

DAAD Alumni Association USA 2015 Newsletter

CONTENT:

Letter From The President

New Facebook Group

Scholarship News

EVENTS:

DAAD January New Year Reception

International Exchange Panel, Stanford University

Sound Understanding 2015 & April Board Meeting

Fresh off the Boat

DAAD and HAUS at Texas A&M University

Symposium, Board Meeting, and German Embassy Reception

The European Refugee Crisis

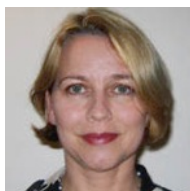
Colloquium on International Engineering Education

Welcome Brunch for German DAAD Grantees in New York City

TRUSTEE NEWS

MEMBERSHIP

*DAAD Alumni Association, Inc. • c/o German Academic Exchange Service • 871 United Nations Plaza • New York, NY 10017
(212) 758-3223 • <http://alumni.daad.org/187849> • alumniassociation@daad.org*



Letter From The President

Dear DAAD Alumni/ae,

The Alumni Association is nearing the end of a busy year. We (co)sponsored and had board members participate in nine events this year.

I want to thank all of you who renewed their membership this year, and especially those who donated to our scholarships.

Make sure to skip down to the next page to read about two amazing RISE students and their experience. Without your support we would not be able to give our students a unique opportunity, even a life-changing experience for some.

When I attended the RISE scholar meeting last year, it was inspiring to hear from a scientist how his RISE scholarship a decade ago lead to doctoral studies in Germany that turned a resulting mentorship into a research position back at a US university a trajectory set in motion by an undergraduate grant of about \$2,000. You may not know that our board is staffed with volunteers only; most of us hold university positions, so all your fees and donations go to fund the scholarships that we, in collaboration with the DAAD, provide to US students going to Germany. Thank you again, and yes, I have to say it – use this link below to renew for 2016! <http://alumni.daad.org/187850>

See <http://tinyurl.com/DAADEvents> for a list of main events. While centered in New York City, our trustees are based around the USA in different disciplines to reach out to our local communities – from Rhode Island to Texas, from DC to California. Read all the details in your letter below. Our main annual event, the Sound Understanding Concert in Carnegie Hall, will be on Thursday, April 7th, 2016. It is a special occasion – our 15th anniversary concert. Please stay tuned 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 (see link below).

Some ideas: Do you have a story to tell about your own grant, be it from 1950 or 2015? Do you have a photo to go along with your story? Do you have a concert, a show, a reading or event coming up that you want our members to know about? Would you like us to cosponsor an event at your university? Would your company or university like to become a member or advertise in our April Concert brochure? Please get in touch with us at alumniassociation@daad.org

Thank you for your support!

Mechthild Schmidt Feist,
President DAAD Alumni Association USA

New Facebook Group

We try to go where our members are. Please join us ('like' us) at:

www.facebook.com/DAADAlumniAssociationUSA Post to our community any relevant events or news. We will do our best to monitor and keep the site professional for us all.

Scholarship News

By Board member Mechthild Schmidt Feist

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 **Priscilla Sanchez** and **Mark Elyse** to spend a summer improving their German language skills.

Eleven years ago the DAAD instituted summer Research Internships in Science and Engineering (RISE) grants.. Aside of the DAAD itself, several organizations help sponsor the total of over 300 scholarships for students from the USA, Canada, Great Britain and other countries. The DAAD Alumni Association USA congratulates six grantees to their selection from a very competitive process. Our grants are earmarked to support environmental research. **Cyrus Belenky, Natalie Isenberg, Kyungjoo Park, Jia-Ahn Pan, Jisheng Zhang, and Sara Sand** went to German universities to work with German PhD candidates on projects as diverse as "Photocatalytic Wastewater Treatment with Unsteady Process Conditions" and "MOF-coating on ceramic foams for Energy Storage."

