



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,

At a time of new challenges in transatlantic cooperation, the US Humboldt Alumni Network is a strong and stable pillar of US-German relations, sustaining scientific, scholarly, and professional dialogues across the Atlantic.

In March 2017, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation gathered over 300 alumni and local representatives of US scientific associations, funding agencies, and research institutions to explore the challenges of global science and scholarship. A high point for many was the concluding “World Café,” which allowed Humboldtians in all disciplines and career stages to discuss how they might work with the AvH and American Friends to shape the future of US-German research collaboration and the role of science and scholarship in society. At a time of deepening polarization in the United States and rising tensions around the world, the gathering was an important reminder of the importance of trust and collaboration, as embodied in the global Humboldt Alumni Network and the Foundation’s programs.

The value of the Humboldt Alumni Network was also evident in the exchanges in November between Prof. Dr. Gerald Schernewski, a climate scientist with the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research—and a host for Humboldt fellows—with US alumni, prospective applicants, and US experts in climate science in the Chesapeake Bay region. We would encourage US Humboldtians

to consider the pairing of American Friends and AvH support to sustain dialogues on other scientific, scholarly, and policy issues.

Looking forward, American Friends will continue its efforts to adapt to the new challenges for German-American research and professional exchanges.

With our Board’s guidance and active participation, we are reaching out to members of the US Humboldt Alumni Network to ask about their experience as Humboldtians, and what kinds of programs, services, or publications would be helpful to them throughout their careers. As a start, we are overhauling our website and other resources so that alumni can easily access information about American Friends programs, such as our Alumni Council grants. We invite you to view a series of short videos on our website to learn more about how American Friends works with the AvH, the power of the US Humboldt Alumni Network, and the impact of international research and professional collaboration.

And more change lies ahead. As the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation prepares for a leadership transition, we are pleased to join the Foundation in expressing our heartfelt thanks to Professor Dr. Helmut Schwarz for his leadership and support of US Humboldtians throughout his nine-year tenure as President of the AvH. At his nearly yearly appearances at the annual meeting of the German Academic International Network, Professor Schwarz has worked tirelessly to inform German and US researchers about a changing German research landscape, while never shrinking from honest exchange about the work that still lies ahead in Germany or the challenges to science and scientific integrity in other parts of the world, including in the United States. He has been a champion of science and of science diplomacy. We recall in particular Professor Schwarz’s words at the 2017 Kolloquium, “As scientists, we have to build bridges and not walls” and his reminder that “our network can play an important role in our transatlantic relations.”

We look forward to working with the Humboldt Foundation, with members of the US Humboldt Alumni Network, and other friends who share our commitment to professional and scholarly cooperation with Germany and other nations to advance knowledge and address major societal challenges. We are grateful for your engagement in and support of our efforts.

Dr. Cathleen Fisher, President

Hans-Christian Pape to Be the New AvH President

Professor Hans-Christian Pape has been appointed by Federal Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel to a five-year term as President of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. He will succeed chemist Prof. Dr. Helmut Schwarz, who is leaving office after serving two terms at the Foundation’s helm. Pape teaches and conducts research at the University of Münster, where he ranks among the leading experts on

the neurophysiological underpinnings of emotional behavior. He has gained particular recognition for his research on anxiety and anxiety disorders, fear, and fear memory as well as the processes regulating wakefulness and sleep. Pape will be officially inaugurated at the Foundation’s New Year’s reception on January 18, 2018.



Philipp Schwartz Initiative Update

The **Philipp Schwartz Initiative** provides universities and research institutions in Germany with the means to host threatened foreign researchers for a period of 24 months on a fully funded research fellowship. In the first three calls for applications between 2015 and 2017, 124 threatened scholars from countries as diverse as Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Burundi, Venezuela, and Uzbekistan were selected for support. They are or will be hosted at 66 universities and research institutions across Germany. As of November 1, 2017, 94 of these scholars were able to start their Philipp Schwartz fellowships.

