

From the President

Dear Humboldtians and Friends:

American Friends is looking forward to a busy year and new opportunities to promote networking, exchange and collaboration between German and American scientists and scholars.

As reported in the last edition of *Strata*, American Friends is in the midst of a strategic planning process that will help us identify important goals for the next three years. As part of our planning, we are looking for input and ideas from Humboldtians and others who share our commitment to international scientific collaboration and exchange. Over the coming year, we will be reaching out to Humboldtians through focused interviews and a short survey to learn how we can better serve your needs. We hope that you will participate in some of these activities to help us shape the future of American Friends.

We are also continuing our efforts to form creative and mutually beneficial partnerships with professional associations that help us reach more alumni and prospective applicants. For those in the chemical sciences, American Friends once again hosted an alumni and promotional reception on March 28th at the annual spring meeting of the American Chemical Society (ACS) in Anaheim, California. In addition, American Friends participated on the same day in an ACS symposium on international collaboration.

As part of the Research in Germany initiative, American Friends is working with our partners at the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), German Research Foundation (DFG) and German Center for Research and Innovation (DWIH) to inform U.S. audiences about exciting developments in German research and the benefits of international research exchange.

In short, 2011 is shaping up to be an exciting year for American Friends. Under the energetic direction of its Board of Directors, American Friends is well-positioned to take advantage of new opportunities to promote the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's programs and interests, and to engage and inspire U.S. Humboldtians to be catalysts of internationalization within their respective institutions and professional associations, both independently and through strategic partnerships with other scientific organizations.

Dr. Cathleen Fisher, President

AvH Secretary General Enno Aufderheide Joins Humboldtians and DAAD-Alumni for Dialogue on Sustainability at German Center for Research and Innovation in New York

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) organized a joint alumni conference on October 28-30, 2010 to discuss "Facing the Four Elements: Developing a Transatlantic Approach to Sustainability." Joining some 30 Humboldtians was the new AvH Secretary General Dr. Enno Aufderheide on his first trip to the United States as Secretary General of the Foundation. The alumni convened at the German House in New York for a varied program of plenary sessions, panel discussions, and alumni presentations. Topics ranged from sustaining coastal systems in the global environment to fisheries management and agriculture, alternative energy sources, desertification and water quality, and perspectives on sustainability from the humanities and social sciences. Dr. Roland Schindler, Director of the Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems, kicked off the event with an address about the challenges of extending Fraunhofer research to the United States. Humboldtian Professor William Clark, from the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, gave a keynote address on the evolution of sustainability science. The two-day conference culminated in a river boat dinner (and dancing!) cruise in New York Harbor. American Friends President Dr. Cathleen Fisher and DAAD staff concluded the conference with presentations about alumni opportunities.



Front Row (left to right): Nella Young, Scott Mueller, Carly Schmitt, Sean Murphy, Yvonne Hung; Back Row (left to right): Dr. John Maciuka, Dr. Greg Moynahan, Dr. Cathleen Fisher, Lukas Kronawitter

We've moved! Please note our new suite number in the address.

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AvH President Helmut Schwarz Visits University of California, San Diego

Local Humboldtians and American Friends were pleased to welcome the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's President, Professor Helmut Schwarz, to a luncheon with a dozen alumni in the San Diego area on October 16, 2010. Professor Frieder Seible (USS, 2007), Dean of the Jacobs School of Engineering at University of California at San Diego, hosted the gathering. Professor Schwarz was in the United States to speak at a seminar hosted by another Humboldtian, Dr. Julius Rebek, Jr. (STP, 1981), at the Scripps Institute in La Jolla. Humboldtians from many fields gathered at the Lodge at Torre Pines for a lively discussion about the Humboldt network and its importance in today's world, as well as ways to stay engaged with the Foundation and opportunities for alumni.



(Left to right) Dr. Frieder Seible, Prof. Lisa Lampert-Weissig, Prof. Helmut Schwarz, Prof. Marc Andre Meyers

American Friends on the Princeton Campus

With the support of Dr. Christiane Fellbaum (PAUL, 2001), Senior Research Scientist in the Department of Computer Science at Princeton University, American Friends hosted an event for Humboldtians and prospective applicants at Princeton University's Prospect House on November 10, 2010. Several Humboldtians spoke to the guests about the fellowship opportunities of the Humboldt Foundation and their experiences in Germany. Representing American Friends were Virginia Barth and Margot Pfefferle, who took the opportunity to meet with Princeton Vice-Provost Diana Davies to talk about the internationalization of Princeton and other U.S. universities. Dr. Fellbaum is one of the 70+ Humboldtians on Campus in over 27 states who helps American Friends promote the Foundation's programs.



