



From the President

Dear Humboldtians and Friends:

As reported in our last edition, American Friends is developing programs and plans to better serve US Humboldtians. In addition to organizing activities to strengthen intellectual and social bonds among Humboldtians, we hope to engage alumni in programs related to the globalization of research and to strategies for encouraging fuller US participation in international networking, exchange, and creative collaboration among researchers, scholars, and professionals.

To better understand the needs and interests of US Humboldtians and guide our planning, we have been engaged in two major projects this spring. First, in March 2012 we emailed all US Humboldtians, asking them to review the contact information stored in our database. Though the project has been a major undertaking for our small staff, we have enjoyed the opportunity to reach out to each and every member of the Humboldt "family" in the United States and appreciate the messages that many of you have sent to us in response.

In late April, we then asked a representative sample of US Humboldtians to assist us by filling out a short questionnaire exploring the nature of Humboldtians' connections to or involvement with American Friends and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and their views on the kinds of activities and support they would like to see American Friends provide. In the coming months, we will analyze the questionnaire responses and discuss the results with the Alumni Council and the American Friends Board of Directors. We look forward to reporting back to you in the fall on what we have learned and how the ideas and suggestions of alumni are influencing our plans for the coming years.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank US Humboldtians for taking the time to make sure that we have the most up-to-date contact information as well as current information on your professional affiliations. For those of you selected to complete the questionnaire, we appreciate your participation in the survey and are grateful for the feedback and excellent ideas we received. Thank you for helping to shape the future of American Friends programs and activities!

Dr. Cathleen Fisher, President

Dr. Karen Donfried Chairs US German Chancellor Fellowship Selection



The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation has appointed Dr. Karen Donfried, National Intelligence Officer for Europe at the United States National Intelligence Council, as Chair of the US German Chancellor Fellowship Selection Committee. She began serving as Chair of this committee in February 2012.

Dr. Donfried served as the Executive Vice President of the German Marshall Fund (GMF) of the United States from 2005 through October 2010. In that role, she provided strategic direction to GMF's programs on transatlantic relations, oversaw and helped manage GMF's headquarters in Washington and its seven offices in Europe, and worked closely with GMF's Board of Trustees. Dr. Donfried had returned to GMF in 2005 as senior director for policy programs following an extended leave of absence during which she served in the US Department of State. While at the State Department from October 2003 through May 2005, Dr. Donfried handled the Europe portfolio on the Policy Planning Staff in the Office of the Secretary of State. She previously served as GMF's director of foreign policy and, prior to that, worked as a European Affairs specialist in the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division of the Congressional Research Service (CRS). She has written extensively on

German foreign and defense policy, European integration, and transatlantic relations. She also appears regularly on US and European television and radio. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the American Council on Germany.

As Chair of the German Chancellor Fellowship US Selection Committee, Dr. Donfried collaborates with the Humboldt Foundation to oversee the German Chancellor Fellowship's Selection process of US applicants. American Friends looks forward to supporting Dr. Donfried, the US Selection Committee, and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in the process of selecting future German Chancellor Fellows.

Dr. Donfried succeeds Dr. William G. Durden, President of Dickinson College, who chaired the US Selection Committee from 2008 to 2011. Previous chairs of the prestigious US Selection Committee include:

- Ambassador Robert Hutchings, Dean of the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs
- Dr. Daniel Fallon, Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Public Policy and the University of Maryland at College Park
- Dr. Robert Rosenzweig, President Emeritus of the Association of American Universities
- Dr. Stanley Katz, Professor at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University

Regional Conference Discusses: How to Raise the Profile of German Research in North America

On March 5–6, American Friends joined the North American partner organizations in the “Research in Germany” initiative for an exchange on ways to strengthen outreach to US researchers, including the alumni of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and other German organizations. Participating in the meeting were representatives from the German Research Foundation (DFG), the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the German Academic International Network (GAIN), the German Center for Research and Innovation in New York (GCRI NY), the German Consulates, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, and the North American liaison offices of various German universities. The conference, held in New York City, offered the partner organizations a chance to report on their respective goals, activities, and networks in North America, and to identify future opportunities for collaboration.

The conference featured presentations from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany on German-American scientific cooperation, US science policy and technological competitiveness, developments in the German research landscape, and BMBF funding mechanisms. Representatives from the partner organizations talked about their activities in North America and the challenges associated with informing and engaging US researchers. Presentations on marketing through web tools and social media sparked a particularly lively exchange.

There was strong consensus among participants that alumni are central to the success of efforts to raise the profile of German research in the United States. The Humboldtians on Campus, DAAD Research Ambassadors, and other active alumni can be highly effective in spreading the word about funding opportunities in Germany. But participants agreed that much more needed to be done to strengthen ties to alumni and to build on the emotional connection that many feel to Germany and to their respective funding organizations.