On October 10, 2017, the Humboldt Foundation invited the Philipp Schwartz Fellows, their academic hosts, and representatives of their host institutions to Berlin for a podium discussion on the topic of “The Future of Societies: On the Role of Academic Freedom and Independent Researchers.” Before the event, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sigmar Gabriel and Alexander von Humboldt Foundation President Helmut Schwarz met with a small group of fellows from Syria, Turkey, and Yemen for a private discussion on the situation in their respective home countries, their current situation in Germany, and their professional prospects beyond the Philipp Schwartz fellowships.

In light of the recognition that the Philipp Schwartz Initiative has been enjoying across the globe, the Humboldt Foundation was able to position itself as the co-convenor of the **2018 Scholars at Risk Global Congress**, a major biennial conference of the global Scholars at Risk Network on the topics of threatened researchers and academic freedom. It will be co-hosted by the Freie Universität Berlin in April 2018.

Humboldtian Wins Nobel Prize

Professor Joachim Frank (USS 1994), Professor of Biochemistry at Columbia University, joins the ranks of the 55 Humboldtian Nobel Laureates. Along with Professor Jacques Dubochet and Professor Richard Henderson, Frank was awarded the 2017 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for developing cryo-electron microscopy for the high-resolution structure determination of biomolecules in solution. Their research added a new dimension to the field of biochemistry by developing technology that allowed scientists to visualize processes at an atomic level. The initial invention of this technology was made applicable thanks to Frank’s contribution. Starting in 1975, Frank developed an image processing method that yielded three-dimensional images for asymmetric biological molecules in solution. A recent advance in cameras recording single electrons brought this method to full fruition, leading to atomic models.

Professor Frank received a Humboldt Fellowship for Senior US Scientists in 1994. He spent the year at the Max Planck Institute for Medical Research in Heidelberg, Germany.

We congratulate Professor Frank and his team on this remarkable achievement!

Did you know that 55 Humboldtians are Nobel Prize winners?

Introducing the “Humboldt Squirrel”

George James Kenagy (STP 1972–1973; 1980), Emeritus Professor of Biology, University of Washington, has published an article in the *Journal of Mammalogy* that reports his shared discovery of a previously unrecognized species of flying squirrel named in honor of Alexander von Humboldt. DNA analyses of specimens of the northern flying squirrel *Glaucomys sabrinus* revealed that it was actually two distinct species that for the past 200 years were considered to be only one species. The newly discovered species, Humboldt’s flying squirrel, *Glaucomys oregonensis*, lives along the Pacific Coast and brings to 45 the total number of flying squirrel species in



the world. From the beginning of Kenagy’s association with the Max-Planck-Institut für Verhaltensphysiologie during his Humboldt Research Fellowship in 1972–1973, he has continued to enjoy, in Seattle, a steady stream of visiting researchers and friends from Germany, and he has returned to Germany many times. The benefits of an AvH fellowship have been a life-long reward, even continuing into his emeritus years.

New Book on Women in Global Science

Kathrin Zippel (STP 2012–2013), Associate Professor of Sociology, Northeastern University, published her latest book *Women in Global Science: Advancing Academic Careers through International Collaboration* (Stanford University Press) in March 2017. This book presents global science as the new frontier for women because international opportunities enable some women to circumvent exclusionary systems of higher education they may face at home. For example, US-based women receive greater respect from international collaborators due to the “.edu bonus” based on their affiliation with a US academic institutions. Zippel argues that international collaborations can be key to ending the steady attrition of women in STEM fields and to developing a more inclusive academic world. Yet, women might also face “glass fences” like “glass ceilings” that are invisible barriers to engage in collaborations across national borders.



Zippel’s research has benefitted greatly from international collaborations and comparative research. Raised and educated in Germany, Zippel has led an academic career in the United States for the past 25 years. Zippel then completed a cycle of collaboration by bringing her US-influenced perspective to Germany as a Humboldt Research Fellow. She is very grateful to the Foundation for the continued opportunity to serve as a bridgehead across the Atlantic.

