

DAAD Alumni Association Newsletter July 2018



Dear Alumna/Alumnus, Dear Friend:

Exciting developments are under way which I am very eager to share with you, hoping that they will engage you and will bring about positive feedback. In this Newsletter I want to highlight a number of important topics: 1) RISE Scholarships, 2) the Sound Understanding Concert at Carnegie Hall in April; 3) The Award of our DAAD AA Prize to Ingrid Scheib-Rothbart, 4) Plans for a DAAD/Goethe Institute sponsored Discussion of Ingrid Scheib-Rothbart's foundational work: "Implications of the Creation of an American Public for the New German Cinema"; 5) The election of our new Trustees Helene Kane Finn, Anne MacLachan, Susanne Rott, and Christian Tschoeke, 6) Regional meetings, 7) Fall Alumni Meeting in Atlanta, GA.

At a time where badly needed funding for global education is being cut on many campuses, you understand the importance of continuing to stand with your DAAD Alumni Association in creating access and opportunity for study abroad. You are aware of the importance of engaging students in cutting-edge research opportunities in Germany. While inequality in educational opportunity is increasing in tertiary public education in the US, all of us in the DAAD and the DAAD AA are attempting to remedy this calamity, attempting to keep global education as a public good, rather than a private good reserved for those wealthy enough to afford it. Please continue to sustain financially the work your DAAD Alumni Association is doing on your behalf to create equity in global education for American students who should not be deprived of the life-changing opportunity to open their minds to the global discourse in their field. Your financial support makes the difference. To contribute, please go to the website of the DAAD Alumni Association: <https://www.daad.org/en/alumni-usa>. By making financial contributions, we can also thank the talented DAAD musicians for giving back to the DAAD by performing their unique compositions and contributing to a concert whose exceptional quality lives on in memory and in the review of Stefan Altevogt. The Concert, which has become our chief fund raiser, culminated in a celebration of talent, artistry, friendship and global community to which the artists, the trustees, and

alumni in the audience contributed. If you have not yet contributed, please affirm this tradition by doing so now.

RISE (Research Internships in Science and Engineering) and HSK (Hochschulsommerkurse) scholarships:

Holding on to the momentum created in the past, we awarded again ten RISE scholarships to highly qualified and uniquely motivated undergraduate applicants. If funds had been available, our committee consisting of Trustees Sigrid Berka, Brian Mitchell, Rosmarie Morewedge and Mark Rectanus would have been delighted to award stipends to all applicants that presented strong background, notable achievement, high motivation and excellent recommendations. Some applicants made clear that they were the first in their families to attend college; most had never been out of the country. HSK (*Hochschulsommerkurse*) scholarships in language and culture were awarded to two college students coming from the humanities (English and Philosophy). In the Fall/Winter Newsletter you will be delighted to hear them tell you their stories and what these programs meant to them. On your behalf we were able to introduce a high impact global learning experience into their training, by offering them a global research experience in Germany that will most likely be life-changing. You, who have already had such experiences abroad, understand the importance of such educational interventions in the lives of undergraduates; with your financial support you will affect the direction of their careers permanently. Thank you.

2) Sound Understanding Concert April 12, 2018 (*The Review was graciously contributed by Stefan Altevogt. For photos we thank Beowulf Sheehan*)



Now in its sixteenth year, the DAAD Sound Understanding concert at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall brings together friends and alumni of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in an evening celebrating not only the exceptional talent of DAAD's music grantees but also the work and dedication of the DAAD Alumni Association of the USA.



In his opening remarks **Ambassador Jürgen Schulz** – Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations – emphasized the importance of cultural exchange, praised the DAAD for its commitment to trans-Atlantic relations and thanked the Alumni Association for creating a network of bonds that reaches far beyond DAAD’s task of a mobility organization. **Nina Lemmens** – after four years of dedicated service, now the outgoing **Director of the DAAD North America Office in New York**-- took the audience for a walk down memory lane celebrating the past Sound Understanding concerts before turning over the microphone to the **Alumni Association’s President Rosmarie Morewedge**. Hers was the honor to bestow the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Alumni Association to **Ingrid Scheib-Rothbart** – for more than thirty years the standard bearer of German Films in the US.

