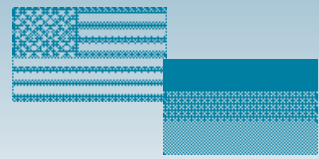


Arthur F. Burns FELLOWSHIP NEWS

A Publication for Burns Fellows, Alumni and Friends



Winter 2005-2006 • Vol. 14, No. 2



Adrienne Woltersdorf

Dialogue on transatlantic relations



James Bernsen

Editor's note: The following exchange started with an unsolicited e-mail from James Bernsen to the Arthur F. Burns Fellowship administrators. Bernsen was then invited to write an open letter for the winter issue of the AFB alumni newsletter. Upon review of the letter, AFB Fellowship administrators decided to solicit a rebuttal letter from a German Burns alum. Adrienne Woltersdorf's letter was submitted to Bernsen with an offer to revise or add to his original letter. The AFB Fellowship administrators welcome comments on this or any other topic of relevance, but cannot guarantee publication in the newsletter.

Germany's biased coverage of America

By James Bernsen

In observing the German coverage of the United States in the last few years, I have been startled at what seems to amount to no less than a crusade to defame and misrepresent this country.

Der Spiegel's coverage of the war seems to be a perpetual game of "gotcha" to link Iraq to Vietnam. Philipp Mausshardt, in a recent taz column, practically gloated that Americans were dying in New Orleans. He wrote that he was "happy that the recent storm didn't hit some poor country, but the richest nation on earth." And that he saw this as a form of justice for what Americans did to the people of Iraq. "I would even be more happy," Mausshardt wrote, "if I knew that only houses of Bush voters and members of the military were destroyed."

But the worst example was a broadcast on ARD about the case of an American

soldier who shot an unarmed Iraqi. Referring to him in the first sentence as "the killer" (in English), the article totally ignored the soldier's defense argument and the fact that the sympathetically portrayed "victim" was in fact a member of an insurgent group. In America, the bar for libel is high. But this story did a Fosbury Flop right over it.

Despite complaints of a bias in American journalism, our reporters generally go out of their way to find both sides of every issue – put simply, to be fair. This seems to be lacking in German media. Neither is there interest in covering perspectives that don't match the reporters' preconceived notions.

The German people are ill-served because of this. To a German, the

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franklyspeaking

Dear Friends,

Another busy year for journalists is coming to an end. The early elections in Germany made this summer an exciting time not just for the American Burns Fellows in Germany, but also for their German counterparts, who were asked to cover this event for their host newsrooms across the United States. Everyone may not appreciate the outcome of the election, but it certainly ensured a lot of coverage on both sides of the Atlantic.

Also this year, Burns alumni work has become just as prominent a feature as the actual fellowships. The Arthur F. Burns dinners, both in Berlin and New York, are becoming trademarks of alumni life. The dinner in Berlin featured parting German Secretary of the Interior, Otto Schily, whereas former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright spoke to alumni in New York. Another round of dinners is scheduled for February (New York) and May (Berlin), which will run up to IJP's 25th anniversary celebration in Germany in September. Research trips brought even larger groups of German and American alumni to Turkey, both before and after the German elections. One group even took a day trip to Syria. Other alums attended regional dinners, including two in San Francisco and the Bay area in July and September, and one during Oktoberfest to meet the American fellows in Munich. Another joint conference was held by several German-U.S. exchange organizations in order to cover the German elections in Berlin. More activities are planned in 2006.

Meanwhile, program information and application forms have been sent out in both countries, and I encourage you to forward them to interested friends and colleagues. We will again rely heavily on your help in recruiting a strong, promising and motivated group of 2006 Burns journalists!

With my best wishes for a happy new year,
Frank-Dieter Freiling



Burns Trustees (from left to right): Stanford S. Warshawsky, Dr. Frank-Dieter Freiling, Phillip C. Zane, Dr. Martin Bussmann, John E. Rielly, The Hon. Robert M. Kimmitt, Amb. Wolfgang Ischinger, George A. Krinsky, The Hon. Henry A. Kissinger, The Hon. Frank E. Loy, General Alexander M. Haig, Jr., Charles Lane, The Hon. J.D. Bindenagel, Elizabeth Becker, Eileen O'Connor.



Parting board member George A. Krinsky (left) was honored with the German-American Friendship Award by Amb. Ischinger for his long tenure as an AFB trustee and for his continued support to the Fellowship program since 1990.

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Alumni NEWS

1988

Björn Peter Böer had his third daughter, Hilde, in September.

1990

Martin Halusa left Die Welt's Brussels bureau to join Dresdner Bank's headquarters in Frankfurt as Head of International Media.

1991

Aliza Marcus moved to Berlin and freelances for The Boston Globe. After four years in the book publishing industry, Alan Scott Noblitt has returned to journalism as a news designer with the Daily Citizen in Beaver Dam, Wis.

1992

Marie Agnes Heine married Christoph Cuntz and continues to work as a public information officer for the International Organization for Migration. Elisabeth Niejahr was appointed deputy head of the Berlin bureau of Die Zeit.

1993

Eva Corell finished her job as correspondent for ARD radio in Beijing this summer and will continue freelancing from China for ARD TV and others.

1996

Tom Atkins was named Reuters bureau chief in Switzerland, based in Zurich. Jochen Buchsteiner wrote a new book from Delhi, "Die Stunde der Asiaten," published by Rowohlt. Stefan Wichmann now heads the new TV format "Sat1 am Mittag."

