attorney and Acting Deputy Chief with the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division Criminal Section and an Assistant United States Attorney in Washington, DC. She graduated from Harvard Law School and Yale College. As a German Chancellor Fellow, Peggy Kuo studied the German criminal law system in Berlin and Freiburg.

Dr. Jaan Laane is Professor of Chemistry and Professor of Physics at Texas A&M University, College Station, where he has been since 1968. His research utilizes laser and infrared spectroscopy and focuses on understanding the forces determining molecular structures. He has received numerous awards including the E. R. Lippincott Award in molecular spectroscopy in 2005, and has been elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society and to the Estonian Academy of Sciences. He has served on the board of directors of the Alexander von Humboldt Association of America since 2003, and has been president of the AvHAA in 2007-2008. He has served as Faculty Senate Speaker and Associate Dean of Science at Texas A&M and on the board of directors and as treasurer of the Coblentz Society. Professor Laane's Humboldt Award in 1979-1980 was spent at the Universität Bayreuth.

Dr. Arnim H. Meyburg is Professor of Transportation Engineering and Planning in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Cornell University. He did his undergraduate studies at Hamburg University and the Free University of Berlin, and completed his Ph.D. degree in Civil Engineering at Northwestern University. Meyburg is Director of the Transportation Infrastructure Research Consortium (TIRC), a consortium of ten universities and two research labs. A consultant to various U.S. and

foreign governmental and private agencies, Meyburg held visiting professorships in the United States, Germany, and Brazil. He has served on the board of directors of the Alexander von Humboldt Association of America and has been its vice-president in 2007-2008. Professor Meyburg was the recipient of a Humboldt Foundation Fellowship in 1978-1979 and a Humboldt Research Award in 1984.

Humboldt Kolleg: The Universe and the World Around Us

With presentations by a stellar cast of Humboldtians and other top-flight scientists, the Alexander von Humboldt Association of America (AvHAA) organized a Humboldt Kolleg at Rice University on May 30-31, 2008. The Kolleg, which was organized with support from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, touched on subjects as diverse as the links between astrophysics and carbon chemistry, molecular fingerprints and the origins of life on earth, and the secrets of the microbial world.

The complicated scientific linkages that emerge in research were at the core of several presentations. Humboldt Awardee Robert Curl, Professor of Chemistry at Rice University and a 1996 Nobel Laureate, related the tale of "How Astrophysical Interests Accidentally Led to Advances in Carbon Chemistry." Stephan Schlemmer, Professor of Experimental Physics at the Universität of Köln, spoke about molecular fingerprints, tracing a "criminal story of how life may have come on earth."



Frank Tittel (left) and Nobel Prize Winner Robert Curl, both Humboldtians at Rice University

Climate change—the evidence for its occurrence, its impact on human existence, and the challenges it poses for the future—was a recurrent theme at the two-day meeting. Glaciologist Lonnie Thompson, Distinguished University Professor at Ohio State University, related the efforts of his research team to collect ice cores from mountain glaciers and ice caps around the world, which offer evidence of climate change. The impact of human activity on our world was also a theme in the presentation of deep sea explorer and marine biologist Edith Widder, President and Senior Scientist of the Ocean Research and Conservation Association (ORCA).

Gerhard Gottschalk, Professor of Microbiology at the Georg-August-University, Göttingen, and Wendell Mendell, Assistant Director for Exploration at NASA Johnson Space Center, rounded out the symposium program with presentations on exploration of the microbial world around us, and the universe beyond, respectively. Robert Kirschner, Professor of

Astronomy and Clowes Professor of Science at Harvard University, was the featured speaker at the Kolleg's culminating banquet.

AvHAA President Jaane Laane of Texas A&M University, and Professor Frank Tittel of Rice University, co-chaired the meeting, which drew an audience of Humboldtians and participants from around the United States.

