



Letter from the President

These are times of transition and exciting new beginnings for the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and for American Friends of the AvH. In April 2010, the Board of Governors of the Humboldt Foundation selected **Professor Dr. Enno Aufderheide** as the Foundation's new Secretary General. Dr. Aufderheide, who assumed office on July 1, succeeds **Dr. Georg Schütte**, who in December 2009 became Permanent State Secretary in the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). American Friends joins Humboldtians around the world in congratulating Dr. Schütte on his new position. We also extend our very best wishes to Dr. Aufderheide, with whom we look forward to working closely in the coming years. A press release is available at: www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/press-release-2010-06.html.

In close cooperation with the Foundation, the Board of Directors last year concluded a **Memorandum of Understanding** between American Friends and the AvH. The MoU is designed to enhance and facilitate our cooperation and communication, and to lay a solid foundation for our continued close partnership in service of shared goals and ideals. I am grateful to the Board of the Directors and the leadership and staff of the AvH for their guidance and hard work during this process.

The AF Board over the last year has taken important steps to strengthen the organization's governance. On the programmatic side, the new **Alumni Council** is looking at ways to intensify its cooperation with regional groupings of alumni, the "Humboldtians on Campus" (HoCs), and with the Sponsorship and Network Department of the Foundation in order to build a program of alumni activities suited to the needs and interests of Humboldtians in the U.S.

Reflecting American Friends' organizational maturation, the AF Board agreed to title changes for the officers and chief executive officer of the organization. Daniel Fallon's title will change to Chair of the Board of Directors; Ulrike Albrecht will henceforth be Vice Chair. My own title of Executive Director will change to that of President. The Board was cognizant that the change in titles initially could be confusing for some of our partners, but agreed that the move is compatible with trends in nonprofit structures in the United States and appropriate to American Friends gradual professionalization.

We believe the steps taken over the last year are vital to provide American Friends the capacity to fulfill its mission to "promote networking, exchange, and creative collaboration among scientists, scholars, artists, and other professionals in the United States and Germany, consistent with the goals of the **Alexander von Humboldt Foundation**."

The next essential step in this process will be the formulation of a mid-term strategic plan, which will identify strategic goals for the next three to five years. American Friends will be reaching out to alumni, partners, and other important stakeholders to explore their views on our future strategic goals and priorities. We look forward to hearing from you as American Friends takes this important step in service of our mission.

Dr. Cathleen Fisher, President

German Center for Research and Innovation Opens in New York

The German government's efforts to showcase Germany's strengths in science and technology took a leap forward with the opening on February 19, 2010, of the German Center for Research and Innovation (GCRI) in New York. German Federal Minister of Education and Research Annette Schavan and German Ambassador to the United States Klaus Scharioth spoke at the opening event, underscoring the importance of continued transatlantic cooperation in science and technology. Nobel Laureate and Humboldtian Professor Wolfgang Ketterle gave the inaugural keynote address on new forms of matter near absolute zero temperature, drawing on his own collaborative research experience across the Atlantic. The President of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Professor Helmut Schwarz, was among the distinguished guests attending the opening festivities.

The GCRI is one of five institutions worldwide that will showcase German research and innovation. The other centers are located in Moscow, New Delhi, Sao Paulo, and Tokyo. The GCRI's mission is "to strengthen transatlantic collaboration in science and technology to help solve the global challenges of the 21st century." In partnership with universities and



AvH President Professor Dr. Helmut Schwarz (second from right) at the opening of the GCRI New York.

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private industry, the Center will convene scientific conferences, symposia, and workshops; organize lectures and exhibitions showcasing German scientific contributions; and provide information about the German research landscape and funding sources. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation is a partner in the global initiative, along with the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). American Friends' president, Dr. Cathleen Fisher, chairs the Advisory Council for the GCRI during its initial phase of operations.

German Chancellor Fellowship Selection Meetings Coincide with Historic Blizzards

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the German Chancellor Fellowship in the U.S. Unlike other AvH programs, which target academics and researchers, the German Chancellor Fellowship focuses on professional development. Young leaders from the U.S., the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China (ten from each country) are given the opportunity to spend an extended period of time in Germany at an early stage in their careers.

But this year was memorable for another reason. The annual selection meeting in Washington, DC, coincided with the historic blizzards that pummeled the Mid-Atlantic in early February. Fortunately, all of the candidates made it to Washington for their interviews—they just weren't able to leave! But there was a silver lining to this extended snowy stay. The finalists, including those not selected, had the opportunity to forge new friendships and professional relationships with others who share a similar interest in Germany and transatlantic exchange. We wish them well as they travel to Germany this summer for language training prior to beginning their fellowships in September.

American Friends would also like to acknowledge the substantial commitment of time given by the members of the 2010 selection committee. Members of the 2010 selection committee: **Professor William Durden** (chair), President, Dickinson College; **Ms. Peggy Kuo** (German Chancellor Fellow 1993–94), Chief Hearing Officer, New York Stock Exchange; **Professor Gale Mattox**, Political Science Department, United States Naval Academy; **Dr. Dale Medearis** (German Chancellor Fellow 1994–95), Senior Environmental Planner, Northern Virginia Regional Commission; **Dr. Malcolm Richardson**, Senior Partnership Officer, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH); **Dr. Bertram von Moltke**, Office of Cultural Affairs, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany.