Promoting AvH Programs and Enhancing the Visibility of the US Humboldt Alumni Network

American Friends promoted the Foundation’s opportunities at numerous specialized conferences and career fairs in 2017.

February: **MIT European Career Fair**, Boston, MA, featured a testimonial from Humboldtian **Douglas Richardson** (HFST-P 2011–2012).

March: **American Physical Society Annual Meeting**, New Orleans, LA, Humboldtian **Igor Mazin** (STP 1989–1991) gave individualized testimonials; **NIH/NCI Colloquium Career Fair**, Rockville, MD

April: **American Association for Cancer Research**, Washington, DC

May: **EU Embassy Open House, NAS Fellowship Roundtable**, and **Goethe Institut Career Fair**, Washington, DC

August: **American Chemical Society Meeting**, Washington, DC

September: **NAS Fellowship Roundtable**, Washington, DC

October: **German Studies Association Conference**, Atlanta, GA and **Idealist Grad Fair**, Washington, DC

November: **Society for Neuroscience Meeting**, Washington, DC

December: **American Geophysical Union Meeting**, New Orleans, LA



Douglas Richardson Testimonial at ECF



Program Coordinator Alexandra Hoenscheid with the Research in Germany Team at AACR

Call for Testimonials

Humboldtians, we are seeking your #HumboldtStories to feature on our social media and website! #HumboldtStories are intended to be testimonials that showcase the continued impact of a Humboldt fellowship and the richness of the Humboldtian experience. If interested, please send your story to alumni@americanfriends-of-avh.org.

American Friends Alumni Events in 2017

In March, American Friends organized a **Humboldtians on Campus breakout meeting** during the AvH Colloquium. Alumni Council members and over 30 current and prospective HoCs participated in the meeting. Attendees received program updates, discussed their research experiences, and shared valuable ideas and feedback on engaging alumni. We are grateful to all HoCs for their service and commitment and are working with them to implement new initiatives.

In late February, Professor Margit Burmeister (STP 1999–2000) and Professor Christiane Wobus (BES 2014), both at the University of Michigan, organized an engaging program for Dr. Katrin Amian, Head of the Sponsorship and Network Department for the North America, Australia, New Zealand, and Oceania Division of the AvH. Dr.



Dr. Katrin Amian addresses alumni during a recent visit to the United States

Amian hosted an information session on AvH programs, met with local alumni, and discussed international research collaboration with several university administrators. We are grateful to our HoCs for their assistance in arranging Dr. Amian's visit.

This year, the American Friends **Alumni Council** sponsored four events. Professor Sebastian Luft (FLF 2002–2004), Professor of Philosophy at Marquette University, had been in touch with American Friends about plans for a conference on **“Current Debates in Phenomenology & Overcoming the Continental-Analytic Divide”** at Marquette University. He received an Alumni Council grant and the event was a great success, with keynote addresses by Humboldtians James Dodd (STP 2000–2001), Paul Livingston (STP 2007–2009), and Luft, as well as presentations by up-and-coming graduate students. Humboldtian on Campus Hugo Sanabria (HFST-P 2010–2012), Professor of Physics and Astronomy at Clemson University, received a grant to help fund an interdisciplinary workshop on **“The Future of Integrative Structural Biology.”** The Alumni Council additionally sponsored the **Annual Meeting of the Texas Humboldtians** organized by Prof. Donald Dickson (STP 1992–1993).

