

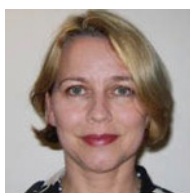
DAAD Alumni Association USA 2016 Newsletter

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TRUSTEE NEWS • MEMBERSHIP



Letter from the President

Dear DAAD Alumni/ae,

The Alumni Association is nearing the end of a busy year. Our newsletter updates you on our events this year echoing some brief notes from our Facebook page.

I want to thank all of you who renewed their membership this year, and especially those who donated to our scholarships. Read about our **“Sustainability Research in Germany”** fundraiser on page 2.

Make sure to **read the experience by two amazing RISE students** you helped fund. Without your support, we would not be able to give our students a unique opportunity, even a life-changing experience for some. I am so thrilled when I read how our scholarship set the professional path for Bailey Tebou. Know that our board is staffed with volunteers only; so, all your donations go to fund the scholarships that we, in collaboration with the DAAD, provide to US students. Thank you again, and yes, I must say it – use this link below to renew for 2017! **On the last page you find a special Discount if you choose to join or renew by the end of the year.** On the **brand-new DAAD website** you can find us under <https://www.daad.org/en/alumni-services/alumni-usa/>

While centered in New York City, our trustees are based around the USA in different disciplines to reach out to our local communities. Our main annual event, the **Sound Understanding Concert** in Carnegie Hall, will be on Thursday, April 20, 2017. Please hold the date and I hope to see you there!

The Association also welcomes your involvement and communication among our members. You can contact us or post at our **Facebook group**: www.facebook.com/DAADAlumniAssociationUSA. Some ideas: Do you have a story to tell about your own grant, be it from 1950 or this past year? Do you have a photo to go along with your story? Do you have an event coming up? Would you like us to co-sponsor an event at your university? Would your company or university like to become a member or advertise in our April Concert brochure? You can reach us here: alumniassociation@daad.org

Finally, after serving on the board for six years, the last two as President, I am saying farewell but will stay on the board as a non-voting member for 2017. I am welcoming Rosmarie Morewedge, a distinguished Professor of German at Binghamton University, a longtime board member and advocate for the international understanding the DAAD promotes. This position has given me the gratifying opportunity to interact on a personal level with our students and members. The generous dedication of the teamwork on our board and the New York DAAD office has made our activities possible!

Thank you for your support!

President DAAD Alumni Association USA

Winter Fundraiser “Sustainability Research in Germany for our students”

This spring we launched a **“FOUR MORE”** fundraiser with a \$10,000 goal to fund 4 more grantees. We were happy to have met that goal by our Spring concert already and added 2 extra students retroactively to our 2016 grantees (full disclosure: one declined since he had committed to a different opportunity already). The enthusiastic student testimonies below prove that our goal to expose students to international academic and personal experiences is supremely inspiring.

This fall we would like to ask you again to renew or start your memberships and to be as generous as you or your company allows. For the RISE students, especially, the exposure to the leading German research in the sustainability/renewable energy segment is very valuable knowledge they bring back to the USA when the US commitment in that sector is unclear. Our winter fundraiser motto for environmental research RISE grants is:

“Sustainability Research in Germany for our students”

<https://www.daad.org/en/alumni-services/alumni-usa/>

Thank you for your Generosity!

Scholarship News

By Board member Mechthild Schmidt Feist

The DAAD AA sponsors students in two categories: RISE grants for science research in Green Technology and grants with focus in Culture and Arts. The DAAD organizes Summer Course Grants that enable students to take intensive language and cultural courses at German universities. The DAAD Alumni Association was happy to provide the funds for Stephen Jansen and Catrina Hoppes to spend a summer improving their German language skills.

In 2005 the DAAD instituted summer Research Internships in Science and Engineering (RISE) grants that have now risen to annually 300 students who spend the summer researching in Germany. Along with other partners the DAAD AA contributes to those scholarships. The DAAD Alumni Association USA congratulates the five students we were happy to select for funding from a very competitive process. Our grants are earmarked to support environmental research, a very urgent and inspiring field for our global future.

