

Our Mission:

To become a leading source in the United States for the promotion of national and international networking, exchange, and creative collaboration among scientists, scholars, artists, and other professionals, consistent with the goals of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation of Germany.

Our Vision:

To mobilize the intellectual curiosity, creativity, experience, and passion of Humboldtians to shape the changing landscape of research, higher education, and professional development in the United States and beyond.

Dear Humboldtians and Friends,

As a long political season in Washington finally draws to an end, American Friends is pleased to report several new programs and positive initiatives to promote German-American collaboration to advance knowledge and address shared societal and global challenges.

Over this past year, as in 2015, migration and refugee issues have continued to demand the attention of leaders on both sides of the Atlantic. Through the Philipp Schwartz Initiative, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH) is working with the German Foreign Office, German private foundations, and German and international organizations to provide support for nearly 50 threatened researchers at German universities and research institutions.

The integration of refugees and immigrants in higher education and, more broadly, in the economic, political, and social life of receiving countries was also the focus of the second triennial meeting of German Chancellor Fellows in Washington, DC in October 2016. Joining the US alumni of the program were select German Chancellor Fellows from Russia, China and—for the first time—Brazil.

The prospects for German-American collaboration after the US elections were among the topics of discussion at a meeting of German leaders in higher education with members of the US science and science policy community this past September hosted by German Ambassador Dr. Peter Wittig. AvH Secretary General Aufderheide and other leaders of German research and

higher education organizations were in Washington, DC for the annual meeting of the “German Academic International Network” (GAIN), a joint initiative of the AvH and other organizations to support and inform German scholars and scientists in the United States about changes in German higher education and research.

To insure that science and scientific perspectives are fully integrated into future transatlantic exchanges and dialogue, American Friends is developing plans for pilot projects that bring together US, German, and international experts on the internationalization of research and knowledge production, and on major global challenges at the nexus of science, society, and policy. The projects seek to engage members of the Humboldt network in dialogues that would benefit from the international, multidisciplinary, and transgenerational perspectives of the Humboldt network.

The American Friends Alumni Council, a committee of the Board of Directors, will create additional opportunities for Humboldtians to engage in American Friends work in ways that provide professional value and intellectual enrichment. In the coming months, the Alumni Council will be finalizing a multifaceted work plan that will strengthen and expand the Humboldtians on Campus program, increase the number of small and easily organized alumni activities around the country, and introduce an annual activity, organized by the Alumni Council, engaging Humboldtians in a substantive dialogue.

American Friends continues to work with alumni to spread the word about research support from the Humboldt Foundation at numerous professional meetings and venues.

We are also pleased to report our continuing success in attracting a team of talented young professionals who share our commitment to German-American research collaboration and the goals of the Humboldt Foundation. Together with the AvH, the American Friends team looks forward to engaging US Humboldtians in the alumni programs of the Humboldt Foundation and in our transatlantic dialogues and activities to shape US approaches to international research collaboration and shared societal challenges.

Dr. Cathleen Fisher, President



The 2016 Class of German Chancellor Fellows



German Ambassador Dr. Peter Wittig addresses the German Chancellor Fellows



German Chancellor Fellows at the Second Triennial Alumni Meeting in Washington, DC

German Chancellor Fellowship

The second triennial meeting of German Chancellor Fellows in the United States was held from October 21 to 23 in Washington, DC and explored the theme of migration. The event engaged nearly 80 alumni, including 5 Russian, 5 Chinese, and 9 Brazilian participants. German Ambassador to the United States Dr. Peter Wittig gave the keynote address at the meeting banquet, and AvH Secretary General Dr. Enno Aufferheide and BUKA Program Director Dr. Heidi Foerster attended the meeting and updated the fellows on new program developments.

The three panels comprised fellows from all of the participating countries and examined the lesser known causes of migration crises, responses to and impacts of migration, as well as the effects of past and present migration crises on Germany, the United States, Russia, China, and Brazil and how young leaders can work to solve the many challenges associated with the mass movement of populations.

The next alumni meeting is planned for Fall 2017 in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Research in Germany and Promotions News

2016 has been a busy year for American Friends—we promoted the Humboldt Foundation’s awards and fellowships through a wide variety of events across multiple disciplines.