In November, Alumni Council Chair Dr. Dale Medearis hosted **Dr. Gerald Schernewski** from the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research. Schernewski spoke at four separate events concerning applied research on the topics of climate adaptation, resiliency, and coastal zone management between the United States and Germany. Schernewski is a Humboldtian *Gastgeber* (host). Through the combined support of an Alumni Council grant, the Foundation's program for “Short Stays for German Specialists,” and in-kind contributions from the hosts, Schernewski spent a week in the Chesapeake Bay region engaging Humboldtians, prospective research fellows, climate and marine experts, and senior university staff and administrators. The visit offered a great opportunity to promote alumni engagement. Over 50 Humboldtians



Dr. Gerald Schernewski lectures during his visit to the Chesapeake Bay region

were invited to participate at the four separate events hosted at the University of Maryland, College of William and Mary, Old Dominion University, and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. The visit provided a new and exciting model for alumni engagement, acquainting US Humboldtians with the breadth of expertise in the Humboldt Network on a high-priority local, regional, national, and international issue—global climate change.

2017 US Alumni Kollegs

American Friends helped to promote two AvH-sponsored *Kollegs* in 2017. **“Network@1800: New Directions in German and European Cultural Studies”** was organized by Professor Birgit Tautz (STP 2011), George Taylor Files Professor of Modern Languages at Bowdoin College. This *Kolleg* convened over twenty US, Canadian, and German scholars to discuss new ways of looking at European cultural history. Professor Jenny Strauss Clay (GWI 2012–2013), William R. Kenan Professor of Classics, Emerita, together with Dr. Anke Walter (FLF 2015–2016), and Athanassios Vergados (HFST-P 2010), organized a *Kolleg* on **“Time and Eternity: Time in Archaic Greek Literature”** that took place at the University of Virginia in September.

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

BES: Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award	HFST-P: Humboldt Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers
BUKA: German Chancellor Fellowship	STP: Humboldt Research Fellowship
FLF: Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship	USS: Humboldt Research Award

New Additions

We are very excited to welcome new Program Coordinator **Christian Pandtle**, who joined us in October. Christian has a BA in International Affairs and Philosophy. His passion for transatlantic affairs began after studying German language and literary history in Berlin. Since then he has worked for Leadership Directories, Frum Global, and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.



Dr. Andrea Stith (BUKA 2007–2008) joined the AFAvH Board of Directors in 2016 and also is a member of the Alumni Council. She is Associate Director for Research Development for Science and Engineering at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Previously she was Assistant Director for Interdisciplinary Education at the University of Colorado BioFrontiers Institute in Boulder, CO. Her professional inter-



ests include graduate and postdoctoral education, broadening participation in STEM, and the internationalization of scientific research.

As a 2007 German Chancellor Fellow, she researched science/technology and higher education policies at Humboldt University in Berlin and Ludwig Maximilians University in Munich. She treasures her fellowship experience for the enduring friendships and memories as well as the novel insights into science policy development that she gained.

Dr. Stith has held program management positions at nonprofit organizations in the Washington, DC area, including the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. She was a research fellow at the Graduate School of Education, Jiao Tong University in Shanghai, China and a AAAS/NSF Science and Technology Policy Fellow at the US National Science Foundation. She received her doctorate in Biophysics from the University of Virginia and her bachelor's degree in Physics from the University of Delaware.

In Memoriam

Professor John W. Clark, Jr.

American Friends was greatly saddened to learn of the death of alumnus John W. Clark, Jr., a leader in the field of Bioengineering who served as a professor at Rice University for 49 years.

Professor Clark had been awarded a Ford Foundation Fellowship to attend the Case Institute of Technology and received a Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering, followed by a PhD from Case Western Reserve University. It was there he began his teaching career in the cradle of a new, rapidly developing field of science becoming known as Bioengineering.

In 1968, he and his family moved to Houston, where Professor Clark held professorships in both the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, and also the Bioengineering Department, which he was instrumental in establishing at Rice some years later. His work at Rice, the Medical Center in Houston, and elsewhere around the globe gave him extraordinary joy. It took him and his family all over the world, including a sabbatical year in Germany in 1975–76; a summer in Lyon, France in 2000; several summers during the 1980s in Banff, Alberta; Christmases in Vienna; and countless other trips to places far and near.