Our RISE grantees this summer worked with German PhD candidates on projects as diverse as *“Perovskite absorber synthesis for crystalline-silicon-based tandem solar cells”* at the Institute for Solar Energy Research Hamelin (Brandi Ransom of Rice University, Texas) and *“Sustainability analysis of separation processes in recycled paper processing”* at the Technische Universität Darmstadt (Bailey Tebou of N Carolina State University)

Here are two students telling you about their summer in Germany:

Bailey Tebou, a Chemical Engineering student from North Carolina State University wrote an essay about his research and one about his travel. Here is an excerpt (contact us if you want to read more)

Paper Science and Engineering, Technische Universität Darmstadt
PhD research for Marja Ahola and Dr. Samuel Schabel

First off I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the DAAD RISE program for allowing me to have the best experience of my life. This summer was full of adventure, travel, great people, great food, and of course amazing research. The PhD student I worked under, and everyone else in the department at Technische Universität Darmstadt were incredibly helpful ... Some of the best advice I can give you is to begin your search for housing early, and to ask your advisor to help you... I enjoyed the research atmosphere in Germany a lot more than I did here in the USA. I was given a lot of freedom over how I wanted to do my research, and when I encountered problems I was given a lot of control over how to fix them and what changes to make on the fly. I received just the right amount of guidance, and I could learn a lot about my research topic that I can now directly apply to my studies back home. This internship also helped to prepare me for my future career. I recently interviewed with a company and was offered a yearlong internship during the interview because they were so

impressed with the quality of what I had done and what I had learned, about this internship in Germany.

A typical day at my internship...starts by preparing my flotation trials (with) newspapers, preparing the chemical solutions used as surfactants during the dinking, and then storing them in the hot water bath...You always hear about how efficient Germans are, and I was expecting them to be working full speed all day every day, so I was pleasantly surprised how relaxed they were. Just hanging out with my coworkers during coffee break was one of the best parts of my day. After that, I went back to the labs and ran a couple flotations, took consistency measurements, and made some consistency pads. The day after I would run all the McNett fractionations and create optical sheets for brightness testing, run the Schopper Reigler tests, and prepare the water retention value samples for testing.

The highlights of my stay are the amount of travelling that I was able to do.... My favorite trip that I went on was the trip to Lauterbrunnen, Switzerland. A RISE Pro student that was in my city was friends with a German guy, and we drove down there with his car. The drive was long, but I learned a lot about everyone and the conversations that we had were hilarious and made the time fly by. We went on a couple different hikes while we were there, the first one was from the valley up to Schilthorn. That night we befriended an Australian girl, and in the morning we drove to Interlaken and watched the sunrise from the Thunersee.



It was very cloudy, but I managed to take one of my favorite photos of my entire trip there, waiting for the sun to rise with my friends.

At the RISE conference in Heidelberg ...we had the most wonderful and knowledgeable tour guide and it was a great experience. ...We met a bunch of people that were going to Strasbourg, France the next day and so we bought our tickets for that night and headed to France. We got to see the Notre Dame



Cathedral (there is one in Strasbourg) lit up at night with one of the most stunning laser light shows that I have ever had the pleasure of seeing. ...

This was the best experience of my life, and I cannot express how grateful I am to

the DAAD RISE program for offering me the opportunity to do this internship. I strongly recommend this program for anyone who is looking to gain research experience and wants to experience the German lifestyle and work culture. I will never forget this experience, and I hope that you get the chance to have a similar one to mine. (photos B.Tebou: Thunersee, RISE students in Strasbourg)

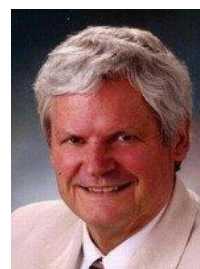
Stephen Jansen, a mass communications major at East Tennessee State spent a month in Aachen for Language and Cultural Studies: I was given the wonderful opportunity to study the German language in Aachen for four entire weeks this summer. Really, I had no idea what to expect.