Margot Pfefferle with prospective applicants and alumni at Princeton University

American Friends Alumni Council Awards New Grants for Alumni Events

The American Friends Alumni Council has awarded three grants to support proposals for diverse alumni events around the country. The Council approved a grant to Dr. Tom Campbell (STP, 1998) and Dr. Royce Zia (USS, 1982), Humboldtians at Virginia Tech, to organize a small alumni gathering and promotional event at Dr. Campbell's home. Virginia Tech Humboldtians Dr. Michael Hochella (USS, 2002) and Dr. Dick Hasselman (USS, 1975) were also in attendance. A second grant went to Professor Donald Dickson (STP, 1992) of Texas A&M University and the members of the Texas chapter of the former Alexander von Humboldt Association of America to help support an alumni event in fall 2009 in Round Top, Texas on the topic of "Public Opinion and Science." This alumni gathering featured a special musical performance by the Butler School of Music at the University of Texas and a keynote speech by Nobel Laureate Dr. Robert Curl (USS, 1984). The third grant was awarded to Dr. Sally Sedgwick (STP, 1988), who is organizing a conference on "Aesthetics and German Philosophy" at the University of Illinois in Chicago in February 2012. Four Humboldtians will speak at the meeting: Professor Robert Pippin (STP, 1977), Professor David Wellbery (GWI, 2006), Professor Karl Ameriks (STP, 1977), and Professor Elizabeth Millan-Zaibert (STP, 2004). Professor Sedgwick hopes to attract attendance and support from many scholars working in German philosophy, history, language and literature in the Chicago area. American Friends congratulates all three groups on their proposals and continued engagement on behalf of U.S. Humboldtians.

Attention Top-Ranked Junior Researchers: Sofja Kovalevskaja Call for Proposals in 2011

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in 2012 will grant up to eight Sofja Kovalevskaja Awards to highly accomplished junior scientists and scholars from all countries and disciplines. The award provides support for five years to allow the recipient to build a research group and work on a high-profile, innovative research project of his or her choice at a selected research institution in Germany. The deadline for applications will be September 1, 2011. For application forms and detailed information, please see: www.humboldt-foundation.de.

Abbreviations

STP=Humboldt Research Fellowship

USS=Humboldt Research Award

GWI=Wilhelm-Grimm Award

Paul=Wolfgang Paul-Award

BUKA=German Chancellor Fellowship

American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation January 1–December 31, 2010

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Research in Germany—Land of Ideas

Have you heard the marketing slogan “Research in Germany—Land of Ideas” more often lately? Launched in November 2006 by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, “Research in Germany” is intended to showcase achievements in German research in the United States and other countries. In partnership with the Humboldt Foundation and the other major German research organizations, the “Research in Germany” campaign is helping to raise the profile of German science internationally and promote more scientific exchange globally. In North America, American Friends works closely with the U.S. offices of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the German Research Foundation (DFG), and the German Center for Research and Innovation (DWIH) to promote research opportunities in Germany at conferences, career fairs, and other events—all under the “Research in Germany” brand. You may have seen American Friends representing AvH at “Research in Germany” exhibits such as the NIH International Opportunities Expo (September 17, 2010) in Bethesda, MD and the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting (November 13–17, 2010) in San Diego, CA. Find Research in Germany online: www.research-in-germany.de

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American Friends Promotes German Chancellor Fellowship at University Career Fairs

American Friends has been busy distributing information to prospective applicants for the German Chancellor Fellowship at events such as the American University Job and Internship Career Fair (September 29, 2010), 9th Annual Washington, DC/Baltimore Public Service Career Fair (January 28, 2011), the George Washington University, Elliott School of International Affairs Career & Information Fair (February 11, 2011), and the George Mason University Graduate Career & Internship Fair (February 16, 2011). Such events are a great opportunity to reach out to Bachelor’s and Master’s students, as well as recent alumni from a variety of disciplines, including business, communications, public affairs, law and the arts and sciences.