Here are Natalie Isenberg and Kyungjoo Park telling you about their summer in Germany:

My name is Natalie Isenberg, and I am a senior Chemical Engineering student at the University of Pittsburgh. This past summer, I was fortunate enough to be a DAAD RISE grant holder. The opportunity was granted to me by the DAAD Alumni Association of the USA and was something I had dreamed of since first hearing about the DAAD RISE program as a freshman student. To have it actually happen was a surreal experience, and I realize how fortunate I was to have been selected as a grant recipient. My most treasured memories of the experience are related to the friends I found in the state capital city of Magdeburg. Since I was the lone RISE student working in Magdeburg (with my closest neighbors at a 1.5 hour train ride to Berlin!) I was at first apprehensive about making friends and having ways to spend my free time outside of the lab. It ended up being that the members of my lab became my closest friends for my stay in Germany. Particularly my PhD student mentor, Juliane, was kind beyond what was expected of a mentor. She would invite me over to cook dinner, or to go swim in the lake, or go have a beer, and I was even invited to visit with her and her



family in Hamburg. I was essentially adopted by her group of friends and I have never before felt so welcomed by a group of strangers. Of course, the intellectual rigor of the research position and German language acquisition were also integral and enjoyable parts of my time in the DAAD RISE program. But I got something even better out of it than just another undergraduate research experience – I got a group of friends on the European continent who I still keep in touch with and plan to see again soon. Currently, I am applying to PhD programs and my future career goal is to become a research faculty member at a university so that I may also mentor young scientists. The DAAD RISE program gave me insight into the real value of professional cultural exchange, and the way in which science is conducted in another nation. This knowledge will be invaluable to my future career as a scientist, and I formally thank the DAAD RISE Alumni Association of the USA for this opportunity.

Being part of DAAD Rise program was an absolutely amazing experience. Having lived in Germany for



a year before, I've always been interested in studying or working in Germany. My research internship at the University of Stuttgart allowed me to experience what it's like to work in Germany and see how different their work culture is compared to America. The internship taught me how to apply theories I learned in chemical engineering classes to research. I was exposed to a wide range of research areas and it helped me appreciate what I study even more. But more importantly, I gained a network of support. I had a great mentor who guided me through my project and helped me design my own experiments. I

am also so thankful to have met all the incredible people in my lab who always made me smile and taught me how to speak better German. I definitely plan on applying to graduate schools in Germany after this incredible experience. Thank you so much, DAAD Rise team! Kyungjoo Park

EVENTS:

DAAD January New Year Reception

On January 15, 2015 the DAAD USA invited to a reception at the German Consulate in New York. A



few hundred souls braved icy winds for an opportunity to meet DAAD staff, scholars and alumni. It was also an opportunity for Nina Lemmens, Director of DAAD NY to thank outgoing DAAD Alumni Association President Manfred Philipp and welcome the new president Mechthild Schmidt Feist.

Top: (L-R) Manfred Philipp, Mechthild Schmidt Feist, Director of DAAD NY Nina Lemmens

Right: (L-R) Amra Dumisic, DAAD Liaison, Irmgard Taylor, a former DAAD AA President, Mechthild Schmidt Feist



January 20, Stanford California

By Board member Manfred Philipp



On January 20 of this year the DAAD Alumni Association sponsored a panel discussion on international exchange. This took place at Stanford University in California. The event honored California's DAAD students and scholars, who were invited to attend. The keynote panelist was Stanford Nobel Laureate Thomas Südhof (*left*), who was accompanied by the German Consul General in San Francisco, Stefan Schlüter (*middle*), and by former DAAD-AA President Manfred Philipp (*right*). Assisting in setting up the event was Sue Hida of the DAAD-AA Board of Directors, Peter Kerrigan, Deputy Director of the DAAD office in New York City, and Suzan Slavsky in Prof Südhof's office. Thanks to Sue, Peter, and Suzan for their assistance!

Please see <http://tinyurl.com/DAADStanford> for more information about this event.

DAAD Sound Understanding 2015

The annual DAAD Sound Understanding Concert took place on April 16, 2015 in the Weill Recital Hall At Carnegie Hall. Eckhard Groll, DAAD Alumni Association Vice President was the emcee and introduced the concert while President Schmidt Feist was on a Fellowship at NYU Berlin. More info at: <http://www.carnegiehall.org/Calendar/2015/4/16/0730/PM/Sound-Understanding-2015/>



Sound Understanding Concert, Orchestra. Photo by Beowulf Sheehan

Our next Sound Understanding Concert is set for **Thursday, April 7th, 2016**. **Save the date** and please help sponsor the event. Expect a special performance and VIP invite for members to our 15th anniversary concert.