Then it was all music. Opening with Frédéric Chopin’s late masterpiece Barcarolle in F sharp Major, Op. 60. It was composed between autumn of 1845 and summer of 1846 alluding to the barcarola – the songs of the Venetian gondoliers. These songs – as kitschy as they might sound – inspired many composers of the nineteenth century including Jacques Offenbach in his famous flower duet „Belle nuit ô nuit d’amour“, which of course many of us would have been tempted to sing along with. But it was Chopin. Written in the typical rhythm of water as thirds and sixths and featuring a sweepingly romantic and slightly wistful tone, Chopin’s Barcarolle counts among one of the most technically and musically demanding solo piano works ever written and was almost effortlessly presented by **Duc-Ngoc Vu**, now in his second year of a DAAD fellowship and on his way to a career as a concert pianist.

Mr. Vu was followed by the equally gifted violinist **Lukas Stepp** who is as well in his second year as a grantee of the DAAD of perfecting his skills at Juilliard. Mr. Stepp presented the Violin Sonata No. 3 by the Belgian violin virtuoso, composer and conductor Eugène Ysaÿe who – after having heard Joseph Szigeti perform Johann Sebastian Bach’s sonata for solo violin in G minor – was inspired to compose violin works that represent the evolution of musical techniques and expressions of early 20th century music such as whole tone scales, dissonances, and quarter tones, as well as virtuoso bow and left hand

techniques. Ysaÿe dedicated his work to the Romanian composer George Enescu (1881-1955) as an homage to Enescu's style. The other ghost behind Ysayë's compositions is of course another great set of solo violin pieces: Paganini's Caprices which – like Ysayë – are as demanding from a technical perspective as they are emotionally challenging for each interpreter. Needless to say, Mr. Stepp passed the ballad's two sections entitled „Lento molto sostenuto“ and „Allegro in tempo giusto e con bravura“ with flying colors.



The musical ideas and gestures of Chopin and Ysaÿe then became grist for an „instant“ or „in situ“ composition by **Dierk Peters** on vibraphone and **Florian Herzog** on double bass. Trained in Jazz, the two performers are fine examples of what is aptly been called the „culture of spontaneity“ which by the 1950's with abstract expressionism and bebop had propelled artists from the US to the avant-garde and past European role models and which still – at least as a gesture – is an integral part of Jazz music. Playing without a rhythm section of drums and bass, Peters and Herzog felt very comfortably placed in the first half of the program which typically features traditionally composed music while maybe some of the audience may have been wondering how the score would look. But it was improvisation after all and a wonderful intermezzo for the show stoppers at the end of the first half, Heifetz' virtuoso transcriptions of famous songs from the 1935 opera Porgy and Bess by George Gershwin. Jascha Heifetz who was arguably one of the greatest violinist of all time arranged Gershwin's very recognizable melodies and Lukas Stepp – accompanied on the piano by **Matthew Graybil** – showed that he is almost up there.

The second half of the Sound Understanding concert features Jazz as Jazz is the most important magnet for DAAD music grantees to come to New York. They study at Juilliard, at the Manhattan School of Music or at New York University as they take in the vibes of the Big Apple. For the concert they come together and if needed with the help of some „hired guns“ they form a DAAD Jazz band. This year, with **Justus Heher** on trombone and **Christian Mehler** on trumpet and flugelhorn there were two melody instruments along with Dierk Peters on vibraphone, Florian Herzog on double bass and **alumna Eva Klesse** on drums as the rhythm section. The cymbals of the latter was somewhat shocking at first since the German Academic Jazz Quintett's first piece was Patchwork by Justus Heher and featured high energy and a modal chord progression in a rather traditional/mainstream 6/4-beat Swing. Larch – a

composition by Dierk Peters – then presented in a much quieter way the rather dark and lyrical tone of the moments just before dawn, a very subtle flow of energy in a 4/4 beat expressed in straight eights, that could have been easily mistaken for a bossa nova. But the band wasted no time getting back to a higher tempo with the very contemporary Acapulco Roadkill by Florian Herzog that despite underlying polyrhythmic structures „rocked“ the audience. Escape to a Better World by Christian Mehler then turned the page to a rather melancholic melody of a rather introspective ballad of beautiful quality.

The **band Trillmann** could be considered „collateral benefit“ of DAAD’s grant program since all four musicians met while being in New York on a DAAD scholarship and decided to continue their project after moving back to Germany. Having presented their debut album Foen at the German House a night before Sound Understanding 2018, Trillmann – reinforced by the brass of the German Academic Jazz Quintett – performed two pieces. Over and Out by Fabian Willmann featured a wild saxophone melody with a trombone counterpoint in the nervous eights of a straight 4/4 beat whereas Trillmann – a composition by trombonist **Janning Trumann** – paid homage to Nils Wogram’s rendition of a jazz quartet without a harmony instrument, and certainly was a wonderful build-up of low to high energy in a very contemporary version of a medium tempo jazz tune.