Promoting AvH Programs

Deans and professors from colleges and universities in the New York metropolitan area gathered on November 9, 2010 at the CUNY Graduate Center to learn about sponsorship opportunities for themselves and their students. Humboldtian and Alumni Council member Ray Erickson (STP, 1977) organized the event, with the support of AF colleagues Margot Pfefferle and Virginia Barth. Foundation alumni, including Alumni Council member John Maciuka (BUKA, 1998, STP, 2001) and Tricia Striano (KOS, 2004), talked about their experiences as Humboldtians.



Research in Germany booth representatives at the Society for Neuroscience Annual meeting in San Diego (left to right): Margot Pfefferle from American Friends, Sigrid Claßen from the DFG, Dr. Joann Halpern from the DWIH

William M. Calder III Fellowship Recipient for 2010-2011



Dr. Nicolas Wiater

American Friends congratulates Dr. Nicolas Wiater on his receipt of the William M. Calder III Fellowship for 2010-2011. Nicolas Wiater (Ph.D. 2008) studied Greek and Latin Language and Literature and Byzantine Studies at the Universities of Bonn, Frankfurt, Heidelberg, Pisa, and Cambridge. Dr. Wiater’s M.A. addressed the “Historical Library” of Diodorus Siculus (2004). His major areas of research interest are the cultural identity and historical imagination of Greek intellectuals in the Late Hellenistic and Early Roman Imperial Period. From 2001 to 2004 and 2006 to 2008 he held scholarships from the German National Academic Foundation; since 2005 he has been a lecturer (*wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter*) in Classics at the University of Bonn, Germany. He has published articles on Diodorus Siculus, Dionysius of Halicarnassus, Polybius, and Flavius Josephus and is author of *The Ideology of Classicism. Language, History, and Identity in Dionysius of Halicarnassus*, which is forthcoming in deGruyter’s *Untersuchungen zur antiken Literatur und Geschichte*. He is co-editor with Thomas A. Schmitz of a volume on Greek cultural identity in Augustan Rome, *The Struggle for Identity: Greeks and Their Past in the First Century BCE* (Stuttgart: Steiner, forthcoming). Additional research interests include early Greek poetry and the epic tradition. His next book will be on violence in Greek epic from Homer to Nonnos. He is currently on leave at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where he is working with Professor Dr. William M. Calder III on a commented edition of the letters of Ulrich von Wilamowitz-Moellendorff and Georg Kaibel. Dr. Wiater’s research is supported through a Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. He is the sixth recipient of the William M. Calder III Fellowship.

American Chemical Society Spring Meeting

American Friends hosted a reception for Humboldtians and prospective fellowship applicants at the American Chemical Society spring meeting on Monday, March 28, 2011 in Anaheim, CA. Thank you to all Humboldtians who attended.



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Alexander von Humboldt Foundation**
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***American Friends
says Farewell to
Deirdre Kelly...***

The American Friends staff and Board members bids a fond farewell to Deirdre Kelly, Senior Program Director. Deirdre joined the U.S. Liaison Office of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in 1998, and subsequently helped to transform the organization into American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. American Friends is grateful to Deirdre for her dedicated service to American Friends, the Humboldt Foundation and U.S. Humboldtians, and wish her and her family all the best.



...and Welcomes Margot Pfefferle

American Friends is pleased to welcome Margot Pfefferle as the new Program Coordinator for Communications and Outreach. Margot is a graduate of the University Wisconsin-Eau Claire, where she majored in German and Spanish Liberal Arts. After graduation, she joined the North America office of the German Research Foundation (DFG) in Washington, DC, where she gained experience in event coordination and promotions, and developed an understanding of the German research landscape and its key players. Margot is responsible for promoting the grants and fellowships of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation to U.S. scientists and scholars, and for coordinating American Friends communications and public outreach efforts.



...and Carolyn Brodbeck

We are also pleased to welcome Carolyn Brodbeck to the American Friends team as the new Office Administrator/Executive Assistant. Carolyn hails from Pittsburgh and graduated last May from Colgate University, where she majored in Political Science and German. After graduating, Carolyn worked as a Research Assistant at the Atlantic Council, where she supported the Young Atlanticist initiative and a meeting of young leaders at the 2010 NATO Summit in Lisbon, Portugal. Carolyn will also provide support to the American Friends Board of Directors.

