

Humboldt Foundation Refocuses Fellowships and Awards

The Humboldt Foundation is removing age limits and introducing a model based on career stages in all of its fellowships and award programs. Major changes in the Research Fellowship, the Foundation's flagship program, were announced August 15, 2007, effective immediately.

One option for the Humboldt Research Fellowship is the junior researcher category. For applicants who received a doctoral degree fewer than four years prior to application, the fellowship provides for a stay of 6-24 months in Germany and a monthly stipend of 2,250 EUR.

The Humboldt Research Fellowship offers an option for the experienced researcher who completed a doctoral degree fewer than twelve years prior to application and has developed an independent research profile. These fellowships are for 6-18 months in Germany and provide the flexibility of breaking the research stay into a maximum of three periods of at least three months each. The monthly stipend is 2,450 EUR.

The Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship for German researchers wishing to work abroad is similarly divided by career level.

All research fellowships are awarded on the basis of the applicant's scholarly record and publications and the quality and feasibility of the proposed research. The Foundation provides allowances for accompanying family members, travel expenses, and German language instruction.

Following the same career model, the Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award, valued at 45,000 EUR, is given to internationally renowned scientists and scholars who received their doctoral degree within the past twelve years. Award winners are nominated by German scholars and are invited to work on research projects of their own choice with colleagues in Germany for a period of up to twelve months. Direct applications are not accepted.

Eminent foreign researchers at the peak of their careers and in leading positions may be nominated for the Humboldt Research Award, formerly the Senior Scientist Award. Researchers whose fundamental discoveries, insights, or new theories have had a lasting impact on their field of specialization and who are expected to continue to produce cutting-edge results are eligible for the award. Award winners are nominated by German scholars and are invited to spend up to a year carrying out research projects in cooperation with colleagues in Germany. Awards are valued at 60,000 EUR. Direct applications are not accepted.

In all of its programs, the Humboldt Foundation particularly encourages applications from or nominations of women.

Please share this information with your colleagues.

Apply Now for Sofja Kovalevskaja Award

The Humboldt Foundation is accepting applications for the 2008 Sofja Kovalevskaja Award from exceptionally promising junior scientists and scholars who completed their doctorates with distinction fewer than six years prior to application. Applications are due by January 4, 2008. As many as eight winners will each be granted funding totaling up to 1.65 million EUR (\$2.26 million at current exchange rates) to conduct the approved team research project over a period of five years. Award money allows recipients to build a working group at a university or other research establishment of their own choice in Germany and also covers their living expenses.

Funding for this award is from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. It is one of the most generously endowed research awards in Germany.

For more detailed information and application forms, please go to www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/programme/preise/kova.htm.

HOC Program Launched

American Friends launched Humboldtians on Campus (HOC) as a web-based program in August 2007. This program builds on the Humboldt Foundation's commitment to networking and the conviction that Humboldtians, who have first-hand experience in the German research and academic landscape, can be especially effective in promoting Foundation

programs. The mission of the HOC Program is to identify volunteers among Humboldt alumni who will share information about Humboldt Foundation fellowships and awards in their professional communities.

The American Friends website has a description of the program, an agreement for alumni who want to volunteer to promote Humboldt programs, the names of volunteers, their field and university or institution, and email addresses. Although called Humboldtians on Campus, the program is not limited to individuals with academic appointments. Answers to many questions are in the FAQ on the website, or contact Lela Gibson, Program Director, at lela.gibson@americanfriends-of-avh.org. This program is conducted in cooperation with the AvHAA, the alumni organization of Humboldtians in the USA.

A. Stephen Dahms elected to AF Board

A. Stephen Dahms, a biochemist/molecular biologist who received the Humboldt Research Fellowship in 1979, was elected to the board of American Friends in May 2007. Dahms is widely published and was Professor of Chemistry at San Diego State University from 1972 until 2006, when he was named President and CEO of the Alfred. E. Mann Foundation for Biomedical Engineering. From this position he is overseeing the creation at elite U.S. universities of more than a dozen new biomedical product commercialization institutes which are initially funded at \$150-200 million each. Dahms is also a member of the board of directors of the AvHAA.

