



From the President

Dear Humboldtians and Friends:

This is a time of much change and uncertainty—but also opportunity—for US research institutions and researchers.

Many US universities face severe financial constraints, while US R&D funding agencies brace for possible cuts in federal research support as a result of budgetary negotiations in Washington, DC.

Outside the US, other countries are stepping up efforts to enhance their competitiveness in higher education and research. As Dr. Subra Suresh, the director of the US National Science Foundation and a Humboldt Senior Scientist Awardee (USS, 2004), noted in a recent commentary for *Science*, we are moving toward an age of “global science.”

How are US research institutions and researchers responding to the challenges of global science and the “rise of the rest?” How will shifts in global flows of research talent—which until now have brought many of the best and brightest to US shores and institutions—affect US competitiveness in science and research?

These and other important questions are the focus of lively debates in US universities, the academies, and funding agencies, as the United States contemplates the challenges posed by the emergence of new centers of scientific excellence, and the possibility of “global” academic careers.

The debates about the internationalization of higher education and global science offer unique opportunities to Humboldtians. Humboldtians know the challenges as well as the benefits of international research experience and collaboration. At a time when US institutions are seeking to better understand the benefits of global science, Humboldtians’ accomplishments provide ample evidence of the valuable outputs, outcomes, and impact of participation in cooperative research endeavors across national boundaries. As leaders in their respective institutions and professions, Humboldtians are well positioned to weigh in credibly and authoritatively on the important questions facing US research and educational institutions.

Over the coming months and year, American Friends will be reaching out to alumni around the country to organize a series of exchanges aimed at bringing Humboldtians’ experience, ideas, and insights to bear in the discussions now shaping the US research enterprise. We look forward to working with Humboldtians and others in the US research enterprise to facilitate the full engagement of US researchers in the emerging landscape of “global science.”

Dr. Cathleen Fisher, President

Humboldt Kolleg to Explore Collaborations and Networks in the 21st Century February 24-25, 2012 in Arlington, VA

Calling doctoral students, young researchers, and established leaders! *Collaborations and Networks in the 21st Century* co-organizers Dr. Tom Campbell (STP, 1998–1999) and Mr. David Abraham (BUKA 2008–2009) welcome you to engage in an exciting dialogue that explores three critical areas that are fundamentally changing collaboration and networks for the 21st century researcher:

1. Global Problems, Global Technologies
2. New Networking Tools and Generational Expectations
3. Global Networking for Science: where do we go from here?

Today’s scientists, engineers, and scholars are increasingly challenged on many fronts with our world’s complex problems, rapidly changing communications, and globalization. Come exchange ideas, present findings, provide networking opportunities, and create a framework in which to analyze the emerging trends in collaboration and networks impacting present and future research.

The featured keynote speaker will be Bruce Alberts, PhD, editor-in-chief of *Science*; one of President Obama’s first three Science Envoys; Professor Emeritus in the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics at the University of California, San Francisco; and former president of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS).

The idea for the Kolleg originated with the American Friends Board of Directors, which is committed to strengthening the utility and value of the network of US Humboldtians. Sponsorship has been generously provided by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation to hold this two day conference which will bring together global thought leaders from academia, government, and the private sector.

Register online to attend: www.cpe.vt.edu/avhkolleg_networks/

American Friends on Facebook and Twitter!

You can now keep up with American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation through social media. This year, American Friends joined the popular social networking sites Facebook and Twitter. We’ve been posting and tweeting about exciting accomplishments of US Humboldtians and about upcoming conferences, professional meetings, career fairs, and more. Want to follow us? Find us on Facebook (@American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation) and Twitter (@AFAvH).





2011 Bukas: (left to right) Sandra Tasic, Sara Catherine Salzinger, John Cooper, Georg Cederquist, Andrew Chu, Lori Herber, Anne Drew Potter, Joanna Gubman, Michael Amabile, Rebecca Garcia

2011 US German Chancellor Fellowship Orientation Held in Washington, DC

The 2011 US Annual Orientation Meeting for the German Chancellor Fellowship (BUKA) took place in Washington, DC from April 6–April 8.