Everyone talks about their stints studying abroad as life changing experiences. Because of this, I came into the program thinking “Hey, it’s study abroad, so it should at least be fun” – and fun it was. Really, fun is an understatement. It was exhausting, informative, and made me feel like I had a reason to be in Germany. I chose to be placed in the cheapest possible rooming option. I did this in part because it saved money, but also because I knew that having a private room wouldn’t be any fun. On my day of arrival, I found myself sharing an apartment with *five* other men from various parts of the world. For many that is a scary proposition, but I loved it. We had a great time and got along swimmingly. I met many people from all over the world, and as cliché as it may sound, many different stereotypes and preconceptions I held were smashed to bits. There were never ending opportunities to hear something new and interesting about a friend’s homeland, and the course provided the most concentrated amount of language practice that I have yet to receive. It’s funny, I hadn’t really thought in depth on the experience until now while writing this and now I can only think about how much I wish I could be back in Aachen again with all my friends and classmates. *(photo: S. Jansen)*

DAAD Alumni Association Awards for International Exchange, By Board member Manfred Philipp

Paul Michael Lützeler, Rosa May Distinguished University Professor in the Humanities and Director, Max Kade Center at Washington University in St. Louis, was awarded the DAAD Alumni Association Prize for International Exchange at the Sound Understanding Concert in Carnegie Hall on April 7, 2016. His is one of two such awards given by the DAAD Alumni Association this year. Prof. Lützeler is the author of *Hermann Broch, a Biography*, which received the DAAD Prize of the German Studies Association. He wrote three books on the idea of Europe in German and European literature, as well as seven other books on topics of 19th and 20th century German literature. At Washington University he twice received the Distinguished Faculty Mentor Award and also the Arthur Holly Compton Faculty Achievement Award.



Rick White, a Professor of Chemistry at Sam Houston State University and a member of the DAAD Alumni Association's Board of Directors, has also received the DAAD Alumni Association's Prize for International Exchange. The Prize was presented during a luncheon meeting of the Committee on International Activities of the American Chemical Society in Philadelphia on August 20, 2016. Rick has been active in leading study-abroad courses in Chemistry that take students to Germany and elsewhere in Europe. Present were Manfred Philipp (left in the picture with Professor White) and Prof. Ellene Tratras Contis, chair of the ACS Committee on International Activities, as well as other members of the Society. The DAAD Alumni Association thanks the American Chemical Society for its hospitality during this function.

DAAD AA EVENTS:

DAAD January New Year Reception

By Board member Mechthild Schmidt Feist

On January 20, 2016, the DAAD New York invited to their annual reception at the German Consulate in New York. About a hundred DAAD Alumni used the opportunity to meet DAAD staff, scholars and fellow-alumni. It was also an opportunity to exchange news with the GSA (German Studies Association).

Birthday Lunch for Helene Zimmer-Loew



On February 10 we were honoring Helene Zimmer-Loew's decades of serving the US-German community - the DAAD AA and AATG among them - on the occasion of her 80th birthday. With us at the MOMA were (*back row*) Amra Dumisic (DAAD) and Nina Lemmens (Director DAAD NYC) (*front row L to R*) Manfred Philipp, Irmgard Taylor (Honorary Trustee), Helene Zimmer-Loew, Mechthild Schmidt Feist (President DAAD AA)

West-coast Alumni Treff, February 18

By Board member Sue Hida

After the San Francisco joint DAAD-Goethe Institute Holiday Party I invited alumni to join us for an informal gathering, a February dinner at "Walzwerk ", restaurant. We had 6 alumni and friends ranging from "after the wall" to "before the wall" to "way before the wall". Conversation was lively, fascinating, and yes; everyone got a DAAD pamphlet under their menus. Most had spent some time in or near Berlin and were fascinated by the East German décor. The beer, entrées, desserts were worth my drive to SF:-). They asked to share email addresses and to meet again to see a German film or go on a hike w/food before/after. For interest in DAAD West coast events, please get in touch with Hanni Geist at the San Francisco office. (*photo: S. Hida*)



DAAD Sound Understanding Concert – 15th anniversary



The annual DAAD Sound Understanding Concert took place on Thursday, April 7th, 2016 in the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. We are so grateful to the musicians who are showcasing their talents while, at the same time, help to raise awareness for the Alumni Association and the incredible benefits of international exchange.