In addition to improved alumni outreach, the participants identified several other key topics for future discussion:

- The opportunities and challenges of promoting research opportunities in Germany within the European context;
- International mobility and brain circulation;
- New media and communications tools; and
- The professional and personal benefits of a research stay in Germany.

The organizations hope to continue to explore these topics at a future follow-up conference.

Correction: Strata Fall 2011

The article “AvH Alumni at Virginia Tech Organize Event, Expand Network” listed Dr. Tom Campbell as the event organizer—the event co-organizers should have been listed as Dr. Tom Campbell and Prof. Royce Zia.

Abbreviations

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



2012–2013 German Chancellor Fellows with the German Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Peter Ammon. From left to right: Terry Renaud, Sigrid Lupieri, Emmeline Kao, Eric Borden, Renee Holley, Joel Stonington, Ambassador Ammon, Misa Dayson, Svetlana Stepanova, Elizabeth McAdam, Joseph Lehner.

2012 German Chancellor Fellowship Orientation Held in Washington, DC

Under the patronage of the German Federal Chancellor, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation each year awards fellowships to up to thirty outstanding individuals from the United States, the Russian Federation, and the People’s Republic of China. The German Chancellor Fellows—all accomplished young leaders with demonstrated leadership potential—spend one year in Germany undertaking an independent project at a host institution. To help prepare them for their time in Germany, American Friends assists the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in organizing an annual orientation meeting of the new fellows.

The 2012 Orientation Meeting was held on April 18–20 in Washington, DC. Representatives from the Humboldt Foundation provided the fellows with valuable program information. The returning US class of 2010–2011, including delegates from the Russian and Chinese programs, shared lessons learned and addressed concerns about practical issues relating to living abroad. The returning German Chancellor Fellows underscored the importance of the Humboldt Network and shared valuable networking tips.

Among the highlights of this year’s program was a reception hosted by the German Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Peter Ammon. Ambassador Ammon welcomed the newly selected US German Chancellor Fellows to his residence for a reception, which featured remarks by Dr. George Schütte, a State Secretary in the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and also former Secretary General of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Joining the German Chancellor Fellows at the reception was a group of distinguished researchers from Germany. Both Ambassador Ammon and State Secretary Schütte emphasized the special relationship between the United States and Germany and the two countries’ roles as leaders in the changing international research landscape.

The selected fellows represent diverse fields such as archeology, renewable energy, drama therapy, mechanical engineering, and German cultural history (see the full list of 2012–2013 Fellows on the American Friends website).

American Friends congratulates the Fellows on their selection and wishes them much success.

American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

January 1–December 31, 2011

Supporters in the United States continue to advance the activities of the Humboldt Foundation through their gifts to American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. We acknowledge with thanks the following donors in 2011.

American Friend of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation is a non-profit organization under the guidelines of article 501(c)(3) of the IRS code; contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



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Spotlight on Alumni

Between February and April, American Friends sent contact update requests to over 5,000 Humboldtians. Thank you for taking the time to validate or update your information. Many of you took this as an opportunity to touch base with us to share recent accomplishments. Here are some highlights:

- **Prof. Ivan Bodis-Wollner** (USS, 1993) was entered into the 112th USA Congressional Record for his work on advancing the knowledge of Parkinson's Disease. Prof. Bodis-Wollner was invited to Prof. Peter Riederer's 70th birthday in Wuerzburg to discuss his new research "Remodeling of the fovea in PD. Can we use Optical Coherence Tomography as a biomarker in PD?" Prof. Bodis-Wollner has also been a Delegate Member of the World Federation of Neurology (WFN) Research Group on Parkinsonism and Related Disorders since 2005 and a Fellow at the Hanse Institute for Advanced Studies (HWK) in Delmenhorst, Germany from 2002–2006 and since 2009. He had a Pfizer Visiting Professorship in Neurology in 2007.
- **Prof. Suzanne Marchand** (STP, 1998) will become the President of the German Studies Association (GSA) in 2013, succeeding **Prof. Stephen Brockmann** (STP, 1999). Fellow Humboldtian **Prof. David Barclay** (STP, 1985) serves as the Executive Director of GSA. Prof. Marchand teaches at Louisiana State University and focuses her research on the study of the Orient in Germany as well as the history of the humanities and theology. Prof. Brockmann is currently in Berlin on a renewed research stay sponsored by the Foundation and remains a German professor at Carnegie Mellon University. Prof. Barclay has led the GSA since 2006 and is the Margaret and Roger Scholten Professor of International Studies at Kalamazoo College.
- **Prof. Alfred Andrea** (STP, 1966) completed a two-year term as President of the World History Association (WHA), an international learned society with over 1,500 colleagues from 36 nations, and a constituent member of the American Council of Learned Societies. He has been working closely with a coterie of global historians at the University of Leipzig, including Matthias Middell, Katja Naumann, and Steffi Franke, who share his passion for trans-national, trans-regional, trans-cultural history. For more information on the work of the WHA and its upcoming conferences, visit www.thewha.org.
- On Thursday, April 12, 2012, **Dr. Cora Granata** (BUKA, 1998–1999), Associate Professor of History and Director of the European Studies Program at California State University Fullerton, hosted Wolfgang Drautz, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Los Angeles. Consul General Drautz delivered a lecture at a symposium organized by Dr. Granata and her students on "The European Debt Crisis and the Future of the European Union." Consul General Drautz

