

## New Programs for American Friends

Dr. Georg Schuette, Secretary-General of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, recently announced that the Foundation has designated American Friends of the AvH as its partner organization for activities in the United States. In addition to its established activities, such as exhibiting at conferences, distributing this newsletter, *Strata*, and administering the Calder Fellowship, American Friends will conduct activities formerly carried out by the Foundation's U.S. Liaison Office, which the Foundation dissolved.

In total, the activities of American Friends are aimed to support international collaboration in research, to expand the circle of scholars familiar with the research programs of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and to facilitate exchanges and social interaction among alumni of Foundation programs in the United States.

American Friends has taken over responsibilities for staff and office operations in Washington. Robert Grathwol is President of American Friends and Donita Moorhus serves as Executive Director as well as Secretary-Treasurer. Both will continue to manage the activities of American Friends and to represent the Foundation's interests in the United States.

To reflect the new, larger organization, American Friends will have increased visibility on the Internet through its website, [www.americanfriends-of-avh.org](http://www.americanfriends-of-avh.org), recently redesigned by EEL Communications in Alexandria, Virginia. In addition to Programs and Services, the site explains several ways Humboldtians and other friends of the Humboldt Foundation can contribute to American Friends.

## Promotion Activities

One of the two primary objectives of American Friends is to promote the research support opportunities provided by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and we have several strategies to achieve this objective.

- Exhibiting at conferences
- Placing paid advertising
- Mailing promotional materials
- Encouraging Humboldtians and friends to promote the programs at their institutions and organizations

In addition to listing conferences where American Friends will be an exhibitor, the website includes flyers to download, copy and distribute or email to colleagues and a PowerPoint presentation on Humboldt Foundation programs.

## Dan Fallon Elected to American Friends Board

The board of American Friends elected Dan Fallon as a member at its meeting on January 24, 2006. Fallon is a member of the Advisory Board of the Humboldt Foundation's Transatlantic Science and Humanities Program and former chair of the Selection Committee for the German Chancellor Scholarship Program.

Trained as an experimental psychologist, Fallon has extensive experience in university administration. He is Chair of the Education Division of Carnegie Corporation of New York. He has published widely and is the author of a prize-winning book, *The German University: A Heroic Ideal in Conflict with the Modern World* (1980).

## German Studies Association

Again this year American Friends will have an exhibit table at the annual conference of the German Studies Association, which will meet in Pittsburgh, PA, September 28 to October 1. Robert Grathwol, Donita Moorhus, and Deirdre Kelly from the Washington office of American Friends will be available to answer questions and distribute materials about the programs of the AvH Foundation. Alumni of Humboldt programs are encouraged to visit the exhibit.

American Friends will also host a reception for Humboldtians and prospective Humboldtians on Saturday evening at the conference hotel.

### About "Strata"

"Strata" is the newsletter of 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.

## Alumni Activities

One of the two primary objectives of American Friends is to maintain contact with and strengthen the network of Humboldtians in the United States. To encourage Humboldtians to gather together for social, cultural, and professional exchanges, American Friends can provide lists or mailing labels for Humboldtians at a university, institution, organization, or in a geographic area such as a city or state. Office staff can also provide informational materials describing Humboldt Foundation programs and grant opportunities.

A new aspect of American Friends support for alumni programs is its Small Grant Program. This provides small amounts of money for rental of meeting space and/or modest refreshments. Humboldtians interested in meeting on campus or in a shared work environment for social activities and to share with others information about the research support offered by the AvH should inquire in advance of the gathering and should include the proposed program and invitation list. Pre-approved grants will be paid after submission of a brief report on the program and a list of participants.

## News about Humboldtians

One feature of the Alumni Activities section of the new website is **News From Humboldt Scholars**. Here American Friends will post selected short news notes about professional honors and activities of Humboldtians. These activities may include Alexander von Humboldt-related conferences or Humboldt Foundation Kollegs and local or regional gatherings of Humboldtians. Emphasis will be on items of broad national interest, and the individuals submitting the information must agree to have their names and email addresses included and to be available to answer questions or provide additional information.

## AvHAA News

The AvHAA held its Sixth National Meeting June 2-4 at the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, on the theme “**German-American Crosscurrents and Exchanges in the 21<sup>ST</sup> Century.**” The meeting again featured a poster session. This year there was also a book exhibit for publications resulting from Humboldt-sponsored research in Germany. New at

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the meeting this year were small discussion sections with papers given by Humboldt scholars from a variety of fields.

Barbara Becker-Cantarino of Ohio State University is President of the AvHAA. Other officers include Jaan Laane of Texas A&M University, vice president; Arnim Meyburg of Cornell University, secretary; Dennis Patton of PET/CT Imaging of Berkeley, treasurer; Richard Proctor of University of Wisconsin, immediate past president; and George Leitmann, founding president. Other board members are David Chisholm of the University of Arizona, Geoffrey Giles of the University of Florida, Donald Kommers of Notre Dame, Carola Laue of GE Nuclear Energy, and Jeffrey White of the Army Research Laboratory.

## Thanks for Your Support

All donations to American Friends are used in support of our promotion of international contacts and intellectual collaboration among scholars. Your support has already provided funds for the redesign of the website and enabled staff to promote Humboldt Foundation programs at professional conferences, including the American Association of Cancer Researchers (April 1-5, 2006).

## Transition in the Office

After almost eight years in the Washington office, Program Director Susanne Wunner Fitch left at the end of May to be a full-time mother to her son, who was born June 3. Potential applicants for the position should have excellent writing skills, strong MS Office skills, experience planning events, and near-fluency in German. A bachelor's degree and a minimum of five years office experience are required; a master's degree is preferred. Some travel is required. For more information, contact Donita Moorhus or send a resume to [donita.moorhus@americanfriends-of-avh.org](mailto:donita.moorhus@americanfriends-of-avh.org).

## German Chancellor Scholars from China

The German Chancellor Scholarship Program, established in 1990, was extended in 2002 to include young future leaders of the Russian Federation. This year the Foundation is opening the program to young citizens of the People's Republic of China. Now each year ten young Americans will interact with a comparable number of Russians and Chinese in Central Europe and communicate in their common language, German.

The expansion of the program, originally conceived by Chancellor Helmut Kohl to strengthen German-American ties, illustrates the desire of Germany's leaders in the post-cold-war world to develop new partnerships.