We could not hold this event without the continued support of the DAAD office in New York. On the occasion of the 15th anniversary concert we were honored with an address by German General Consul Wagner and DAAD Secretary General Rüländ.

7:30pm – Welcome by DAAD New York Director Nina Lemmens
7:35pm – Frau Generalkonsulin Wagener
7:38pm – Dr. Dorothea Rüländ Secretary General of the DAAD Germany
7:41pm – Mechthild Schmidt Feist, President DAAD Alumni Association USA
7:43pm – Nina Lemmes DAAD New York Director and event MC

We thank everyone who came to share this special evening with us and has shown support of the DAAD AA. <https://www.carnegiehall.org/Calendar/2016/4/7/0730/PM/Sound-Understanding-2016/>. Our next Sound Understanding Concert is set for **Thursday, April 20, 2017. Save the date** and please help sponsor the event. (Photo by Beowulf Sheehan)

Reception DAAD and German Consulate San Francisco

By German Consulate General San Francisco

The German Consulate General in San Francisco and the German Academic Exchange Service invited to a reception at the German Residence in San Francisco (1960 Jackson St, Pacific Heights) on Tuesday, April 26, from 6-9 pm. On the occasion of the Naturejobs Career Expo 2016 they discussed the role of publications in science with an editor from Nature and the dean of a German medical school. Foremost, however, this was an opportunity for you to connect with other alumni of German research organizations, and the representatives of the German Academic Exchange Service and the German universities who are here for the career expo.

New Board Member Breakfast, NYC June 14

Thanks to the efforts of Sigrid Berka and the Governance Committee we are able to greet new trustees Brian Boyer and Erich Haratsch. We caught them between flights and conferences on June 14 at the Pershing Café.

photo: (L to R) Manfred Philipp, Mechthild Schmidt Feist, Erich Haratsch, Brian Boyer, Amra Dumisic.



Fresh Off the Boat DAAD Reception

Each September the DAAD New York welcomes the newly arrived German DAAD grantees to a 'Fresh Off the Boat' party. Fittingly, you could take the East River Ferry to the riverside restaurant with splendid skyline views. I had many interesting conversations and found ex-pats across the city. As always, a Thank you to Amra Dumisic and Nina Lemmens and her staff for making the event possible! (photo credit: M. Schmidt Feist)

A&M Overseas Day at Texas A&M University

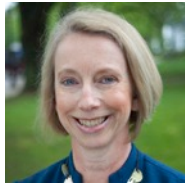
By Board members Rick White and Nancy Stuhlmuller

Rick White and Nancy Stuhlmuller manned the table for DAAD at the Texas A&M Overseas Day on September 28. Rick and Nancy worked with about 35 students, many from Engineering programs, some from Foreign Languages, and the rest wanting Study Abroad experience.

The students wanted to know a) when they would find out, b) do they have to know German (for the RISE program), c) how can they find a place to stay, d) can their families come with them?, e) can their parents come to visit them during the summer?

19th Annual Colloquium on International Engineering Education, Rhode Island, Nov. 5-6, 2016

By Board member Sigrid Berka



Several DAAD AA board members participated in the 19th Annual Colloquium on International Engineering Education: Preparing the Global Workforce, Nov. 3-4, 2016 in Newport, which was sponsored by DAAD. Founded by the International Engineering Program (IEP) at the University of Rhode Island, this distinctive and unique annual colloquium meets every other year in Rhode Island, alternating with partner schools across the country. Purpose of the Annual Colloquium on International Engineering Education is to provide a forum to discuss and share issues and ideas related to the field. The Colloquium provides engineering and language educators, international program administrators, deans, provosts, presidents, corporate leaders, public sector representatives and students common ground to talk about educating engineers for today's global workplace.