2008–2009 and 2010–2011 German Chancellor Fellows at a breakfast meeting hosted by Ambassador Klaus Scharioth at the ambassador's residence in Washington, DC.

20th Anniversary Meeting of the German Chancellor Fellowship Held in Washington, DC

The 2010 U.S. Annual Alumni Meeting for the German Chancellor Fellowship was held in Washington, DC, from April 23 – April 25.

The meeting, organized by Dr. Greg Moynahan (1997–98), focused on the theme “Globalization, Infrastructure and Technology,” and addressed a variety of topics, such as the media, public health, renewable energies and language in the 21st century. Dr. John Maciuika (1998–99), current President of the Buka alumni, organized the business meeting covering the future of the U.S. alumni meetings and changes to the structure of the alumni group.

At a festive banquet dinner, Dr. Susan Duggan (1990–91), a member of the first class of German Chancellor Fellows, shared special memories from the other fellows of the 20th anniversary class. Also in attendance were more than 60 local Humboldtians and Dr. Steffen Mehlich and Dr. Katrin Amian from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Dr. Daniel Hamilton, the Richard von Weizsäcker Professor and Director of the Center for Transatlantic Relations at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, gave an insightful and thought-provoking keynote address. Dr. Hamilton has a deep commitment to U.S.—German transatlantic relations and to the Humboldt Foundation. In honor of their recent retirement, Dr. Damani Partridge (1999–00) presented Dr. Robert Grathwol and Ms. Donita Moorhus with a book of memories and photos from the German Chancellor Fellows.

American Friends Raises Visibility of AvH Fellowships at MIT European Career Fair and GAIN Workshop

American Friends represented the Foundation in January at the MIT European Career Fair, an annual recruiting event that connects employers in Europe with candidates from leading universities. The three-day event is designed to increase awareness in the U.S. of European research opportunities and to promote Europe as an attractive place to pursue a career. Participants include industry, universities, research centers, government, and funding organizations.

Deirdre Kelly of AF and Thomas Weitz, an AvH Lynen Fellow at Harvard University, staffed the AvH exhibit booth, part of the Research in Germany cluster. AF also participated in a related workshop, “How to Find a Postdoc, Young Investigator and Faculty Position in Germany.” The workshop, which targeted assistant professors, doctoral and postdoctoral students, featured experts in academia and industry as well as testimonials from recipients of awards and fellowships.

On April 17, the German American Academic International Network (GAIN) organized a workshop in Washington, DC, to provide information to young scientists and postdoctoral scholars on how to set up a research team as a young investigator or junior faculty. Dr. Cathleen Fisher, president of American Friends, gave an overview of funding trends in the U.S. Dr. Tricia Striano, recipient of the AvH's Sofja Kovalevskaja Award (2004), shared her experience and provided first-hand practical information on doing research in Germany. Dr. Striano is Associate Professor of Psychology at Hunter College in New York City.

American Friends Hosts Reception at ACS Spring Meeting

On March 22, 2010, American Friends hosted an alumni and promotional reception in conjunction with the spring meeting of the American Chemical Society (ACS) in San Francisco. The reception, which was co-organized by the ACS International Affairs Committee, was intended to bring together local alumni and Humboldtians in chemistry with ACS attendees interested in learning about the funding opportunities offered by the Humboldt Foundation.

ACS President Dr. Joe Francisco, a Humboldt Research Awardee, offered a glowing testimonial about the Humboldt Foundation and spoke enthusiastically of his time in Germany and how the experience had "shaped his point of view" on the long-term benefits of international exchange. The event was a great success, drawing more than 80 attendees, including young chemists and Humboldtians from Australia, Germany, Japan, the U.K. and the U.S.

ACS and American Friends are planning to organize a similar function in 2011 at the ACS Spring Meeting in Anaheim, California and at the American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) Annual Meeting in late 2010 in Philadelphia. By reaching out to groups such as the ACS Young Chemists Committee and the ASCB Women in Cell Biology Committee, AF hopes to engage younger scientists and graduate students. We welcome your ideas for outreach to young researchers.

Humboldt Foundation Awards Five New Humboldt Professorships

The Alexander von Humboldt Professorships are proving a strong draw for top talent around the world. On May 11th in Berlin, five eminent academics were awarded Alexander von Humboldt Professorships. The awards were conferred by Federal Education and Research Minister Annette Schavan and AvH President Prof. Dr. Helmut Schwarz.

The Humboldt Professorship is awarded annually to a maximum of ten researchers who are world leaders in their fields. Funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the award—which ranges from 3.5 to 5 million EUR—is designed to help German universities recruit top international talent.

Award winners and nominating universities:

Marc Levine, Mathematics
Northeastern University, United States

Dr. Levine will become a Director of the proposed Institute of Algebraic Geometry and Algebra, University at **Duisburg-Essen University**.