spoke about the history of European integration and the way forward in the current Eurozone crisis. The event drew a standing room-only crowd of 170 interested students, faculty, alumni, and community members. Previously, Consul General Drautz presented the certificates to the 2009–2010 German Chancellor Fellows while serving as Consul General in Chicago.

- **Prof. Ahmed Abdelal** (STP, 1972) serves as Provost for University of Massachusetts Lowell, which has one of four NSF-funded national centers for nano-manufacturing in the United States. UMass Lowell also has a cooperation agreement with the State of Hessen and Berlin Technological University, and seeks to strengthen cooperation with German institutions in science and engineering.
- **Prof. George Rawitscher** (STP, 1962) recently traveled to Buenos Aires to lecture on Sturmian functions to physicists, leading to new collaborations with colleagues in Argentina. At the end of May, Prof. Rawitscher traveled to Colombia, University de los Andes, to speak about the concept of Sturmian functions. His latest paper on this subject has just been accepted by the journal *Nuclear Physics* and will be published on July 15, 2012 in the 886th volume (p. 1–16). It is now available online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.nuclphysa.2012.05.001>. Prof. Rawitscher became aware of these functions as a fellow in Heidelberg in 1964–66. He is a member of the American Physical Society, American Association of University Professors, and Sigma Xi.
- Contemporary artist **Mr. Marc Adelman's** (BUKA, 2003–2004) project *Stelen* (2007–2011) was purchased in February for the Jewish Museum of New York's permanent collection and will be featured in the exhibition *Composed: Identity, Politics, Sex* through June 30, 2012. *Stelen* features 50 of the original 150 profile pictures that Mr. Adelman assembled from a gay Berlin internet-dating site—all photographed at the city's Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe (the Holocaust Memorial). Through these images, Adelman explores the provocative transformation of a site of reverence into a social space where the public and private, sexual and religious, historical and digital collide. To view Mr. Adelman's work, go to www.marcadelman.com. For more information on the Jewish Museum, see www.thejewishmuseum.org.

Thanks for sharing! If you have alumni news, please contact alumni@americanfriends-of-avh.org.

Note: If you did not receive a contact update request, please check your Spam filter and email alumni@americanfriends-of-avh.org to make sure we have your current email address.

William M. Calder III Fellowship Recipient for 2011–2012

American Friends congratulates Dr. Arata Takeda on his receipt of the William M. Calder III Fellowship for 2011–2012. He is the seventh recipient of the William M. Calder III Fellowship. The Calder Fellowship will complement Dr. Takeda's Feodor Lynen Fellowship (FLF) for Postdoctoral Researchers from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.



Dr. Takeda is being hosted by Prof. David E. Wellbery (GWI, 2006) in the Department of Germanic Studies at the University of Chicago during his Lynen Fellowship. Dr. Takeda will undertake an extensive study of the social and cultural history of terror, in order to enhance understanding of terror as a principle at work in a number of areas of human life. His project focuses particularly on the historical transformation of terror from an aesthetic method, as expounded in Aristotle's *Poetics*, to a political strategy, as applied during the French Revolution. By examining the implications of this shift in literature, philosophy, and cultural theory, Dr. Takeda seeks to elucidate the interplay between antiquity and modernity that finds its expression in the repulsive and, at the same time, contagious effect of modern terrorism.

Dr. Takeda studied humanities, German studies, Romance studies, and comparative literature in Tokyo, Tübingen, and Venice and obtained his PhD from the University of Tübingen. His dissertation on suicide bombers in Western literature, beginning with Sophocles' *Ajax*, challenges the popular view of suicide terrorism as a non-Western phenomenon. Dr. Takeda's dissertation was published in 2010.