In February, American Friends shared information on the Foundation’s sponsorship opportunities at the 20th annual MIT **European Career Fair** in Boston alongside the German Research Foundation (DFG). The information session featured short presentations from alumni of German funding organizations, including Humboldt Research Fellow Dr. Edmund Yeh of Northeastern University as well as a Welcome Address by Dr. Ralf Horlemann, German Consul General for Boston and the New England states.

In March, American Friends teamed up with the Research in Germany team at the **American Physical Society’s (APS) March Meeting** in Baltimore. We provided roughly 200 consultations on research opportunities in Germany. The Research in Germany team also hosted a Science Lunch that featured a testimonial by Humboldtian Dr. Richard Conroy.

American Friends also attended the **National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Fellowship Roundtable** on May 4, 2016. Success-tracking metrics, promotion of fellowship programs, and long-term support of fellows were the main themes of discussion and provided ideas on future strategies.

In May, American Friends participated in the annual **EU Open House** held at the German Embassy. The event offers visitors a rare look inside the embassies and provides a unique opportunity for them to experience the cultural heritage and national traditions of the 28 member countries. We joined partners from the DFG and DAAD at the Science in Germany stand in an effort to promote Germany as a research destination.

Together with the Research in Germany team, American Friends also participated in the 252nd **American Chemical Society (ACS) National Meeting** held in August in Philadelphia. The event drew more than 10,000 attendees. Humboldt Research Fellow and West Chester University Professor Kurt Kolasinski gave an enthusiastic testimonial on his time in Germany at the Science Lunch.

September was a busy month, with American Friends attending both the **National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Fellowship Roundtable** and the 16th annual **German Academic International Network (GAIN) Meeting**. GAIN is the largest German science and research career fair outside of Europe, where more than 70 German universities, research institutions, and funding agencies present their programs and job opportunities. American Friends President Cathleen Fisher delivered a presentation on AvH and DAAD mobility programs as part of a joint session on “Opportunities for Postdocs, Young Investigators and Junior Faculty in Germany,” along with representatives from the DFG and the Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres.

On October 14, American Friends participated in the first-ever **Goethe Institut Career Fair**. The event was geared primarily toward the high school demographic but also attracted a large number of undergraduates and young professionals.

American Friends’ last two promotional activities for 2016 will be the **Society for Neuroscience Meeting** in San Diego from November 12–14 and the **American Geophysical Union Meeting** in San Francisco from December 12–16.



The Research in Germany Team at the ACS Annual Meeting



Humboldtian Kurt Kolasinski speaking at the ACS Science Lunch



Alexandra Hoenscheid at the Goethe Institut Career Fair

American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Donors January 1–December 31, 2015



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Staff Changes at American Friends

In 2016, American Friends bade farewell to Program Coordinators Charlotte Johnson and Tyler Kunkle, who moved on to pursue exciting new opportunities. We wish them well in their new roles.

We are very excited about our new team. Program Coordinator **Alexandra Hoenscheid** joined American Friends in July. Alexandra is a recent graduate of the University of Mary Washington, where she majored in International Business with a minor in Business German. She studied abroad in Zurich, Switzerland and also interned at the U.S. Consulate in Frankfurt, Germany. Alexandra most recently worked as a resident assistant at the Virginia German Governor's School,



a summer residential program for talented language students, a program she had participated in herself.

In October we welcomed **Danielle Muñoz** as our second Program Coordinator. Danielle graduated from Bates College in 2015. She spent time in Spain, Austria, and Germany during her college career and also worked in the college's admissions office. She recently returned from Germany, where she served as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant and also traveled around Germany as part of the "Meet U.S." Program, giving presentations to high school students about the United States.



American Friends Welcomes Two New Board Directors

American Friends is pleased to announce that two new Directors have joined our Board.