- Our new AA board member Erich Haratsch testified to the value of his DAAD scholarship in launching his international career.
- Eckhard Groll & Sigrid Berka presented in the workshop How to Get Started with International Engineering and Work Abroad Programs.
- Brian Mitchell reported on the 2016 NSF Graduate Council workshop on Assessing International Graduate Research Experiences.
- Manfred Philipp moderated a plenary on How Do Universities Across the Globe Internationalize to Educate the Global Engineering Work Force?
- Eckhard, Sigrid and Nina Lemmens, DAAD NY Director, participated in the closing panel on Trends in International (Engineering) Education – Lessons Learned – Looking Ahead to 2017
- Mechthild Schmidt-Feist created DAAD AA membership cards and "manned" a table during the Poster-, Info- and Networking Fair
- TU Braunschweig/ URI Civil Engineering dual master and DAAD ISAP scholars Yichen Zhang and Alric Fruehauf presented posters at the poster fair.
- DAAD ambassador Claudia Krah, an International Business student from URI who spent a semester at HAW in Hamburg and did her six-month internship at DB Cargo in Mainz, also presented a poster along with several International Engineering Program students who recently returned from their year abroad studying and interning in Germany.



photo: Eckhard Groll, Sigrid Berka, Brian Mitchell, Manfred Philipp, Nina Lemmens, M.Schmidt Feist, Erich Haratsch

Welcome Brunch for German DAAD grantees in New York City (Dec. 3)



Following the enthusiastic response in 2015, the Alumni Association welcomed again the German DAAD grantees in New York City. Professor Schmidt Feist hosted the event at New York University-SPS together with Manfred Phillip and Rosmarie Morewedge. The majority of students are studying at New York University and Columbia University. Other students are studying at Julliard and Mannes School of Music, New School/Parsons, Brooklyn and Wagner College, Fordham, Tulane and Princeton University. Their feedback: academics are going great – housing in NY is a huge hurdle at the start.

TRUSTEE NEWS

New Trustees. We welcome three new Trustees on the board of the DAAD Alumni Association USA. In June 2016, we were joined by Dr. Thomas Südhof, Erich Haratsch, and Brian Boyer.



Brian Boyer, CFA, (Director, Equities) is employed at Wespath Investment Management, the benefits administration agency for the United Methodist Church. He is the Director of Equities in Investment Management, responsible for overseeing the strategic direction and staff of the public equities and alternative investments program, including the asset classes of private equity and private real estate. Previously, he spent 15 years with First Analysis Corporation, a Chicago-based investment firm where he was a senior vice president with responsibility for developing public equity research coverage and making venture capital investments in various technology sectors including telecommunications products and services. He received B.A. and B.E. degrees from Dartmouth College and an MBA from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He is also a CFA Charterholder. Brian studied at the TU Aachen on a DAAD scholarship in 1981/82.

Dr. Erich Haratsch is Director of Engineering in the data storage industry where he has pioneered advanced signal processing, error correction and media management algorithms for flash controllers in solid state disks. Earlier in his career, Haratsch developed signal processing and error correction technologies for hard disk drive controllers, which shipped in more than one billion chips. He started his engineering career at Bell Labs Research, where he invented new chip architectures for Gigabit Ethernet over copper and optical communications. Haratsch is a frequent speaker at leading industry events, is the author of over 40 peer-reviewed journal and conference papers, and holds more than 130 US patents. He earned his MS and PhD degrees in electrical engineering from the Technical University of Munich (Germany). He was awarded an undergraduate scholarship from the German Academic Scholarship Foundation and a postgraduate scholarship from the DAAD.



Dr. Thomas Südhof, professor in the School of Medicine in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Physiology, and by courtesy in Neurology, and in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. Dr. Südhof won the 2013 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. A full biography of his distinguished career is available on Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_C._Südhof

An early welcome to Professor **Mark Rectanus** from Iowa State who will join the board in 2017!

