

German Classics Scholar Awarded Calder Fellowship

American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation awarded the second William M. Calder III Fellowship in July 2005 to Dr. Dirk Rohmann. A generous gift from William M. Calder III, a Humboldt Research Awardee in 1997, allowed American Friends to create the Calder Fellowship, designed to aid young German scholars pursuing research in Classical Studies in the United States.

A recently selected Feodor Lynen Fellow, Dr. Rohmann will conduct research at the University of Colorado beginning September 1. During Dr. Rohmann's stay, Professor Noel Lenski of the university's Department of Classics will be his host. Professor Lenski, who won a Humboldt Research Fellowship to Munich in 2002, expressed gratitude to American Friends for the Calder Fellowship, which offsets the contribution that the Humboldt Foundation expects the host university to provide to support a Lynen Fellow. This grant will free Dr. Rohmann from other responsibilities and thus facilitate pursuit of his research project.

Dr. Rohmann received his Ph.D. in Ancient History from the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich in 2004, after completing his dissertation on the evaluation of political violence in the literature of the first century AD. While in Colorado, he will research the conflict between Christianity and pagan religions in the fourth and fifth centuries AD, specifically the polemics of Christian writers against pagan cults. Dr. Rohmann will explore whether the controversy was motivated primarily by a sense of threat from rival religions or by the desire to convert the pagan elites. This work addresses the intellectual history of the religious conflicts in late Greco-Roman antiquity, a period that shaped both the political and the cultural development of the Christian Middle Ages and, ultimately, the modern world.

New Exhibit Promotes the Humboldt Foundation

Generous donations to American Friends have made possible the purchase of a portable exhibit, "Supporting Excellence in Research," which promotes the opportunities offered by the Humboldt Foundation. The customized graphic design on the ten-foot, curved display pictures Humboldtians at work in a variety of fields. The key words "achievement," "exploration," "innovation," and "leadership" capture the objectives of the Foundation's programs. You can view the exhibit at: www.americanfriends-of-avh.org.

The portable exhibit is one tangible way in which American Friends has chosen to use your gifts to support the activities of the Humboldt Foundation in the United States. If you have other ideas or suggestions about how American Friends might use the donations that you provide to enhance the Foundation's visibility, please send them to donita.moorhus@verizon.net.

Sofja Kovalevskaja Awards Attract Exceptional Young Researchers to Germany

The Sofja Kovalevskaja Award, granted by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, is among the most generously endowed research awards in Germany. The awards were offered in 2001 and 2004 and have been reauthorized for 2006.

The funding—up to EUR 1.2 million per award—enables young scientists and scholars with outstanding research records to concentrate on high-level, innovative research in Germany, virtually

About "Strata"

"Strata" is the newsletter of the American Friends of the AvH 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.

without administrative constraints. The funds, provided over four years, allow recipients to develop and finance a workgroup at a German university or non-university research institution, conduct research of their own design, and finance their living expenses.

The program is open to scholars and scientists of all nationalities and in all fields of study who are not resident in Germany. Applicants must be under 35 years of age and have a doctoral degree and publications in prestigious refereed journals. The deadline for application is January 4, 2006. Detailed information about eligibility, residency requirements, and application forms are available at: <http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/programme/preise/kova.htm>.

Did you know...

... that Sofja Kovalevskaya, born in Russia in 1850, was an extraordinary mathematician known for her contributions to the theory of differential equations? After struggling for years to enroll in universities at a time when women were rarely admitted, Kovalevskaya ultimately received a doctorate from the University of Göttingen and a tenured position at the University of Stockholm.

Humboldt Foundation Reorganizes

After months of introspection and intensive debate, the Humboldt Foundation is reorganizing to become more streamlined and efficient. Here are two of the changes, which will be implemented this fall, that may be of interest to U.S. Humboldtians:

- Dr. Steffen Mehlich will head a new department, "Förderung," in which responsibilities will be assigned according to region. This department merges the existing departments for "Nachkontakt" and "Betreuung."
- Dr. Katja Hartmann (formerly Rampelmann) will head a new, permanent Liaison Office in Berlin.

Not sure whom to address with questions or concerns? Humboldtians are always welcome to contact the Foundation's U.S. Liaison Office at avh@verizon.net for information. Prospective Humboldtians should send inquiries to the Selection Department in Bonn at select@avh.de.

Using the new exhibit purchased by American Friends, the U.S. Liaison Office will promote the Humboldt programs for research at the following international conferences:

American Chemical Society
(Fall National Meeting), Washington, DC
(August 29-31)

German Studies Association
(29th Annual Conference), Milwaukee, Wisconsin
(September 29 - October 2)

National Institutes of Health
(Job Fair for Postdoctoral, Research, and Clinical Fellows) Bethesda, Maryland
(October 20)

Society for Neuroscience
(35th Annual Meeting), Washington, DC
(November 13-16)

David Barclay Appointed Executive Director of German Studies Association

Professor David Barclay, recipient of a Humboldt Research Fellowship in 1985, will become Executive Director of the German Studies Association (GSA) on January 1, 2006. Barclay, a historian of modern Germany, is Margaret and Roger Scholten Professor of International Studies in the Department of History at Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, Michigan. The main office of GSA, an international association of scholars in German, Austrian, and Swiss history, literature, culture studies, political science, and economics, will be transferred to Kalamazoo College.

The Humboldt Foundation's U.S. Liaison Office will host a reception for Humboldtians and prospective Humboldtians at the GSA's annual conference on Saturday, October 1.

AvHAA Membership Meeting

The Alexander von Humboldt Association of America (AvHAA) will hold a general membership meeting at 5:30 PM on Saturday, October 1, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center. All AvHAA members are invited to attend. See www.avhaa.org for details.

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 in cash (by check or money order) 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, Executive Director.