

## 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 the changing landscape of research, higher education, and professional development in the United States and beyond.

## Dear Humboldtians and Friends,

US alumni are critical to the mission and vision of American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Until now, however, the Alumni Council, Board of Directors, and staff of American Friends have had limited information about US alumni needs, interests, and expectations.

That is why American Friends earlier this year launched two major initiatives to reach out to US Humboldtians.

In early spring, the American Friends staff asked over 5,000 US Humboldtians to review their contact information. With the help of US alumni, we have updated over 50% of alumni records in our data base—information that has been shared with the Humboldt Foundation.

In April/May we sent a random sample of over 2,000 US alumni a short online survey exploring Humboldtians' connections to Germany, the AvH and American Friends, and their preferences regarding alumni activities and support. By mid-June, over 50% of survey recipients had responded to the AF survey.

In the coming weeks, we will be making the full results of the survey available to all US Humboldtians. In the meantime, you will find a sneak preview of several key findings in this addition of *Strata*.

We are excited about the survey results, which, for the first time, provide the Alumni Council, Board and staff with valuable data about US Humboldtians' preferences and thoughts. We are reviewing the information carefully, so that we can effectively integrate Humboldtians' input into our plans and programs.

I would like to express our hearty thanks to US Humboldtians for supporting our efforts to obtain current contact information and learn about alumni views and perspectives. Thank you for helping us understand how we can better serve US alumni and the Humboldt Foundation in support of our mission.

**Dr. Cathleen Fisher, President**

## Research in Germany Collaborations at the 2012 American Chemical Society Meeting Feature AvH President Schwarz and Humboldtian Professor Arduengo

The "Research in Germany (RiG)" partners were present in full force at the American Chemical Society (ACS) meeting in Philadelphia, PA in August. Representatives from the American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AFAvH), German Research Foundation (DFG), German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), German Center for Research and Innovation in NY (GCRI NY), and Germany Trade and Invest (GTAI) coordinated closely to provide a comprehensive overview of the German research landscape and the diversity of funding opportunities in Germany for chemical scientists. This RiG presence included a booth in the exhibit hall and an informational luncheon.

ACS members and attendees stopped by the RiG booth to receive materials and one-on-one counseling about programs to support potential research stays in Germany. Attendees were particularly enthusiastic about a new 2012 publication tailored to the needs of chemical scientists entitled *Research Landscapes in Germany—Chemistry*. This publication provides a detailed overview of the university and non-university research institutes in Germany that are active in the fields of chemistry. The new brochure and other information on opportunities in Germany can be downloaded under the publications section on the RiG website: [www.research-in-germany.de](http://www.research-in-germany.de).

The Research in Germany partners also organized an informational luncheon featuring international chemists in industry and academia who have spent time doing research in Germany. **Professor Helmut Schwarz**,



Booth representatives at ACS from left to right: Dr. Georg Bechtold (DFG), Dr. Cathleen Fisher (AFAvH), Margot Pfefferle (AFAvH), Dr. Joann Halpern (DWIH NY), Peter Kerrigan (DAAD). Photo credit: Dr. Markus Behnke (DFG).

President of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, kicked off the event as the featured guest speaker. Professor Schwarz welcomed attendees and emphasized to the audience that "the Humboldt Foundation funds individuals like you." **Anthony Arduengo III** (USS, 1996), the Saxon Professor of Chemistry at the University of Alabama and adjunct Professor at the Institute for Inorganic Chemistry of Braunschweig University of Technology in Germany, spoke enthusiastically about his work in industry and academia,

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as well as his continued collaborations with German institutions both in research and student exchanges. Other speakers from Germany informed attendees about new positions for graduate students, postdocs, and faculty members. Following the short presentations, participants had the opportunity to speak personally with presenters and representatives from the various funding organizations (AvH, DFG, DAAD). The event was moderated by Dr. Markus Behnke (DFG), Program Director for Chemistry and Process Engineering.

### Donor Feature: Professor Dr. William M. Calder III: Sustaining German-American Exchange in the Classics

American Friends would like to express its deep gratitude to **Professor Dr. William M. Calder III** (GWI, 1996–1997) for his generous support of American Friends and of young scholars in the Classics. Professor Calder is a recipient of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's Research Award in the Humanities.