Fresh Off the Boat

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. Our board member Manfred Philipps was there to meet the new arrivals. As always, DAAD's own Amra Dumisic's tireless organizational skills made sure we were informed and invited! (*photo credit: unknown*)



DAAD and HAUS at Texas A&M University

By Board members Rick White and Nancy Stuhlmuller

Rick White and Nancy Stuhlmuller manned the table for DAAD and HAUS (Heidelberg Alumni US) at the Study Abroad Fair at Texas A&M University on October 23, 2015. It was well attended with an impressive number of students stopping by who were studying German, Arabic and Russian.

Rick and Nancy were working with students, answering questions, giving pointers, and talking to academic advisors about the many opportunities available to students through the DAAD. The two largest groups who wanted to study in Germany and had many questions were German majors and engineering students.

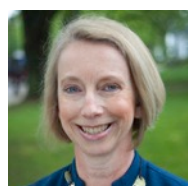
Germany and the Greek Crisis Conference

By Board member Manfred Philipp



On October 6, 2015 the DAAD Alumni Association sponsored a conference on **Germany and the Greek Crisis** at The Mortara Center for International Studies at Georgetown University in Washington DC. The event honored the Washington DC area's DAAD Students and Scholars. Participating in the event were three highly prominent scholars. Serving as moderator was Jeffrey J. Anderson,

Director of Georgetown's BMW Center for German & European Studies and Professor in Georgetown's Department of Government (*photo left*). The two other panelists were Steve H. Hanke, Professor Applied Economics at The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore (*photo middle*) and Anne O. Krueger, Senior Research Professor of International Economics at the School for Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University (*photo right*). The event was organized by Manfred Philipp, Friederike Eigler, Brian Mitchell, and Board President Mechthild Schmidt. Please see <http://tinyurl.com/DAADGeorgetown2015> for more information about this event.



The European Refugee Crisis

By Board member Sigrid Berka

Rhode Island, October 8, 2015

The event was part of **German Campus Week** to celebrate **25 Years of German Unification**. My colleagues and I from URI's German Section felt that we could not celebrate without also addressing **THIS crisis of historical proportions** affecting **Germany** right now, and all of **Europe** for that matter and, of course, large parts of the **Middle East** from where the majority of migrants originate. Fortunately, we could convene a panel of experts, which shed light

onto the topic from diverse viewpoints. There were 80 people in the audience among them our DAAD ISAP scholars from the TU Braunschweig. This made for a lively discussion afterwards. Speakers were:

Michael Honhart - a Professor in our University of Rhode Island History department whose research centers on Modern Germany and European nationalism. He viewed the crisis from a historical perspective, defining what it meant and means to be "German". He contributed his thoughts about refugee, immigration, and asylum issues in past decades.

Katrin Joma – Assistant Professor, Departments of Political Science and Philosophy. Her research is interdisciplinary between the fields of religion and political science. She focuses on the relationship between religion and politics in Muslim majority countries. She talked about how the crisis started in Syria, how it is continuing, and also how it is a global political matter with several countries involved, not just pertaining to Syria.

Norbert Hedderich - a Professor of German and Chair of the Department of Modern & Classical Languages and Literature. He had been following the news about the refugee crisis, both in the German and in the U.S press very closely, and summarized the German response and its reception world-wide.

Ric McIntyre - Professor of Economics put the discussion into the context of the colonial and post-colonial history of southwest Asia and American policy there. He claimed that there is no European crisis when we put this one in perspective when compared with other real crises on the globe. He focused on Afghanistan, the second largest source of refugees, and on Iraq.

18th Annual Colloquium on International Engineering Education, Nov. 5-6, 2015, New York City
(quoted from [iie.org](http://www.iie.org))

"With over 150 attendees, this year's Colloquium on International Engineering Education attracted the largest number of participants ever, as well as many first-time attendees and veterans in the field of engineering education. The two day Colloquium organized by IIE and DAAD in New York City brought together representatives of more than 100 universities, including 25 foreign institutions, that are currently training the next generation of global engineers, as well as NGO and government leaders to examine topics related to engineering education and preparing students for the engineering workforce."

(Read more at : <http://www.iie.org/Who-We-Are/News-and-Events/Events/2015/DAAD-Colloquium-International-Engineering-Education>), -- also: <http://www.cvent.com/events/18th-annual-colloquium-on-international-engineering-education/event-summary-3046d4f2e5a041f28e942acb3cf0a285.aspx>



25th GERMAN UNIVERSITY **GERMAN Campus Week**

Expert Panel on
THE EUROPEAN REFUGEE CRISIS

Guest speakers:

Richard McIntyre Professor/Dept Chair Economics	Michael W Honhart Professor History
Norbert Hedderich Professor of German/Dept Chair Languages	Katrin Jomaa Assistant Professor Political Science

Moderator:
Sigrid Berka
Executive Director
International Engineering Program

When: October 8, 3:30 - 5:30 pm
Where: Alumni Center, URI,
73 Upper College Rd.