Jürgen Margraf, Psychology
University of Basel, Switzerland

Dr. Margraf will head the new Mental Health Research and Treatment Centre at **Ruhr University Bochum**.

Gerard J. van den Berg, Economics
Amsterdam Free University, The Netherlands

Dr. van den Berg will establish a new research group for empirical economics at **Mannheim University**.

Philip van der Eijk, Classics
New Castle University, United Kingdom

Dr. van der Eijk will develop an interdisciplinary degree course with an international orientation at **Humboldt University in Berlin**.

Matthias Wessling, Chemical Process Engineering
Twente University, The Netherlands

Dr. Wessling, a membrane researcher, will forge close links between engineering, natural science and medicine at **RWTH Aachen University**.



L to R: ACS President and Humboldtian Joseph Francisco (Purdue University), Priya Francisco, and AF President Cathleen Fisher at the alumni reception in San Francisco.



Humboldt Research Awardee Ei-ichi Negishi (R), Purdue University, reunites with his German host, Armin de Meijere (L), Universität Göttingen, at the ACS reception.

American Friends Staff Visit Alumni Around the Country

American Friends conducted a series of university visits in late 2009 and spring 2010 to meet with Humboldtians around the country and to promote the Foundation's sponsorship opportunities. The meetings were intended to inform Humboldtians about various forms of alumni support, including renewed research stays, Humboldt Kollegs and support from AF's Alumni Council.

Virginia Barth, Program Director for Alumni Relations, travelled to Chicago in December to meet with local alumni at Northwestern University, the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois at Chicago, DePaul University and the Chicago Metro History Education Center.

In March, Virginia travelled to Southern California to visit alumni at the California Institute of Technology; UC, Santa Barbara; UC, Irvine; UC, San Diego; UC, Los Angeles; and USC.

AF wishes to thank the following Humboldtians who gave so generously of their time and ideas: Mercurio Kanatzidis, Sally Sedgwick, Crystal Johnson, Robert Lerner, Berthold Hoekner, Phil Bohlman, Penelope Deutscher, Hermann Riecke, Anna Clissold, Christine Helmer, Bernhard Streitwieser, Brian Hanson, Kam Seth, Tamar Seideman, Randall Snurr, Kerry John Vahala, Cong Xu, Peter Dervan, Robert Grubbs, Zhibin Guan, David Pan, Hartmut Lücke, Alfred Kobsa, Freider Seible, Alan Hofmann, Francis Joseph Doyle III, Eckart Meiburg, Carlos Levi, Robert McMeeking, Martin Scharlemann, Florian Mansfield, Doris Tsao, Daniela Gerson and Yvonne Hung.

During the summer, Virginia Barth visited Princeton, and the University of Pennsylvania.



**American Friends of the
Alexander von Humboldt Foundation**

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American Friends Board Welcomes New Members

American Friends is pleased to announce the election of two new members to the Board of Directors in May 2010.



Dr. Tom Campbell is Associate Director for Special Projects and Outreach and Research Associate Professor with the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science (ICTAS), at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. A recipient of a Humboldt Research Fellowship, Dr. Campbell has a Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering Sciences from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a B.E. in Mechanical Engineering from Vanderbilt University.



Dr. Gale A. Mattox is Senior Visiting Fellow at the American Institute for Contemporary Studies (AICGS) and Professor and former department chair, Political Science Department, at the U.S. Naval Academy.

She has been a Bosch Fellow in Germany and serves on the selection committee for the Humboldt Foundation's German Chancellor Fellowship. Dr. Mattox received her Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Virginia.

Events and Conferences

American Friends represents the Humboldt Foundation in a variety of scientific conferences, career fairs, and academic meetings in the United States. A complete list of recent and upcoming events within the past 12 months is located at americanfriends-of-avh.org. Participation in upcoming meeting includes:

***American Chemical Society
National Meeting***

August 22–26 • Boston, MA

NIH International Opportunities Expo

September 17 • Bethesda, MD

***Society for Neuroscience
Annual Meeting***

November 13–17 • San Diego, CA

***American Society for Cell Biology
Annual Meeting (to be confirmed)***

December 11–15 • Philadelphia, PA

The Alumni Council: Call for Proposals

Any Humboldtian or group of Humboldtians may solicit funding for a “Humboldt Alumni Event.” Funds can be used as seed money for subsequent bigger events or as support for a self-contained activity that enhances the intellectual and social interaction among Humboldtians. Examples of activities eligible for funding range from themed discussions over coffee sessions to funding for a speaker or seed money for a Kolleg. Members of the “Humboldtians on Campus” initiative, in particular, should take advantage of this funding opportunity.

Individual funding requests can range from a few hundred to a few thousand dollars. Proposals should be submitted to the AF office to the attention of the alumni.council@americanfriends-of-avh.org. Proposal requirements and format can be obtained from the AF website. The deadlines for submissions of proposals are the end of March, June, September and December. The AC will evaluate all proposals and make its funding recommendations to the AF BoD within one month following the submission deadline.