Participants included the incoming class of US fellows and the returning class of 2009-2010 Bukas. Representatives of the Russian and the Chinese programs joined the American participants and shared their experiences. Dr. Katrin Amian, Head of the North America, Australia, New Zealand, Oceania Division, and Ms. Britta Gross, Program Administrator in the Sponsorship and Network Division, both of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, led the discussions among the Bukas and provided valuable information to guide the new fellows during their year in Germany.

The ten new fellows represent a diversity of fields, including urban planning, theater, journalism, and educational science. The returning Bukas offered helpful tips and advice, including information on useful contacts in Germany. According to many of the participants, networking opportunities with the other Bukas was one of the most valuable aspects of the program.

The then German Ambassador to the United States, the Honorable Klaus Scharioth, hosted the Bukas and many local alumni at his residence. The ambassador engaged the Humboldtians in a wide-ranging discussion about German-American relations. The group also discussed the value of programs such as the German Chancellor Fellowship in the changing international landscape.

AvH Alumni at Virginia Tech Organize Event, Expand Network

The alumni of the Humboldt Foundation—now over 25,000 strong worldwide—play a critical role in cultivating the next generation of Humboldtians, as US Humboldtians have once again demonstrated. In September 2010, Dr. Tom Campbell (STP, 1998–1999), from Virginia Tech's Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science, organized a promotional event with financial support provided by the American Friends Alumni Council. Dr. Campbell's afternoon event gathered many alumni and prospective applicants. After the event, Professor Peizhen Kathy Lu, an enthusiastic attendee, further explored the sponsorship opportunities offered by the Humboldt Foundation to support her research. Since then, she has received the 2011 Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award. Professor Lu will be collaborating with Dr. Ralf Riedel at the Technische Universität Darmstadt's Institute for Materials Science next year. Congratulations to Professor Lu and thank you to Dr. Campbell for his continued support of the Humboldt Foundation and American Friends in promoting the Foundation both on campus at Virginia Tech and in scientific networks.

Spotlight On Alumni Collaborations: Dale Medearis, Nathaniel Scheer, and Avi Gottlieb

Humboldtians Professor Avi Gottlieb [STP (Israel), 1998], Dr. Dale Medearis (BUKA, 1994–1995), and Mr. Nathaniel Scheer (BUKA, 1998–1999) have teamed up to launch a new global network of researchers and practitioners committed to exchange and cooperation on the interrelated issues of urban development, energy, and global climate change. The “Alexander von Humboldt Cities and Climate Change Network” gathered for its inaugural conference October 5–7 at the John F. Kennedy Institute at the Freie Universität Berlin. Over eighty AvH alumni and other senior researchers attended this conference, which was sponsored by the AvH and the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) Potsdam, and hosted by the Freie Universität Berlin's Environmental Policy Research Centre (FFU).

During the three-day conference, Humboldtians from over twenty countries participated in a series of workshops to discuss the state of scientific knowledge and the interfaces between climate change mitigation and adaptation, emissions-free urban design and planning, energy-efficient urban infrastructure and transport systems, the effects of climate change on public health, and urban climate governance. Professor Gottlieb, Dr. Medearis and Mr. Scheer plan to continue the exchanges begun in Berlin through additional meetings of network members, continued communication, and collaborative research.

Wolfgang Polleichtner and Timothy Moore

This past May, Humboldtians Dr. Wolfgang Polleichtner (FLF, 2008) and Professor Timothy Moore (STP, 1999 & 2005) co-organized the conference exploring “Form and Meaning in Latin Drama” at the Ruhr-University of Bochum (RUB).

Dr. Polleichtner initially became acquainted with Professor Moore, Professor of Classics at the University of Texas at Austin, while writing his dissertation. Professor Moore later hosted Dr. Polleichtner during his time as a Feodor Lynen Fellow. In addition to his Feodor Lynen Fellowship, Dr. Polleichtner was awarded the Calder Fellowship from American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AFAvH). Dr. Polleichtner's research during his time at the University of Austin Texas focused on a study of Livy's debut to Thucydides, the great Athenian historian.