Dr. Takeda has been a Lecturer at the University of Tübingen and a Research Fellow at the International Research Center for Cultural Studies in Vienna. In addition to his academic appointments, he has taught seminars on human dignity in collaboration with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty. Dr. Takeda is also working with several state education authorities in Baden-Württemberg to improve the quality of intercultural education.

US Alumni Survey Results Coming Soon!

In April and May, American Friends sent a representative sample of US Humboldtians a brief questionnaire designed to explore the nature of alumni connections to Germany, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and American Friends, as well as alumni interests in various types of activities. We would like to thank all of you who responded. The results will give American Friends and the Alumni Council a better understanding of how to be more effective in meeting the needs and expectations of US Humboldtians. American Friends expects to publish the results in the fall. Stay tuned!



American Friends on Facebook and Twitter!

You can keep up with American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation through social media. Last 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).



Humboldt Kolleg: Collaboration and Networks in the 21st Century

Technology is allowing people to network across time zones and countries nearly instantaneously. Our ability to interact socially online has become a ubiquitous feature of our modern society. However, there are open questions around how these emerging tools should be used by the scientific communities. In fact, the Humboldt Foundation is grappling with how to leverage its network of 25,000 researchers spread across the globe.

To try and address some of these issues, Dr. Tom Campbell (STP, 1998) of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and David Abraham (BUKA, 2008–2009) organized a Kolleg entitled *Collaboration and Networks in the 21st Century*. With a line-up of stellar guest speakers from leading American and German institutions, participants walked away with a deeper understanding of the possibilities but also the limitations of technology. A common theme throughout was the importance of collaboration across boundaries and the need for junior researchers to gain international experience as they progress in their careers.

Of the over 80 attendees, 20 were doctoral students who had the opportunity to present their research during a poster session. Of particular value was their participation during the panel discussions where they were able to share their perspectives on the role of networking in their professional advancement.

A wonderful highlight of the two day event was a keynote address by Dr. Bruce Alberts, Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Science*. With his characteristic good humor, Dr. Alberts reminded everyone present of the incredible power of science to build bridges between people and benefit humanity.

The Kolleg was held on February 24–25, 2012 in Arlington, VA and was made possible by a generous grant from the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung and support from the American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation as well as the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science (ICTAS) at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.



Kolleg Organizers: Dr. Tom Campbell and Mr. David Abraham.



**American Friends of the
Alexander von Humboldt Foundation**
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American Friends Board of Directors News

American Friends wishes the best to departing Board Member Peggy Kuo...

The Board and staff of American Friends wish to express their thanks to Ms. Peggy Kuo for her service and valuable contributions to the organization's growth and development.

During her six years of service on the US Selection Committee for the German Chancellor Fellowship and over three years of service as an American Friends Board Member, Ms. Peggy Kuo (BUKA, 1993–1994) has given generously of her time, experience, and wisdom to advance the shared goals of American Friends and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Ms. Kuo's work on the mission statement contributed significantly to a clear and compelling articulation of American Friends objectives and vision. In addition, she facilitated a careful review of the organization's bylaws, which strengthened and professionalized the organization's governance. Through these and many other contributions, Ms. Kuo has helped to create a solid foundation for the organization's further evolution and to set it upon its current trajectory of growth and positive momentum.

Currently, Ms. Kuo is General Counsel at the New York City Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings. She previously served as Chief Hearing Officer for the New York Stock Exchange, Counsel with the law firm of WilmerHale in New York City, and a trial attorney with the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague.



and is pleased to welcome Dale Medearis to our Board of Directors.

Dr. Dale Medearis (BUKA, 1994–1995) is a senior environmental planner for the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NRVC). In that capacity, he co-leads the NVRC's regional climate mitigation and energy programs and manages NVRC's international environmental partnerships. He helped to launch the first formal climate and energy partnership between the 40 largest US and European metropolitan regional councils. He also was an initiator of the Transatlantic Climate Bridge. He was principally involved in the launch of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's "Cities and Climate" Network and collaborated with the Freie Universitaet of Berlin in developing the Transatlantic Urban Climate Dialogue. Prior to working for NVRC, Dr. Medearis spent approximately 20 years at the Office of International Affairs, US Environmental Protection Agency, in Washington, DC, as the program manager for Western Europe and urban environmental programs. He also served as the program manager for the US National Park Service's Potomac American Heritage River Initiative. He has been the Vice-chair of the OECD Territorial Development Committee and Chairman of the OECD Working Group on Urban Affairs. Dr. Medearis has been awarded fellowships to study urban and environmental planning in Europe from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the Fulbright Commission, the German Academic Exchange Council, the European Union, and the American Council on Germany.