**About Professor Calder:** Professor Calder is William Abbott Oldfather Professor of Classics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He received a Humboldt Research Award in 1996–1997 in recognition of his lifetime achievements and scholarly contributions in classical Greek studies. Professor Calder's scholarship focuses in particular on the tragedies of classical antiquity and the modern history of classical philology.

*William M. Calder III is probably the most widely known American classical scholar. This is surely true in Germany, the country whose scholarly traditions he has illuminated through carefully annotated letter and documents related to Wilamowitz, Mommsen, and their colleagues and successors*

Mortimer Chambers

"Jacobus's Fight for the Geographers," *In Pursuit of Wissenschaft*, 123.

In 2008, scholars honored Professor William M. Calder III through a *Festschrift*, entitled *In Pursuit of Wissenschaft* (Hildesheim: George Olms Verlag AG, 2008). Scholarly contributors to the *Festschrift* included 35 friends and students, among them editors Dr. Robert Kirstein (FLF, 1998), Dr. Matthias Vorwerk (FLF, 2001), Dr. Stephan Heilen (FLF, 2000), Dr. Scott Smith, Professor Stephen M. Trzaskoma, and Dr. Rogier L. van der Wal. Subject matters embraced in the *Festschrift* include *Wissenschaftsgeschichte*, Greek tragedy, Greek philosophy, Greek and Roman literature, late Latin epistolography, textual criticism, art, history, Latin in the German education system, Roman history, ancient forgery, and Renaissance astrology. Capturing the international breadth and range of subjects of Professor Calder's work and career, Stephen M. Trzaskoma, University of New Hampshire, wrote:

*At the Villa Mowitz in Urbana, in the Chandoleine in Vandoeuvres, in the cafes of Berlin . . . and in countless university seminar rooms, Bill has made a point of bringing his friends together in, to quote our title, pursuit of Wissenschaft*

"Preface," *In Pursuit of Wissenschaft*, xii.

#### Abbreviations

STP=Humboldt Research Fellowship	GWI=Research Awards in the Humanities
USS=Humboldt Research Award	
Paul=Wolfgang Paul-Award	BUKA=German Chancellor Fellowship



Friends and colleagues presenting Professor Dr. William M. Calder III with *In Pursuit of Wissenschaft* in 2008.

For more information on Professor Calder's many publications and other professional accomplishments, see: [www.classics.uiuc.edu/people/wmcalder](http://www.classics.uiuc.edu/people/wmcalder)

**International connections:** In 1968, Calder became the first American professor offered a visiting appointment at Rostock University, then part of the German Democratic Republic (GDR). He returned repeatedly over the next several decades. Calder has also had guest professorships at the University of Copenhagen, the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, and Boston University.

Professor Calder's scholarly activity has been broadly international. Since 1956 he has delivered over 350 lectures at universities, research institutions, academies, schools and congresses around the world.

**His donation:** Professor William M. Calder III celebrated his 70th birthday in September 2002 by making a gift to American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

**What his donation funds:** The William M. Calder III Fellowship Program.

Each year, the *William M. Calder III Fellowship* is awarded to a young, highly qualified German Feodor Lynen Fellow or US Humboldt Research Fellow to pursue research related to classical antiquity or to its reception in medieval and modern times. Through his gift to American Friends, Professor Calder is ensuring that intellectual exchange in classical studies between Germany and the United States continues to thrive.

Seven prestigious *William M. Calder III Fellowships* have been awarded. For these fellows, Professor Calder's donations translated into additional financial support for their research as well as workshops and exchanges related to the fellow's project. Through his gift to American Friends, Professor Calder is ensuring that German-American exchange in classical studies remains strong and is sustained through future generations.