With an homage to Maurice Ravel, Florian Herzog and Dierk Peters created the „Finale“ of the Sound Understanding concert which has two main tasks. First it should bring back to stage the musicians of the evening and secondly it should feature at least the abstract version of a melody that will linger for a while with the audience. Herzog and Peters choose to un-Ravel some of the French composer’s clichés, peeling away step by step any redundancy until the final harmonic chord in the fermata.



The DAAD AA Award to Ingrid Scheib- Rothbart

Each year your DAAD Alumni Association recognizes global leadership in international education and the exchange of cultural ideas in the transatlantic realm between Germany and the USA with its award in International Education.. Working for more than 30 years as Director of the Film Department of the Goethe Institut, NYC, Ingrid Scheib-Rothbart demonstrated her foundational role in bringing the New German Cinema to US audiences from 1962 until her retirement in 1995. Collaborating with MOMA, The Film Society of Lincoln Center, the Jewish Museum and other regional cultural institutions, she began her work in cultural mediation to create a receptive American public for Post-War German film. She has continued to be active as free-lance media consultant and as representative of the Rainer Werner Fassbinder Foundation, Berlin.

In collaboration with the Goethe Institut and the DAAD and other cultural institutions, a retrospective of her work will be organized in the Spring, tentatively set for March 28th, in the Goethe Institute, to which interested alumni will be invited. Let us know that you want to participate!



The Election of New Trustees

DAAD AA Trustees are global leaders in education, diplomacy, art, technology, science, commerce and in the global marketplace of ideas. They are nominated and elected for an initial three year term to the Board of Trustees that may be extended for another three years. Like you, they are part of the DAAD academic community, having received support from the DAAD for transatlantic research and study. They believe in the importance of international education and the free flow of ideas in the global community. Through dedicated service they give back to the DAAD; they do so financially, contributing substantially to our scholarship funds, but they also do so actively in furthering the transatlantic dialogue. At our last business meeting in April the Board decided that Trustees will engage more strongly in regional leadership, organizing cultural, educational, diplomatic, scientific events for communities of alumni in different regions of the country-- the metropolitan New York area, Chicago, San Francisco and Houston, TX. Meetings of alumni can be an informal Stammtisch at a bar or beer garden organized on Facebook, or a more formal discussion, exhibit, or concert followed by a reception. Do you know someone who would be ready to take on such leadership? By all means, nominate

her/him and send us the c.v. in support of your nomination. The DAAD AA has historically collaborated with other international organizations that share ideals of global education, ideas, friendship, citizenship and community. If you would like to involve the DAAD Alumni Association in such events in your region, please contact me by e-mail.

The Board is excited to welcome four new Trustees to our DAAD Community.



Dr. Helena Kane Finn is a former senior U.S. diplomat now affiliated with the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University as a Visiting Scholar. Her diplomatic career included two postings each to Germany, Turkey and Pakistan, as well as one each to Israel and Austria. In Washington, she served as Acting Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs in which capacity she oversaw the State Department's Global Exchange Programs including Fulbright. She has been the Cyrus Vance Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York. Following her final diplomatic tour as Minister Counselor for Public Affairs at U.S. Embassy Berlin, she served as Vice President of the American Council on Germany. She chairs the board of Battery Dance, now engaged in a project with the refugee community in Germany. She also sits on the board of the RIAS German-American journalism exchange. The range and depth of her experience and expertise will add new dimensions to the work of the DAAD AA.



Dr. Anne J. MacLachlan is Senior Researcher, Emerita, at the Center for Studies in Higher Education (CSHE) and in Molecular and Cellular Biology, University of California Berkeley. Her dissertation is in German Economic and Social history from the University of California and she has held fellowships from the DAAD, Institut für Europäische Geschichte, and Max-Planck-Institut für Geschichte and grants from the Spencer and Packard Foundations, and the National Science Foundation. At UC Santa Barbara she served as Assistant Dean of the Graduate Division. Since joining CSHE she has authored over eighty-five publications and presentations largely on student postsecondary success and has developed programs at the undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral level to support their success. Her emphasis is on issues of women and underrepresented groups particularly in science. She has followed these issues in both the US and Germany and has presented at many German universities comparing developments in both countries on broad social inclusion within universities and the effect of historical misunderstandings of each other's systems on current German university reforms. Through her entire career she has supported and advocated for students and has worked to encourage underrepresented students especially to consider studying in Germany. She is delighted to serve on the DAAD-AA board in order to intensify these efforts and to work with like-minded people. Having benefitted to an extraordinary degree from German intellectual and career support, especially from the DAAD, she is equally delighted to be able to work with the DAAD to extend this kind of support to others.