Our board members serve for 3 years and can extend another 3 years. After a hiatus, they can be invited back to the board. So, we must say Farewell and Thank you to two board members:

An especially big Thank You to **Daniel Jones**, for serving on the board as our Treasurer for six years. He worked with Brian Boyer, our incoming Treasurer to guarantee a smooth transition.

We will miss **Rick White**, our 2016 award winner (see above) who actively represented the DAAD and Alumni Association in his Texas region and supported several RISE candidates.

Thank you also to **Sue Hida** for serving our Northern California community. Due to work demands she stepped down.

Meetings of the DAAD Alumni Association Board of Trustees. The DAAD Alumni Association Trustees met for two full board meetings on the day of the Sound Understanding Concert in April, and again on November 5 at the RI conference (see above). You can find our full list of trustees here: <https://www.daad.org/en/alumni-services/alumni-usa/>

DAAD Research Ambassadors. The DAAD Alumni Association thanks the Research Ambassador volunteers. To look for an ambassador near you, click here: <https://www.daad.org/en/about-us/network/research-ambassadors/> Please contact Amra Dumisic (alumniassociation@daad.org) for information on how to become a Research Ambassador.

MEMBERSHIP

We are part of a network of more than 120 alumni groups worldwide. The DAAD Alumni Association USA elected its first official board members in 1998. Today, the association numbers more than 300 members and has raised over \$200,000. DAAD New York maintains an alumni-only online platform for networking and getting involved in alumni activities in North America. It features a **searchable membership directory, upcoming alumni events, information about regional alumni groups** in North America, and other activities and opportunities for you to get involved.

The general information pages about DAAD alumni activities are accessible to the public. However, a number of prime features (including the **alumni directory, bulletin board, regional listserv, and the ability to view posted jobs and housing**) are available only to DAAD alumni in the USA and Canada who register on the website. To find out more, please visit us on the new DAAD.org website: <https://www.daad.org/en/alumni-services/alumni-usa/>. As a DAAD grantee, you are eligible for membership and we hope you decide to join us so others may enjoy the same kinds of benefits you did during your stay abroad.

How to become a Member: Anyone who was a recipient of any type of DAAD grant is considered a DAAD alumnus/a and may join. However, in order to join the DAAD Alumni Association as a sustaining member you must pay an annual membership. We offer the following levels:

Student or Retired - \$15

Regular - \$50/\$75/\$100

Life Membership \$500

Institutional-corporate membership \$1000

Returning DAAD students receive a 1- year free membership in the DAAD-AA.

YEAR- END FUNDRAISER Discount:

Join or renew by December 30

and take \$10 off your regular membership, \$5 off Student/retired rate.

To receive the discount, use the 'Donate' button and fill in the amount.

Membership Benefits: All members will receive the Newsletter from the DAAD Alumni Association of the US and opportunities to actively participate in Alumni Association projects and decision-making.

Donations: In addition, if you would like to donate you may choose to contribute to programs or to scholarship (*Hubertus Scheibe Memorial Scholarship Endowment only*). We are a private, non-profit 501 c 3 organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible as specified by US law.

Go to <https://www.daad.org/en/alumni-services/alumni-usa/> and choose 'Membership' or 'Donate' to pay online.

We accept PayPal, credit cards or or checks sent to the address below

We Are Thanking our Sponsors

The DAAD Alumni Association of the US and DAAD would like to gratefully acknowledge all the sponsors of this year's Sound Understanding event and all our members and 2016 donors across the country. Their support will help us to ensure that the important work of international academic and cultural exchange between the US and Germany continues to address the needs of the modern transatlantic relationship.

Gold Sponsor (above \$5000)	Wolfgang Knapp
Silver Sponsors (above\$1000)	Greuer Family, Manfred Philipp, Ben Waldau, Helene Zimmer-Loew
Bronze Sponsors (above \$500)	Erika Berroth , Katherine Brinkman, Erich Haratsch, Leroy Hopkins, Mark Meyer, Brian Mitchell, Rosmarie Morewedge, Mechthild Schmidt Feist

We would love to greet you at one of our events in 2017!

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