#### The William M. Calder III Fellows:

Dr. Gyburg Radke (2004)  
Dr. Dirk Rohmann (2005, 2006)  
Dr. Stefan Schorn (2007)  
Dr. Wolfgang Polleichtner (2008)  
Dr. Nicolas Wiater (2010)  
Dr. Arata Takeda (2011)

More information about the fellowship and past fellows can be found on the American Friends website: [www.americanfriends-of-avh.org](http://www.americanfriends-of-avh.org)

**How to make a gift:** Help to sustain German-American exchanges in your field through a donation or planned gift to American Friends. With support from generous alumni and others who share the Humboldt Foundation's vision, American Friends can continue to grow its support for US Humboldtians and for German-American exchanges. A variety of

giving options will allow you to tailor your gift to best suit your objectives. Call Virginia Barth, Program Director for Alumni Relations and Development at 202-609-7880 or contact [alumni@americanfriends-of-avh.org](mailto:alumni@americanfriends-of-avh.org) to discuss your support of American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

## Alumni Council Grant Supports Arctic Hysteria Networking Event

An evening of theatrical madness and German fare, sponsored by the Alumni Council of the American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, drew together AvH alumni in San Francisco on August 2. Humboldtians were treated to a performance of *Arctic Hysteria*, the newest play by German Chancellor Fellow **Abi Basch** (BUKA, 2006–2007) and Kinderdeutsch Projekts, the German/American theater company comprised of colleagues from Basch's BUKA project in Hamburg. The play featured international artists from five different countries and was directed by Else Marie Laukvik from the world-renowned Odin Teatret in Denmark. Set in a kingdom of artificial snow and imagined eskimos, *Arctic Hysteria* follows an aging warlord as she attempts to pass on an unwanted kingdom to three ungrateful daughters, in the process descending into madness and taking the play with her. Following the performance, Humboldtians gathered at a reception at Club Monarch, where alumni were able to meet and speak with the artists and other alumni. A short presentation outlining the sponsorship opportunities of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation concluded the evening.

Any US Humboldtian or group of US Humboldtians may solicit funding for an alumni event from the Alumni Council by emailing a proposal to the Program Director for Alumni Relations at [virginia.barth@americanfriends-of-avh.org](mailto:virginia.barth@americanfriends-of-avh.org). Funds may be used as seed money for larger events or as support for a self-contained activity that enhances the intellectual and social interaction among Humboldtians in the United States. Members of the Humboldtians on Campus initiative, in particular, should take advantage of this funding opportunity. The Alumni Council works with the American Friends staff and Board of Directors to actively promote the interests of Humboldtians and to recruit potential Humboldtians.

## Spotlight on Humboldtians

The American Academy of Arts and Letters presented **Mr. Alan Organschi** (BUKA, 1992–1993) a 2012 Arts and Letters Award in Architecture in New York City on May 16. This award honors American architects whose work is characterized by a strong personal direction. The Academy chose the winners from a group of 40 individuals and practices nominated by the members of the Academy. The Academy featured examples from the winners' work over the summer in the Academy's galleries on Audubon Terrace. To learn more about Alan Organschi and his firm, visit [www.grayorganschi.com](http://www.grayorganschi.com).



**Dr. Michael Kimmage**, (BUKA, 2004–2005) an associate professor of history at Catholic University, celebrated the release of his new book *Journey through America*, at a special event at Catholic University on September 12. The book, published by Berghahn Books, is a translation of the 1959 travelogue, *Amerikafahrt*, by Wolfgang Koeppen, one of the best known German authors of the post-war period. Dr. Kimmage has also authored



*The Conservative Turn: Lionel Trilling, Whittaker Chambers and the Lessons of Anti-Communism* (Harvard University Press, 2009) and *In History's Grip: Philip Roth's Newark Trilogy* (Stanford University Press, 2012). As a Humboldtian on Campus he helps to promote the Foundations' programs both on Catholic University's campus and at his professional meetings.

## Facts and Figures about the Newest Humboldtians

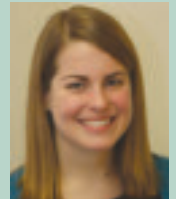
American Friends would like to congratulate the 85 newest US Humboldtians! They represent 26 states and 40 different fields, spanning 10 different types of awards or fellowships. These remarkable 22 women and 63 men range in age from 22 to 70 years old.

