



## Leadership Transition for American Friends

Dr. Robert Grathwol and Donita M. Moorhus, who have represented the Humboldt Foundation in the United States since January 1998, will turn over day-to-day responsibilities for American Friends of the AvH to a new, full-time executive director in the summer of 2007. To facilitate a smooth transition, Grathwol and Moorhus will continue for several months as president and treasurer, respectively, of the board of directors of American Friends and as consultants to the Foundation.

Historians Grathwol and Moorhus continued research and writing projects while serving part-time as directors of the Humboldt Foundation's U.S. Liaison Office. When the Foundation gave American Friends responsibility for operations in the United States, Moorhus accepted the position of part-time executive director and Grathwol was elected president of the board. Grathwol said, "It is a very positive step for American Friends to hire a full-time executive director. Donita and I are not retiring; we will continue our professional activities, but at a more relaxed pace and with time to pursue other interests."

On February 1, the board of directors of American Friends opened a search for a full-time executive director. The search will continue until the position is filled. A job description and application instructions are posted on the American Friends website, [www.americanfriends-of-avh.org/execdir.html](http://www.americanfriends-of-avh.org/execdir.html).

### Humboldt Alumni in the U.S.

The Humboldt Foundation places special emphasis on nurturing a worldwide network of individuals who have received Foundation awards, fellowships, and scholarships. In the United States, two organizations work with Humboldt alumni.

**American Friends** serves all alumni in the United States and particularly seeks to engage alumni in activities to promote Humboldt Foundation programs. American Friends has special responsibility for the German Chancellor Scholarship program—promotion, selection, orientation, and the alumni. In collaboration with the Foundation in Bonn, American Friends maintains a database with current contact information for all AvH alumni in the United States. The American Friends newsletter, *Strata*, is mailed twice a year to all Humboldtians in the U.S. and to "friends" of the Foundation who support its goals and objectives. *Strata* carries brief informational notes about developments in AvH programs and changes in the Foundation, as well as reports about promotional and alumni activities. The American Friends website provides information about Friends programs and links to grant program information on the AvH website.

The **AvHAA** (Alexander von Humboldt Association of America) is a membership organization for Humboldtians in the U.S. Dues-paying members elect the Board of Directors, which puts out a newsletter, manages a website ([www.avhaa.us](http://www.avhaa.us)), and organizes a

bi-annual meeting. As a service, American Friends processes membership payments for AvHAA, but American Friends has no responsibility for AvHAA financial or operational decisions.

### Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Announces Sofja Kovalevskaja Award for 2008

The Humboldt Foundation has received funds for the Sofja Kovalevskaja Award for 2008. Applications will be available in May/June 2007, with the deadline in early January 2008. This very generous program allows scientists and scholars from all disciplines who are at an early stage in their career and not resident in Germany to pursue independent research for four or five years (to be decided) in Germany at any research institution. The award includes income for the scholar and funds for all expenses required to build and run a research group. Research projects can start as early as summer 2008 but must start in 2008. For more information, see [www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/programme/preise/kova.htm](http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/programme/preise/kova.htm).

### We're Looking for HOCs

American Friends is developing a new program to promote the opportunities for research support offered by the Humboldt Foundation. The HOC (Humboldtians on Campus) Program will be a network of Humboldtians at colleges and universities throughout the

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United States who agree to serve as points of contact for prospective applicants. Each Humboldtian will receive promotional material from the American Friends office and have his or her name, university, field, and email address listed on the American Friends website. The Humboldtian will agree to contact department chairs, division deans, and university administrators, distribute information about AvH programs, and arrange one meeting per semester open to prospective applicants. For more information, contact Deirdre Kelly, Program Director at American Friends, [deirdre.kelly@americanfriends-of-avh.org](mailto:deirdre.kelly@americanfriends-of-avh.org).