Dr. Susanne Rott grew up in Nürnberg, Germany, where she studied German and American Literature at the Friedrich Alexander Erlangen-Nürnberg University. She is an Associate Professor of German Applied Linguistics at the University of Illinois-Chicago where she conducts research on second language acquisition. Two DAAD research grants enabled her to network with researchers at German institutions and to discover research and book series in German university libraries that were inaccessible to her from her US home institution. Additionally, professors at the Humboldt and Freie University helped her collect data from German native speakers as well as second language learners of German. Thanks to these opportunities, she was able to advance her understanding of second language learning significantly.

She is delighted to serve on the DAAD Board of Trustees because she would like to strengthen the DAAD alumni representation in the American Midwest. Having taught at a public university, she recognizes the need to encourage individual students, particularly those from underrepresented groups, to take advantage of DAAD programs. Many of her students at the University of Illinois at Chicago are not aware of DAAD sponsored opportunities, and many of them lack the self-confidence to apply for DAAD scholarships. She hopes to be an effective advocate for these students.



Christian Tschoeke joined the DAAD-AA Board of Directors in April 2018 to help spread the word about the great services and programs the DAAD and DAAD-AA's offer by sharing his enthusiasm about design and the power of social interaction.

Christian is an architectural designer at Peter Marino Architects in New York. He worked at several prestigious award-winning architectural firms (Richard Meier, SOM, Shigeru Ban) on projects of different scales and sizes, including an airport terminal, office tower, high-end retail stores, a museum, residential apartments, large waterfront developments and furniture. After focusing on luxury brand retail design (Dior and Louis Vuitton) he is currently designing large high-end residences. He recently helped founding a new parish ministry with his experience in working with youth and minority groups.

With a scholarship of The German Academic Scholarship Foundation (Studienstiftung) Christian graduated from the Technical University of Braunschweig in 1998 (Diplom in architecture). After doing international competition projects for an architectural firm in Germany he earned his Master of Architecture degree at Parsons School of Design in NYC with the generous DAAD support.

Christian is an outdoor enthusiast, utilizing his passion for cycling to support international and local charities. Christian would like to help bring alumni, current scholars and supporters to come together more easily in informal settings like a regular "Stammtisch" or other activities, strengthening mentorship and fundraising by sharing experiences. If you are interested please email rmored@binghamton.edu

Alumni Conference in Atlanta Oct. 5-7th, 2018

As President of your DAAD Alumni Association, I will be representing you and the concerns of the Board of Trustees at the upcoming Alumni Conference on "Knowledge, Trust, and the Future of Democracy:

Transatlantic Perspectives on the Role of Scholarship and Science in Society.” I will address the change that is occurring in higher education, as universities cut budgets by offering less scholarship funding for international education, redefining study abroad from its former position as a societal common good, to a private good to be paid for privately by those able to afford it. Driven by the fear of taking on additional debt, most underrepresented students at public universities who tend to be the first in their families to attend college, will opt out of a global education. Students graduating from public universities will show a global deficit unless internationally respected publicly minded educational organizations, such as the DAAD and the DAAD Alumni Association, Fulbright and others intervene.

I strongly believe in the direct linkage of higher education, the future of democracy and the global common good. Whether you agree with me or not, if you have concerns that you would like me to bring forward regarding the future of democracy and the global common good that is founded on perspectives shaped through global education, please write to me. I would welcome your ideas and input.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share projects and ideas with you. I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you again for your support.

Viele Grüße,

Rosmarie Morewedge

President, DAAD Alumni Association USA
rmorewed@binghamton.edu



Some of our Trustees congratulating Ingrid Scheib-Rothbart at the Sound Understanding Concert.

Front L to R: George and Ingrid Scheib-Rothbart, Rosmarie Morewedge, Irmgard Taylor, Helene Zimmer-Loew, Back: Mechthild Schmidt Feist, Manfred Philipp, Christian Tschoeke, Brian Boyer, Erich Haratsch.

List of Trustees by Region:

Northeast:

Sigrid Berka, Educator, Administrator, Rhode Island

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Helena Kane Finn, Diplomat, New York,

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Rosmarie Morewedge, Educator, NY

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Barbara Berthold, Educator, TX

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Thomas Suedhof, Educator/Scientist Stanford

Midwest

Mark Rectanus, Educator/Administrator, Idaho, Ames

Helene Zimmer-Loew, Educator, Administrator- honorary Trustee, Chicago

Susanne Rott, Educator, Chicago