



New Criteria for German Chancellor Fellowship

The Humboldt Foundation recently revised eligibility criteria for the German Chancellor Fellowship. In this program as in other AvH programs, the Foundation has replaced age-based eligibility with the time elapsed since receipt of the appropriate degree. Effective with the current application round, applicants must have received a bachelor's degree fewer than twelve years prior to the beginning of the fellowship. Thus, for the fellowship year beginning September 1, 2009, applicants must have received a bachelor's degree after September 1, 1997. The deadline for applications from U.S. citizens is October 31.

The German Chancellor Fellowship is intended for career-oriented individuals from any profession or field of study who show outstanding potential for future leadership. It is the only Humboldt Foundation program that does not require a Ph.D. and that is not oriented towards advanced research. Selected fellows represent the private, public, not-for-profit, cultural, and academic sectors. Successful candidates have come from social and policy sciences, government, law, journalism, communications, management, finance, economics, architecture, humanities, public service, and environmental affairs. Applications from the life sciences and engineering may be considered if the topics have a compelling social or humanistic dimension.

Applicants design individual projects tailored to their professional development and goals and decide where to pursue them. They must also identify a German host/mentor who agrees to provide professional assistance throughout the twelve-month program year. Ten awards are given annually in the United States.

In August 2007 the Foundation announced that eligibility for the Humboldt Research Fellowship would be career-based. Applicants who received their Ph.D. fewer than four years prior to application may apply for a Postdoctoral Fellowship of up to two years. Advanced researchers who received their doctoral degree fewer than twelve years prior to application are eligible for the Experienced Researcher Fellowship. Age-based criteria were also replaced in the Feodor Lynen Fellowship.

For more information on all Humboldt Foundation fellowship and award programs, go to the website, www.humboldt-foundation.de.

AvHAA Symposium at Rice University in Houston

The Alexander von Humboldt Association of America (AvHAA) is holding a symposium, "The Universe and the World Around Us," at Rice University, Houston, Texas, May 30-31, 2008. The meeting, organized by AvHAA President Jaan Laane, Texas A&M, and Frank Tittel, Rice University, is open to both Humboldtians and non-Humboldtians. Attendance is limited to 200 participants.

The program will include lectures from outstanding scholars in a wide range of fields: Helga Kessler Aurisch, Associate Curator of European Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Robert Curl, Professor of Chemistry at Rice University and Nobel Laureate in Chemistry in 1996; Gerhard Gottschalk, Professor of Microbiology at the Georg-August-University, Göttingen, and President of the Union of the German Academies of Science and the Humanities; Robert P. Kirshner, Professor of Astronomy and Clowes Professor of Science at Harvard University; David Leebron, President of Rice University and former Dean of Columbia University School of Law; Wendell W. Mendell, Assistant Director for Exploration, NASA Johnson Space Center; Stephan Schlemmer, Professor of Experimental Physics at the Institute of Physics, University of Köln; Lonnie Thompson, a glaciologist and Distinguished University Professor in the School of Earth Sciences at Ohio State University; and Edith A. Widder, President and Senior Scientist, Ocean Research and Conservation Association (ORCA), Florida.

Because of support from the Humboldt Foundation, Rice University, and Texas A&M University, symposium organizers are able to offer greatly reduced registration fees to cover the lectures, Friday dinner, and Saturday lunch and banquet. In addition, Humboldtians from outside Houston who

register by the March 15 deadline and book a room at the conference hotel in Houston will receive a subsidy for two nights' lodging. The complete program, with extended bio information on speakers, and the registration form are posted on the AvHAA website, www.avhaa.us.

New International Humboldt Professorship: The Research in Germany Award

With an endowment from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the Humboldt Foundation announced the Alexander von Humboldt Professorship. Universities, and non-university research institutions in cooperation with a university, may nominate academics from abroad who are at the forefront of their discipline and who will be expected to enhance Germany's long-term international competitiveness. Academics from any field may be nominated; the award provides 5 million EUR over five years in experimental disciplines and 3.5 million EUR in theoretical disciplines. Award winners will enjoy great freedom in creating their own working conditions and will pursue research in Germany virtually unaffected by administrative constraints.

This initiative seeks to attract academic experts from abroad and thus gain support for the strategic progress and (re-)orientation of the German research institutions that serve as hosts. This new program also invigorates international cooperation at these institutions. The level of support provided to the award winners is sufficient to establish their long-term academic future in Germany. This applies both to their personal income and to continuing financial support for their research work. For more information, go to www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/programme/preise/ahp.htm.

Buka Alumni to Meet in Baltimore

The 2008 Alumni Meeting for German Chancellor Fellows (Bundeskanzler Stipendiaten, or “Bukas”) will take place in Baltimore, Maryland, April 25-27. The orientation of new fellows, who will be selected in mid-February, will take place April 24 and 25, just prior to the Alumni Meeting. In recent years the Foundation expanded the Buka program—originally only for U.S. citizens—to include citizens from Russia and from China. This year one Russian Buka and one Chinese Buka will participate in the U.S. Orientation and Alumni meeting. One Buka from the U.S. will go to Russia for Orientation and one to China.