Early in his career, Professor Clark received the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's Humboldt Research Fellowship and spent a year with his family at the University of Karlsruhe. This experience, recounted his daughter Nan, was not only of great professional benefit, but also was a wonderful and enriching experience for the whole family. The children attended the local Gymnasium, with two of them returning to the United States fluent in German. The lives of all four Clark children were greatly enriched by the opportunity to travel and see so many living monuments of European history, and experiencing the German love for celebrations such as Fastnacht and Fasching. Several of the family's young German friends visited Houston over the years, and one now lives in the United States. Herr Dr. Gerhard Vossius, their Humboldt Research Fellowship sponsor, was also a regular visitor to the Clark family's home in Houston, Texas.

Professor Clark was a Life Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), serving as President and holding several offices. He was a Founding Fellow of the Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES) and in 1993 was inducted as a Founding Fellow in the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE). In 2009, he received the IEEE/Engineering in Medicine and Biology



Service Award for outstanding service and contributions to the EMB Society and a meritorious career in biomedical engineering education. He counted as one of his favorite accomplishments the founding of the Houston Society for Engineering in Medicine and Biology (HSEMB), which met annually and was intended to encourage young scientists in Houston and the surrounding regions.

Professor Clark is survived by his wife of 61 years, Betty Stovall (Kit) Clark, four children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. In an extraordinary show of generosity, Professor Clark's family requested that contributions be made in his name to American Friends to foster the next generation of outstanding young researchers. To date we have received 22 donations and express our profound gratitude to all who gave.

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The Clark family in front of Karlsruhe Palace (1976)

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Ways to Get Involved

Would you like to help sustain your Humboldtian experience and research exchange with Germany?

- **Become a Humboldtian on Campus (HoC):** recruit applicants and foster a sense of community among Humboldtians at your institution or in your discipline/field.
- **Host an event with AFAvH Alumni Council grant funding:** apply for a small grant (up to \$2,000) for Humboldtian gatherings organized by alumni. Ideas are flexible: lunches with a discussion theme, regional alumni gatherings, seed money for a *Kolleg* ... you can be as creative as you like!
- **Plan an AvH-sponsored *Kolleg*:** plan a symposium or larger-scale conference in your discipline or field to strengthen regional and interdisciplinary networking between Humboldtians and engage early career researchers.
- **Contribute to our publications:** share your research and exchange experiences on our website or *Strata* newsletter.
- **Donate to American Friends** to help us grow our programs and services for US alumni of the Humboldt Foundation.
- **More information on these opportunities** is available on the “Get Involved” page of our website.

Coming Up in 2018

American Geophysical Union Meeting

New Orleans, LA | December 11–14, 2017

European Career Fair

Boston, MA | February 24, 2018

American Physical Society Meeting

Los Angeles, CA | March 5–9, 2018

American Society for Microbiology Meeting

Atlanta, GA | June 7–11, 2018

American Chemical Society Meeting

Boston, MA | August 19–23, 2018

German Studies Association Meeting

Pittsburgh, PA | September 27–30, 2018

You’ve finished reading this year’s newsletter, but there are still other ways to engage! American Friends want to hear from you throughout the year, so feel free to join the conversation on Facebook, Twitter, and our exclusive LinkedIn Groups. If you are not in a group but would like to join, please do not hesitate to reach out to us or request to join on LinkedIn. Our vision is for the groups to facilitate informal updates and conversations regarding issues relevant to the work of our Humboldtians. Moreover, we would love to know your thoughts and experiences, so get involved and be heard!

Help Promote the German Chancellor Fellowship

This year saw an increase in applications for the German Chancellor Fellowship, but we would like to see additional applications from promising young professionals to ensure that the program continues to select the very best. When asked how they heard about the program, the majority of fellows had one answer—from *former fellows*. BUKAs play a significant role in promoting the program they hold so dear and they can do so by:

- Forwarding our **quarterly promotional email** to contacts
- **Sharing AvH resources** at <https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/gcf-marketing.html> with potential candidates and career centers
- Becoming a **Humboldtian on Campus**
- **Spreading the word** to students/colleagues/professional contacts

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