Congratulations again and do not hesitate to contact our office with questions—we are here to serve as your contact in the United States. We look forward to hearing about your work in Germany. Share information and photos with our office at [alumni@americanfriends-of-avh.org](mailto:alumni@americanfriends-of-avh.org).

## American Friends Staff Changes

### American Friends says farewell to Carolyn Brodbeck...

The American Friends staff and the Board of Directors wish Carolyn Brodbeck the best as she transitions to law school at Washington and Lee University. Carolyn served as Office Administrator/Executive Assistant from 2011–2012. During her time at American Friends, Carolyn worked directly with the President on special projects, including the survey of US alumni, supported the Board of Directors, and streamlined office tasks. The American Friends team thanks her for her contributions and wishes her success in her studies and career.



### and welcomes Jessica Bell.

We are pleased to introduce Jessica Bell as the new Office Administrator/Executive Assistant at American Friends. Jessica joined the American Friends team in July 2012. At American Friends, Jessica oversees general office operations, assists with finances, and provides support for the Board of Directors and President, as well as staff members, as necessary. Jessica majored in International Relations and graduated from San Francisco State University in December 2010. While at San Francisco State, Jessica served on the Special Events Committee of the International Education Exchange Council, working towards integrating the various international communities on campus. She studied abroad at Cardiff University and Université de Bourgogne from 2009–2010. She focused her studies on international education, cultural diplomacy and French language courses. Jessica has studied German from a young age and participated in a RoterAct exchange program in Aalen during high school as well as an internship in Berlin in 2011. She has been active in cultural diplomacy, including through volunteer positions with the International Visitor Leadership Program, The International House Davis, and Layalina Productions.







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

### Sneak Peek! US Alumni Survey Results

To better understand the needs and interests of US alumni, American Friends conducted a brief survey of US Humboldtians in April/May of this year. We would first like to express our thanks to all those who participated in the survey. The responses will help the American Friends Alumni Council, Board and staff to plan the activities, events and other forms of support that best serve US alumni.

The complete survey results will be available in PDF form on the American Friends website in late 2012. American Friends would like to share an exciting preview of key survey findings:

- A majority of US Humboldtians maintain strong professional and personal ties to Germany. In the last five years, 42% had returned to Germany one to three times, and 40% had returned to Germany more than three times. Fifty percent of those traveling to Germany had done so for both professional and personal reasons, while 41% had visited for professional reasons and 9% for personal reasons. A strong majority (68%) maintain contact with German hosts sometimes, regularly, or often; even more Humboldtians (80%) maintain contact with friends and colleagues in Germany.
- Nearly three-quarters of Humboldtians (74%) feel personally connected to the AvH. Nearly 70% claim to be well informed about AvH activities, while 62% reported being well informed about American Friends activities.
- When it comes to alumni activities, US Humboldtians are most interested in events in their field of study (65%), in their region (52%), at their university (47%), or at professional and scientific meetings (36%).

- When it comes to alumni services, US Humboldtians remain interested in financial support to host visiting German researchers and scientists (62%) and to support their own research travel to Germany (60%). Nearly half (49%) would like to receive a list of Humboldtians engaged in their field, and more than a third (37%) would be interested in information on other Humboldtians at their institutions.
- US Humboldtians are eager to ensure that younger generations of scholars and scientists know about the opportunities provided by the AvH. Some 45% of US Humboldtians are interested in recruiting new Humboldtians, while over a third are willing to distribute promotional materials about the Foundation's sponsorship opportunities.
- Sizeable numbers of US Humboldtians are also interested in becoming more engaged in activities to strengthen the alumni community in the United States. Nearly a third (31%) of respondents are willing to attend a Kolleg, while 9% are prepared to organize one. A similar proportion would be prepared to organize an alumni meeting. Over a third (34%) expressed a willingness to serve as a Humboldtian on Campus. Nearly 27% of respondents declared a willingness to support American Friends with a charitable donation.

American Friends sent the short electronic questionnaire to a random sample of 2,043 US Humboldtians (~50%); by mid-June, 1,023 Humboldtians had completed the survey. Check your inboxes soon for a link to the full results!