Emily Bernhardt (BES 2015) is an Associate Professor of Biogeochemistry at Duke University. The core of her research interests lie in watershed biogeochemistry. A native of North Carolina, Professor Bernhardt has been interested in ecology since childhood. She conducted her dissertation research at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest and also took advantage of opportunities to travel to Venezuela and Chile to conduct research. She received her PhD from Cornell University in 2001 and was offered a postdoctoral position at Duke in the same year. In 2002, she joined the National River Restoration Science Synthesis, a large group of river scientists from across the country brought together with funds from the National Science Foundation's National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis Center (NCEAS). While working in Margaret Palmer's lab at the University of Maryland, she helped organize the Ecological Society of America's Visions project, aimed at formulating the future priorities for ecological science in the 21st century.



In 2003 Professor Bernhardt returned to Duke as a faculty member and joined the Department of Biology. At Duke, she created a research group comprising 14 graduate students and 7 postdocs, and the group has developed exciting research programs on topics as diverse as soil priming, nanomaterial toxicity, ecosystem development, wetland restoration, stream restoration,

urban thermal pollution, saltwater incursion, and watershed nitrogen cycling. The group has produced 5 PhD recipients and 5 professional masters students and has had 5 postdoctoral associates move on to faculty positions.

Anne Harrington (STP 1987-88) is the Franklin L. Ford Professor of the History of Science and Director of Undergraduate Studies at Harvard University, specializing in the history of psychiatry, neuroscience, and the other mind and behavioral sciences. She is also Co-Faculty Dean of Pforzheimer House. From 2007 to 2010, she was Department Chair, and in 2012 to 2013, she was Department Acting Chair.



Professor Harrington received her PhD in the History of Science from Oxford University, has held postdoctoral fellowships at the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine in London, and was a Humboldt Research Fellow at the University of Freiburg in Germany. For six years, she co-directed Harvard's Mind, Brain, and Behavior Initiative. She also was a consultant for the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Mind-Body Interaction, and served for 12 years on the Board of the Mind and Life Institute, dedicated to cross-cultural exchange and collaboration between the sciences and various contemplative traditions. She was also a founding co-editor of *Biosocieties*, a journal concerned with social science approaches to the life sciences.

Alumni Council News

American Friends is pleased to introduce **Dr. Dale Garner Medearis** as the new Chair of the AFAVH Alumni Council, a standing committee of the AFAVH Board of Directors. Dr. Medearis is a Senior Environmental Planner at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC). He was a German Chancellor Fellow in Bonn from 1994 to 1995 and recently served on the Steering Committee of the 2016 German Chancellor Fellowship Program Alumni Meeting. Prior to his work at NVRC, Medearis spent approximately 20 years at the Office of International Affairs, US Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, as the program manager for Western Europe and urban environmental programs. Dr. Medearis also serves on the

board of advisors for the American Friends of Georgia. He has taught courses on environmental policy and planning as an adjunct faculty at the University of Redlands, Virginia Tech University, and the Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Medearis has a PhD in environmental design and planning from Virginia Tech University, an MS in Cartographic and Geographic Science from George Mason University, an MGA in Government from the University of Pennsylvania, and a BA in International Relations from the University of Redlands.



Philipp Schwartz Initiative Update

In many parts of the world, researchers are at risk—facing war, restrictions on their freedom, or persecution. In 2015, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the German Federal Foreign Office announced the **Philipp Schwartz Initiative**, a program that enables universities and research institutions in Germany to host threatened foreign researchers for a period of 24 months. So far, 23 researchers (from Syria [14], Turkey [6], Libya [1], Pakistan [1], and Uzbekistan [1]), have benefited from the program, and the Foundation recently announced that 24 further threatened researchers will be given the opportunity to begin work at German universities and research institutions from January 2017 onward. Financial support is provided by the Federal Foreign Office and six of the major research-funding private foundations in Germany: the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Stiftung, the Fritz Thyssen Foundation, the Gerda Henkel Foundation, the Klaus Tschira Stiftung, the Robert Bosch Foundation, and Stiftung Mercator.

In September 2016, German universities and research institutions established the German Section of the Scholars at Risk Network (SAR) to further coordinate their response to these issues and to draw attention to infringements on academic freedom. The SAR Germany Section represents Germany in the global Scholars at Risk Network, which includes over 400 higher education institutions in 40 countries. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation will host the secretariat of the German Section until March 2019. The SAR Germany Section will also provide support for the Philipp Schwartz Initiative.