German Studies Association 2007

American Friends will have an exhibit table and host a Saturday evening reception at the annual conference of the German Studies Association in San Diego, California, October 4-7. This is the tenth consecutive year that the Humboldt Foundation has hosted a reception and been represented at GSA by staff from the Washington office. Robert Grathwol, Donita Moorhus, and Lela Gibson will be available to answer questions about the programs of the Humboldt Foundation. If you will be at GSA, please send an email and let us know.

Expanding our Promotional Activities

Our office uses many different strategies to promote the programs of the Humboldt Foundation, including paid advertising and exhibiting at large professional meetings in the Washington area. We welcome suggestions of magazines and journals that accept paid advertising and advance notice of conferences that will be held in Washington. Or perhaps you have other ideas about promotion. Send your ideas and suggestions to us at info@americanfriends-of-avh.org.

New Tabletop Exhibit

A new tabletop exhibit featuring the German Chancellor Fellowship is being used by American Friends' staff to promote the program at career fairs in the Metropolitan DC area. The exhibit folds into a neat suitcase-type carrier, making it easy to carry; it also fits airline requirements for carry-on baggage. This display is made possible by contributions from Humboldtians and friends.

Did you know...

Mount Chimborazo, which is 6,310 meters high, is not only the highest mountain in Ecuador, but, because of its proximity to the equator, which is where the earth bulges, is the farthest point from the center of the earth. In 1802 Alexander von Humboldt climbed the peak to approximately 5,875 meters before altitude sickness forced him to turn back. It was not until 1880 that climbers reached the summit. Three snow-covered passes surround the mountain. Because of its association with Humboldt, we use it in the American Friends logo.

Humboldt Ties Available

Our office received 63 requests for replacement Humboldt ties and scarves in response to a notice in the February 2007 issue of *Strata*. If you wish to have a replacement necktie or bow tie, or (for women) a scarf, write or send an email containing your name, address, and the type of tie or scarf you would like to alumni@americanfriends-of-avh.org. There is no charge for the ties and scarves. Wearing a Humboldt tie or a scarf to professional meetings can provide an opportunity to meet fellow Humboldtians and/or talk about the programs of the Foundation.

German Chancellor Fellowship Applications Due October 31

Applications for the 2008-09 German Chancellor Fellowship are due October 31, 2007. Ten fellowships are awarded annually to young professionals in the private, public, not-for-profit, cultural and academic sectors who are citizens of the United States and who demonstrate the potential to strengthen ties between Germany and their own country through their profession or studies. The program also includes fellowships for citizens of the

Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China. Prior knowledge of German is not a prerequisite.

This program provides for a stay of one year in Germany for professional development, study, or research. Applicants design individual projects and decide at which institutions or organizations to pursue them. The program begins September 1 and lasts twelve months. It is preceded by language classes in Germany.

More information and applications are available on the Humboldt Foundation's website:

www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/programme/stip_aus/buka.htm

You Ought to be in Pictures

American Friends is seeking professional-quality photographs (digital or film) of Humboldtians and permission to use these photographs in promotional materials. We prefer photos that show Humboldtians in work situations, such as a laboratory, a library, or a lecture hall. Photos of small groups of Humboldtians or a Humboldt host and a Lynen Fellow are especially welcome. Please email full-size, print-quality digital photos to us at alumni@americanfriends-of-avh.org or mail them to the Washington office (address below) with a statement giving permission to use the photograph(s).

Conference Exhibits

We will be exhibiting at the following conferences in Washington, DC. Drop by our exhibit and say hello.

- September 27, 2007: NIH Postdoctoral Career Fair
- December 1-4, 2007: American Society for Cell Biology
- January 13-17, 2008: Transportation Research Board

AvHAA Membership

The membership program of the Alexander von Humboldt Association of America (AvHAA) has been revised so that annual memberships will coincide with the calendar year. Humboldtians interested in joining the AvHAA can use the membership form available on the website, www.avhaa.org.



About *Strata*

Strata is the newsletter of American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt 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.

About American Friends

American Friends of the AvH Foundation is a tax-exempt charity within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. American Friends appreciates gifts of any amount and can receive contributions by check, by credit or debit card (see our website), or in appreciated property (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, or real estate). American Friends accepts bequests and is honored to receive memorial gifts. For further information, contact Donita Moorhus, Secretary Treasurer, at donita.moorhus@americanfriends-of-avh.org.