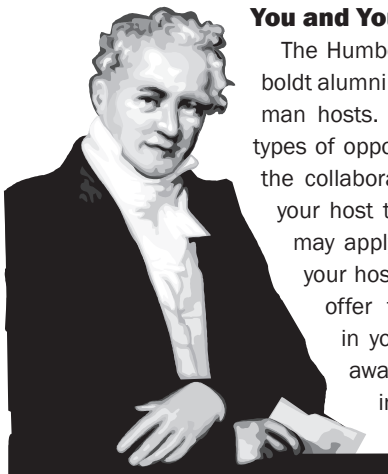
The theme of the alumni meeting program on Saturday, April 26, is the performing arts. Presenters will include Bukas from dance, theater, and music. Information about the alumni meeting, including a preliminary schedule for the weekend and a registration form, is on the American Friends website. To view, please visit www.americanfriends-of-avh.org and click on “German Chancellor Fellowship.” A detailed program will be posted in early March.

HOC Program Update

The Humboldtians on Campus (HOC) program is growing rapidly. As of February 1, the program included 46 individuals at universities and institutions around the country. They include former Research Fellows, German Chancellor Fellows, Feodor Lynen Fellows, and Awardees. We congratulate Alan Shapiro, Professor of Archaeology, Department of Classics, Johns Hopkins University, who was, to our knowledge, the first HOC to organize a meeting for potential applicants of Humboldt fellowships under the new HOC program. To learn more, or to volunteer as an HOC, visit www.americanfriends-of-avh.org/hoc/hoc_main.html. Each HOC receives an American Friends tote bag with materials to help him or her promote Humboldt programs.

New Member Elected to American Friends Board

Prof. Matthias Vorwerk, Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, has been elected to the Board of Directors of American Friends. Vorwerk specializes in Ancient Philosophy, especially the philosophy of Plato, Plotinus, and the Platonic Tradition. After receiving his Ph.D. in Classics from the University of Münster in Germany, he worked there as a Research Assistant. Subsequently, he received a Feodor Lynen Fellowship from the Humboldt Foundation to continue his research at Trinity College and University College, Dublin, Ireland. He came to the Catholic University in 2003, and in 2005 he was awarded membership in the Academia Platonica Septima. Vorwerk serves on the American Friends’ Calder Fellowship Selection Committee.



You and Your Host—Keep in Touch

The Humboldt Foundation encourages Humboldt alumni to remain in contact with their German hosts. The Foundation supports several types of opportunities for continuing/extending the collaboration. You may request funds for your host to visit you or your university. You may apply for funds to visit and work with your host for up to three months. You may offer to sponsor/host a Lynen Fellow in your field. You can make your host aware of outstanding young scholars in your field who could be nominated for a Bessel Award. You can encourage young scholars to ap-

ply for a research fellowship, working with your former host or another German colleague. In some fields (social sciences, humanities, economics, and law), you and your former host can apply for a TransCoop grant.

What is Your Research Field?

Life brings many changes, and many Humboldtians change their field of research after receiving their fellowship or award. Some may not remember the category into which the Foundation placed their research. We encourage Humboldtians to check their own listing through the Humboldt Network and, if it is no longer applicable, change it. For example, research in “Materials Science and Technology” might have evolved into “Nanotechnology” or a historian might have become a legal scholar. Is this important? Yes. Many Humboldtians who want to locate colleagues through the Humboldt Network search by field; if your field is not accurate, your name will not surface. Our office is frequently asked to forward invitations for special events to Humboldtians in a particular field; you will miss these invitations. When our office decides which international conferences to attend, we search our database to figure out which fields are most represented. We want the count of Humboldtians to reflect the current fields of research.

What is GAFO?

GAFO stands for **G**erman **A**merican **F**rontiers **O**f ... research. More specifically, the Humboldt Foundation co-sponsors three series of GAFO Symposia in the United States, one each annually in Engineering, Humanities, and the Sciences. Each series has an American co-sponsor—the National Academy of Engineering, the American Philosophical Society, and the National Academy of Sciences, respectively. The resulting abbreviations are GAFOE, GAFOH, and GAFOS.

The GAFO symposia bring together outstanding, early-career German and American researchers to facilitate collaborative work and an interdisciplinary transfer of knowledge and methodology. For greater detail, consult the Foundation website under “G” on the page “Die Humboldt Stiftung A bis Z” (www.humboldt-foundation.de/de/a_z.htm).

The success of the US-German GAFO symposia has led to similar arrangements between Germany and Great Britain, Germany and Japan, and Germany and China.

Continuing Your German Connection

The AvH encourages former Humboldt Research Fellows to maintain their professional ties to Germany through Alumni Sponsorship Programs. For information, go to the Foundation’s website: www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/programme/stip_aus/stip_03.htm.

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 Donita Moorhus, Secretary-Treasurer, at donita.moorhus@americanfriends-of-avh.org.