Professor Moore and Dr. Polleichtner continue to collaborate on other research endeavors. Inspired by their passion for the classics, they are now preparing an edition of Johannes Freinsheim's supplement to Livy's *Ab urbe condita*. This summer, Professor Moore held a guest professorship at RUB, with the support of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Professor Moore's decision to accept the guest professorship at RUB was due in large part to the close professional Humboldt connection that he and Dr. Polleichtner have maintained over the years.



“Form and Meaning in Latin Drama” Conference Participants

Research in Germany Campaign Continues to Flourish in the US

American Friends continues to team up with the German Research Foundation (DFG), the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the German Center for Research and Innovation (GCRI) in NY, and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany to promote the German research landscape. The US offices of these organizations meet on a quarterly basis to discuss and plan joint Research in Germany (RiG) efforts. This summer, researchers may have seen the RiG booth and representatives at the *STEM Postdoc Career Fair* in Rockville, MD (June 15, 2011) and the *American Chemical Society (ACS) Fall Meeting* in Denver, CO (August 28–September 1, 2011). In the coming months, RiG will be present at *What Can You Be With a PhD* in New York, NY (November 5–6, 2011) and the *Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting* in Washington, DC (November 12–16, 2011).

This fall, a Research in Germany Conference entitled *New Frontiers: Shifting Trends in the Global Research Landscape and their Impact on Researchers' Career Patterns* in New York, NY (October 20–21, 2011) will launch a network of “research alumni”—researchers based at universities and research institutions in the United States who, at an earlier point in their careers, have undertaken a research stay in Germany. The conference aims to make “research alumni” aware of the new developments and changes that have taken place in the research landscape in Germany and Europe. Participants of this conference were nominated by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH), the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the German Research Foundation (DFG), the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft (FHG), the Max Planck Society (MPG), the Helmholtz Association (HGF), and the Leibniz Association (WGL).

Want to learn more about our partners and other opportunities in Germany? Come to an RiG booth or visit RiG on the web! Website: www.research-in-germany.de

AvH Awardee Hosts American Friends President at the University of Washington

Professor Raj Bordia (USS, 2008) welcomed American Friends President, Dr. Cathleen Fisher, to the University of Washington on March 30th and 31st. Dr. Raj Bordia, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, helped to organize meetings and an evening reception with local Humboldtians to discuss trends in US higher education and research and how American Friends can better serve US alumni of the Humboldt Foundation. Joining the reception were Humboldtians Professor Anna Kartsonis (STP 1984 & 1987), Professor Steffen Rohde (FLF, 1991 & 1997), Professor Michael Schick (USS, 1992 & 1993), and Professor Sabine Wilke (STP 1996 & 1997). Special guests included Dr. Maresi Nerad, founding director of the Center for Innovation and Research in Graduate Education (CIRGE) and Associate Professor for Higher Education in the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies Program College of Education, and Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Zwerger, Professor of Physics at TU Munich and a member of the Humboldt Foundation's Research Fellowship Selection Committee. We are grateful to Professor Bordia for his assistance in organizing the visit. Many thanks also to the Humboldtians and guests who took the time to participate and share their perspectives on strategies for advancing international research collaboration in the US research community.

Abbreviations

STP=Humboldt Research Fellowship	Paul=Wolfgang Paul-Award
USS=Humboldt Research Award	BUKA=German Chancellor
GWl=Wilhelm-Grimm Award	Fellowship



American Friends, President, Dr. Cathleen Fisher and Humboldtian/Kolleg Organizer Professor Barbara Becker-Cantarino at “Migration, Religion, and Germany” Kolleg

Humboldtians Explore Migration, Religion and Germany at OSU Kolleg

Humboldtians and other scholars gathered in the Mershon Center at Ohio State University, April 9–April 11, 2011, to explore diverse topics related to *Migration, Religion, and Germany*. The Kolleg organizers were Humboldtian Barbara Becker-Cantarino (GWI, 1990) and her OSU colleague, Professor Georges Tamer. Barbara Becker-Cantarino is a Research Professor in Germanic Languages and Literatures at OSU. Professor Georges Tamer is M.S. Sofia Chair in Arabic Studies in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at OSU. Professor Becker-Cantarino is a member of the American Friends Alumni Council, and served as president of the former Alexander von Humboldt Association of America.