### **American Friends Welcomes Chris Gramer**

Christopher Gramer joined the staff of American Friends on September 1, 2006, as Program Director. Chris brings with him a background in the German language, computer, technology, and graphic arts skills, and experience in the education and non-profit arenas. He is originally from the Chicago area and obtained his B.A. in Translation & Business German from Northern Illinois University and his M.A. in Modern Languages (German) from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His email address is [christopher.gramer@americanfriends-of-avh.org](mailto:christopher.gramer@americanfriends-of-avh.org). Chris succeeds Susanne Wunner Fitch.

### **Worn Out Your Humboldt Tie or Scarf?**

If you need a new Humboldt necktie, bow tie, or scarf, you can contact the American Friends office to request a free replacement. Simply write or send an email containing your name and address to [alumni@americanfriends-of-avh.org](mailto:alumni@americanfriends-of-avh.org). Please specify which item you would like. You should receive your tie or scarf approximately two weeks after receipt of your request. Wearing your scarf or tie to professional meetings can provide an opportunity to discuss and promote the programs of the Foundation.

### **Buka Alumni Meeting in Sacramento**

The 2007 Orientation for new German Chancellor Scholars and the annual Buka alumni meeting will take place in Sacramento, California. After the Orientation on May 31 and June 1, the alumni meeting will be the weekend of June 1-3. The venue for the meeting will be the Embassy Suites Sacramento, which is located on the river and just across the street from Old Sacramento. It is hoped the location will be especially attractive to families.

Alumni leaders Lisa Swartout (99-00) and Catherine Dollard (94-95) are planning a Saturday afternoon program on the theme "Gender and the Family in Modern Germany." Speakers will examine how German conceptions of gender and family inform cultural politics. The weekend will include a walking tour of Sacramento and a reception and banquet on Saturday evening.

### **Stay Connected with Germany**

The Humboldt Foundation offers several types of financial support to encourage Humboldt alumni to continue research collaboration with Germany. You may apply to return to Germany for as much as three months—and there is no limit to the number of times this may be granted. You may request funds for your host to visit you/your university/institution. You can offer to sponsor a Lynen Fellow. You can make your German host aware of both outstanding young scholars in your field who could be nominated for a Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Award and internationally renowned senior scholars who could be nominated for a Humboldt Award. You can encourage young scholars

in your field or at your institution to apply for a Research Fellowship, perhaps working with the scholar/scientist who served as your host. Also, if you are in the humanities, social sciences, economics, or law, you and a German partner can apply for a TransCoop grant. If you have questions about any of these programs, contact [info@avh.de](mailto:info@avh.de) or our office.

### **Moving or Changing Jobs? Let Us Know!**

One of the important functions of the American Friends office in Washington is helping the Foundation maintain current contact information for the more than 4,500 Humboldtians in the United States. We encourage Humboldtians to change their information by going online to the Humboldt Network through our website:

[www.americanfriends-of-avh.org/humboldt-network/](http://www.americanfriends-of-avh.org/humboldt-network/)

Every first-class mailing from our office produces several dozen returned envelopes, some with expired forwarding orders, some only marked "no longer here." Our staff does research by email and over the Internet to track down Humboldtians who are temporarily "missing."

Whether you enter a new address online or send the information to our office, always keep a current address with the Foundation. Don't be labeled "Address Unknown."

### **Promoting Humboldt Foundation Programs**

American Friends actively promotes the Foundation by exhibiting at relevant conferences and meetings, supported by a custom floor exhibit that draws attention to Foundation programs. Recent events include:

- American College of of Rheumatology Annual Meeting
- Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting
- George Mason University School of Law Public Service Career Fair
- MIT European Career Fair

If you are planning to attend any of the following events or are organizing an event of which we should be aware, please contact our office. Upcoming events include:

- George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs Career Fair (Washington, DC) - February 7
- Federation of the American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) 2007 (Washington, DC) - April 29-May 1

#### **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, Executive Director, at [donita.moorhus@americanfriends-of-avh.org](mailto:donita.moorhus@americanfriends-of-avh.org).