Bukas in Baltimore: Alumni Meeting Throws Spotlight on Performance and Research

Research on the artistic process, creativity, and performance was the focus of the 2008 alumni gathering of German Chancellor Fellows ("Bukas") April 25-27, in Baltimore, Maryland. Rebecca Groves (2001-02), Vice President and President-Elect of the alumni group, organized the alumni portion of the weekend with a focus on "Research in the Field of Performance."

The program began with presentations on performance collaboration by Bukas Mark Jackson (2004-05) and Sommer Ulrickson (1998-99). The session culminated in a video excerpt from "Yes, Yes to Moscow," a movement drama directed by Jackson and Ulrickson that made its American premiere at the 2008 San Francisco International Arts Festival.

The focus then shifted to the written word, with Talaya Delaney's (2005-06) presentation on creativity and research in dramatic writing, a tale of a personal journey from Mississippi to Berlin and back again. Ivan Raykoff (1999-00) spoke of the common language of touch in his presentation on "Piano, Telegraph, Typewriter." The program culminated with a dinner performance that evening by composer and Buka Damon Lee (2002-03).

The weekend was capped off by a walking tour of Baltimore, which ended in a picnic lunch at the historic home of Jonathan Fine (1999-00) and Robert Beachy.

The 2009 Alumni Meeting will be held April 24-26 in Chicago. John Maciuka (1998-99), is organizing the alumni program, which will focus on "The Built Environment: Architecture and Beyond."



German Chancellor Fellows Wyly Brown, Jennifer Gerend, and Erin Furtak at the Alumni Meeting in Baltimore

Save the Date

April 24-26, 2009
Buka Alumni Meeting
Chicago, Illinois

Humboldtians Participate in Round Table Alumni Conference

Six German Chancellor Fellows were among the attendees at the Fourth Alumni Conference of the Round Table USA at Stanford University, June 26-29, 2008. The fellows joined approximately 150 alumni from other German-American fellowship programs to explore the theme "Societies in Transition—Adjusting to Changing Global Environments." Discussion topics included climate change, integration, migration, social change, and global responsibility.

Among the Humboldtians participating were: Victoria Johnson (2003-04), National Association of County and City Health Officials, Washington, DC; Geoffrey Painter (2002-03), Covington & Burlington, LLP, San Francisco, CA; Damani Partridge (1999-00), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI; D.S. Pensley (2001-02), U.S. Court of Federal Claims, Washington, DC; Matthew Rao (2005-06), Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation, Brooklyn, NY; and Ingrid Wuerth (1997-98), Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

The gathering earned positive reviews from the participants. Former Buka fellow Geoffrey Painter praised the conference for providing "a wonderful opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with people affiliated with the various German sponsoring organizations." Vicky Johnson sounded similar themes: "I really enjoyed the event and appreciated the opportunity to connect with colleagues from various foundations and alumni programs. I learned something new every day."

Established in 1998, the Round Table USA facilitates a regular dialogue among German institutions and organizations engaged in transatlantic exchange and cooperation.

New Faces at American Friends

American Friends in April 2008 welcomed two new staff members. **Dr. Cathleen Fisher** serves as American Friends Executive Director. Fisher has been engaged in German-American relations for over 25 years and has wide-ranging experience with nonprofit program management. From 2002-2006, she was Deputy Director at the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies (AICGS), The Johns Hopkins University. Before joining AICGS, Fisher served for ten years as a Senior Associate at the Henry L. Stimson Center, a non-profit public policy institute in Washington, DC focusing on international and national security issues. She has been a Fulbright scholar at the University of Bonn (1981-82), and was a dissertation fellow with the Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies at the Free University of Berlin.

Virginia Barth serves as Program Director at American Friends, where she is responsible for alumni relations, including the Humboldtians on Campus (HoC) program, fund raising, and event planning. Ms. Barth has a background in government relations and experience on Capitol Hill, as well as in fund raising. She is originally from Greenville, South Carolina and earned a B.A. in political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Fisher and Barth join **Deirdre Kelly**, Senior Program Director, who is responsible for promotions and exhibits, web communications, and event planning.