The Kolleg featured presentations by scholars in the humanities and social sciences from US and German universities. Session one, *Migration, Religion and Colonization*, considered recent research on early German transatlantic migrations and colonization by Pietists and Moravians in North America. The second and third sessions focused on *Transnational, Transcultural Migrations* and *Islamic Migrations and Contemporary Germany*. The final session considered *Cultural Representations of Religious Migration in Contemporary Germany*, respectively. The Kolleg concluded with a visit to the Ohio Moravian Missions Schoenbrunn and Gnadenhuetten, and the nineteenth century Separatist Utopian Community Zoar in Tuscarawas County, Ohio.

Funding for the event was provided by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation as well as Ohio State University's College of Art and Humanities, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, and Mershon Center for International Security Studies.

Upcoming Events and Conferences

New Frontiers: Shifting Trends in the Global Research Landscape and their Impact on Researchers' Career Patterns Conference
(October 20–21, 2011) in New York, NY

Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting (November 12–16, 2011)
in Washington, DC

MIT European Career Fair (January 21–23, 2012) in Cambridge, MA

Collaboration and Networks in the 21st Century Kolleg/Conference
(February 24–25, 2012) in Arlington, VA



**American Friends of the
Alexander von Humboldt Foundation**
1012 14th Street NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005

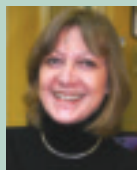
**Interested in organizing an event supported by a grant from the Alumni Council?
Email alumni.council@americanfriends-of-avh.org for more information.**

American Friends Welcomes New Board Members

American Friends is pleased to introduce our three new board members: Dr. Christiane Fellbaum (PAUL, 2001 & 2007), Prof. Joseph Francisco (USS, 2002), and Dr. Jeffrey Peck. They hail, respectively, from Princeton University, Purdue University, and Baruch College, City University of New York. As indicated in their biographies, they bring a wide range of knowledge and experience to the Board that will prove invaluable to the planning of American Friends future.

Christiane Fellbaum, PhD

Christiane Fellbaum is a Senior Research Scientist in the Department of Computer Science and a Lecturer in the Programs in Linguistics and Translation at Princeton University. In 2001 she was awarded the Wolfgang Paul Prize of the Humboldt Foundation, which allowed her to set up a corpus linguistics research projects at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences, where she is a Permanent Fellow. She received the Antonio Zampolli Prize of the European Lexical Resource Association in 2006. Dr. Fellbaum has directed numerous national and international research projects with support from the US National Science Foundation and the European Commission. Her work has taken her to many countries for lecturing and collaboration, including South Africa, Japan, Taiwan, and Brazil. She is a Co-founder and Co-President of the Global WordNet Association and has served on numerous advisory committees and editorial boards.



Joseph S. Francisco, PhD

Joseph S. Francisco is the William E. Moore Distinguished Professor of Earth and Atmospheric Science and Chemistry at Purdue University. Professor Francisco was a Research Fellow at Cambridge University in England, and following that he returned to MIT as a Provost Postdoctoral Fellow. Francisco has received a National Science Foundation



Presidential Young Investigator Award, an Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship, and a Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation Teacher-Scholar Award. He was a recipient of a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, which he spent at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology. He was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society and a Fellow of the AAAS. He was awarded an Alexander von Humboldt United States Senior Scientist Award, as well as being appointed a Senior Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies at the University of Bologna, Italy. He was President of the American Chemical Society in 2010.

Jeffrey M. Peck, PhD

Jeffrey M. Peck is the Dean of the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences and the Vice Provost for Global Strategies at Baruch College, City University of New York. As a scholar, Dr. Peck explored the complex and ambiguous relationship between German and Jewish culture. An educator with wide-ranging academic and administrative experience, Peck has taught at several universities in both the US and Canada and has held the Walter Benjamin Chair in German-Jewish Culture and History at Humboldt University in Berlin, where he was also the director of the Leo Baeck Summer University in Jewish Studies. Dr. Peck was also a Senior Fellow at the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies (AICGS). He is the author of numerous articles on German and Jewish studies and has also written extensively on transnational and global cultural issues.



**1012 14th Street NW, Suite 300 • Washington, DC 20005 • Phone: 202-783-1907
info@americanfriends-of-avh.org • www.americanfriends-of-avh.org**