Contact person:
Sigrid Berka, Executive Director, IEP
sigrid_berka@uri.edu; 401-874-4700

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW THE PANEL DISCUSSION

Sponsors: German Embassy Washington;
Depts of Modern and Classical Languages and
Literature, History, Political Science, Economics
and International Engineering Program.

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Welcome Brunch for German DAAD grantees in New York City

By Board member Mechthild Schmidt Feist

On December 5, 2015 board members Mechthild Schmidt Feist and Manfred Philipp greeted about 30 German students, most of them current DAAD grantees, some DAAD alumni on a Fulbright scholarship, as well as some Fulbright scholars. The event was hosted by Professor Schmidt Feist at New York University- School of Professional Studies. Professor Plass, faculty at NYU - Steinhardt and DAAD alumnus joined us.



Group photo with most of the participants. Professors Plass, Philipp, and Schmidt Feist are on the right.

Many attendees found fellow students at their university or across the city in the same discipline – or – even from their German alma mater. The majority is studying at New York University and Columbia Universities. Other students are at CUNY Baruch, New School/Parsons and Manhattan School of Music. Everyone appreciated the opportunity to meet and asked for an encore in 2016.

TRUSTEE NEWS



New Trustee. We welcome a new Trustee on the board of the DAAD Alumni Association USA. In June 2015 we were joined by Dr. Erika Berroth, Associate Professor of German, Southwestern University, Georgetown, TX

ERIKA BERROTH calls her DAAD scholarship a life changing experience academically, professionally and personally. As a student of German and English at Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen, she could integrate a year of study abroad in England from 1983-84, earning a postgraduate degree in English Studies. Experiencing the energy of teaching and learning in a different culture inspired her transition into the US higher education system after she graduated from Tübingen with a Staatsexamen.

Integrating teaching and learning, Erika Berroth earned her Ph.D. from the University of California, Santa Barbara and taught German at undergraduate and graduate levels at UCSB, Santa Barbara City College, Oberlin College, Carleton College, Lewis & Clark College, Minnesota State University at Mankato, and is currently head of the German program at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas. She integrates German with Environmental Studies, Feminist Studies, International Studies, and STEM. She has published a book on Heinrich von Kleist and is currently completing a book on

transnational identity narratives by Marica Bodrožić. Joining the board of the DAAD-AA in the fall of 2015, she looks forward to supporting DAAD's future oriented mission of providing meaningful intercultural and international experiences for learners and teachers in global environments. Erika Berroth participates in our Membership, Media PR, and Awards Committees. You can read more about Erika and her work at <http://www.southwestern.edu/departments/german/>

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 October 6. At our October meeting at Georgetown University, we established the Public Relations and Media Committee of the Board. The role of this committee is to establish an improved online presence of the DAAD AA. Some of us were able to stay and join the German Embassy reception on the 25th anniversary of German Reunification. In addition we had a website meeting on June 4 and a number of phone conferences. You can find our trustees here: <http://tinyurl.com/DAADBoard>

DAAD Research Ambassadors. The DAAD Alumni Association thanks the Research Ambassador volunteers. Several of the Ambassadors are current or past Board members (indicated with a *). To look for an ambassador near you, click here: <https://www.daad.org/ra15-16#s4>. 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 250 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 general public. However, a number of prime features (including the **alumni directory, bulletin board, regional listserves, 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 our website: www.alumni.daad.org. 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.

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. For the easiest way to join the DAAD Alumni Association, please click here: <http://alumni.daad.org/187850> (We also accept checks sent to the address below.)

Donations: In addition, if you would like to make a donation you may choose to contribute to programs or to scholarship (*Hubertus Scheibe Memorial Scholarship Endowment only*). We are a private, non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible as specified by US law. We accept checks, credit cards or PayPal. <http://alumni.daad.org/187854>

We would love to greet you at one of our events in 2016!

*DAAD Alumni Association, Inc. • c/o German Academic Exchange Service • 871 United Nations Plaza • New York, NY 10017
(212) 758-3223 • (212) 758-3223 • <http://alumni.daad.org/187849> • alumniassociation@daad.org*