2016 William M. Calder III Fellows

American Friends is pleased to announce the recipients of the William M. Calder III Fellowship. The 2016 Fellows are Dr. Adam Gitner and Dr. Joseph Stenberg.

Each year, the William M. Calder III Fellowship is awarded to a young, highly qualified German Feodor Lynen Fellow or US Humboldt Research Fellow to pursue research related to classical antiquity or to its reception in medieval and modern times. Since 2004, nineteen prestigious William M. Calder III Fellowships have been awarded to support projects exploring a diverse range of topics.

Dr. Adam Gitner

Dr. Adam Gitner is a professor in the Department of Classical Studies at the University of Indiana, Bloomington. His research focuses on Augustan literature, Greco-Latin bilingualism, non-literary Latin, and ancient linguistic thought. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the Bavarian Academy of Sciences, where he contributed entries to the *Thesaurus linguae Latinae*. Dr. Gitner was also a docent at the Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich in the Department of Comparative and Indo-European Linguistics. He earned his MA and PhD from Princeton University, with his dissertation on *Horace and the Greek Language: Aspects of Literary Bilingualism*. Selected publications include “Varro Aelolicus: Latin’s Affinity with Greek,” in *Varro Varius: The Polymath of the Roman World*, ed. D. Butterfield, *Cambridge Classical Journal Supplement*, and “Nautea, notia: Plautus’s Nauseating Root,” published in *Glotta*. Dr. Gitner is currently completing his Humboldt Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers at the University of Cologne’s Institut für Altertumskunde.



Dr. Joseph Stenberg (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin)

Dr. Stenberg earned his PhD from the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he also taught philosophy for five semesters. His dissertation centered on Aquinas and happiness. He will continue this research and write a book on Aquinas’s theory of happiness and that theory’s connections to Aquinas’s ethics while on his Humboldt Research Fellowship at the Humboldt University in Berlin. Dr. Stenberg received a Chateaubriand Fellowship in the Humanities and researched at L’Université Paris–Sorbonne. His research interests include medieval ethics, as well as contemporary philosophy of religion, modern philosophy, and ethics. Selected publications include “Aquinas on the Relationship between the Vision and Delight in Perfect Happiness,” *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* (2016), and “Divine Properties, Parts, and Parity,” *International Journal of Philosophy and Theology* (2014).



Pilot Series Update

The third workshop in American Friends series on the challenges of crafting a comprehensive approach to US international engagement in science, technology, and innovation was held on Friday, January 29, 2016. The session explored “The Role of Science Funders in International S&T Collaboration.” Dr. Rebecca Keiser, Director of the Office in International Science and Engineering at the National Science Foundation, presented the NSF’s “emergency strategy” for internationalization, efforts to catalogue the international collaborations supported by the agency, and the challenges of intra- as well as inter-agency coordination. Dr. Ulrike Albrecht discussed German funders’ support of international research collaborations as well as issues of coordination in the German context. The discussion engaged some 30 participants, including Humboldtians and representatives of US and German science and science policy agencies. The fourth workshop is planned for 2017 and will consider a draft policy brief outlining recommendations for key stakeholder groups in the US scientific enterprise.

Planned Giving

American Friends encourages alumni and friends to consider making an estate gift (bequest). Making a bequest:

- ensures the future well-being and visibility of the Humboldt network;
- gives tomorrow’s leaders the opportunity to weigh in on important questions facing US research and educational institutions; and
- is an easy way to leave a lasting legacy and lessen the burden of taxes on your family.

For more information, please contact AFAvH Chief of Operations Ilonka Oszvald at ilonka.oszvald@americanfriends-of-avh.org or (202) 609-7880.

Abbreviations

STP=Humboldt Research Fellowship BUKA=German Chancellor
BES=Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Fellowship
Research Award

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Coming up in 2017

American Friends will be at the following events in late 2016/2017:

2016 Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting

San Diego, November 12–16, 2016

American Geophysical Union Meeting

San Francisco, December 12–16, 2016

European Career Fair

Boston, February 25, 2017

American Physical Society Meeting

New Orleans, March 13–17, 2017

American Chemical Society Meeting

Washington, DC, August 20–24, 2017

German Studies Association Meeting

Atlanta, October 5–8, 2017