1997

Andreas Wunn is anchoring "heute in Europa," a daily magazine on European issues for ZDF.



Carter Dougherty with daughter Lucinda

1998

Carter S. Dougherty and his wife Hannah Deutsch announced the birth of their daughter Lucinda Frances Dougherty on Oct. 2 in Frankfurt. Stefan Krücken became a father for a second time in June with daughter Mia.

Save the Date

Arthur F. Burns Dinner and Lecture

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2006

Reception: 7 pm · Dinner & Speeches: 7:30 pm

Goldman Sachs
85 Broad Street · New York City

for more information, contact:
Mario Scherhauser: (202)349-7609 or burns@icfj.org

Adrienne Woltersdorf moved to Washington to take over as correspondent for taz, die Tageszeitung, from Burns alum Michael Streck.

1999

After the birth of her son Benjamin on April 25, Allison Linn returned to the Associated Press in Seattle. Katja Ridderbusch moved to Atlanta to live with her husband and freelances for Die Welt and Welt am Sonntag. Previously with Reuters, Ayla Jean Yackley now works for Bloomberg News, still in Istanbul.



Mini-reunion: 2000 Burns Fellows (from left to right) Miriam Falco (CNN, Atlanta), Anne Marie Kelly (Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Arlington, Va.) and Heather Greenfield (AP, McLean, Va.) reunite at the Burns summer reception in Washington.

2000

Silvia Feist moved to Ft. Bragg, Calif., to do freelance work. Anne Marie Kelly was elected to the board of directors for Women in Housing and Finance (WHF), a 700-member professional, non-partisan association of women and men in the fields of housing and financial services. Benno Schick announced the birth of his daughter Gesine in June.

2001

Jeff Chorney's wedding on June 4 was attended by Burns alumni Andreas Tzortzis and Kerstin Friedrich. Chorney also quit his job with the Recorder legal newspaper and started law school in August to become a criminal defense attorney.

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Orientation 2005

By Leigh Dyer



We schmoozed with Henry Kissinger, chatted with politicians and journalists about transatlantic issues, and took part in horrifying karaoke at the Airlie conference center.

Yes, another batch of Burns Fellows survived the weeklong whirlwind tour of Washington, D.C., and surroundings known as Orientation 2005.

An unscientific poll of the German and American participants, conducted post-fellowship, shows all sides agree the experience was a valuable way to prepare to embark on our adventures.

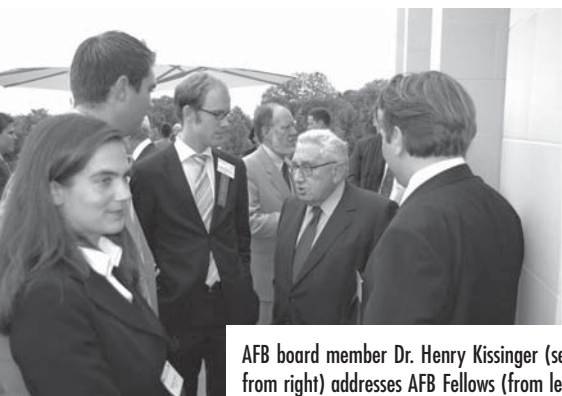
But far more important, all respondents say, was the chance to get to know each other on both personal and journalistic levels. After all, what this Fellowship

is really about is the connections and friendships that form.

Among the Germans, a standout memory was our visit to the White House press room — striking because it's so much smaller and dingier than it appears on TV. Among the Americans, the moments of food, drink and merriment seemed to make the biggest impression. And everyone

American Fellows

“For somebody who's grown up and lives in the West, what struck me about Airlie was how the setting reminded me so much of early America. That area was settled at a time when most ‘Americans’ still thought of themselves as Europeans. Thus, it was a



AFB board member Dr. Henry Kissinger (second from right) addresses AFB Fellows (from left to right) Stephanie Nannen, Frederick Pleitgen, Manuel Hartung and Benno Fuchs (back) during the reception for the 2005 Fellows at the residence of German Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger.

fitting place to contemplate the shared heritage of Germany and the U.S. and, subsequently, the common future.” — Curt Nickisch

“My favorite moment of the first week was the Germans getting frustrated at American officials who didn't know who was run-

ning for chancellor. Specifically, when Mr. White House said ‘Angela what's-her-name.’ Airlie was fantastic, too.” — Ulrich Boser

“I was impressed by how quickly the German Fellows absorbed American current events; in many meetings they asked the majority of the questions and did not shy away from confrontation. But as much as the seminars and meetings taught us, the most important learning took place after hours when we turned our powers of

observation on each other. The meals and free time and late-night drinks opened the door for far more candid exchanges, and this is where the most valuable lessons occurred.” — Josh Landis

“My favorite part of orientation week was Benno (Fuchs)'s cowboy outfit. That was a first for me...a German in a cowboy getup. And he actually pulls it off pretty well.” — Sabra Ayres

“After a lovely reception the first night, one of the Germans enlisted my help. He wanted a beer run. ‘We Germans always need a plan, you know,’ he said with a smile. That was the beginning of a fascinating and very fun week, combining political and cultural background, networking and an opportunity to get to know German and American colleagues. For me, the highlight was either the Berlin Bar and reception at the German Embassy or playing tennis and biking around Airlie. Basically, what I liked best was learning about Germany from other reporters.” — Daniela Gerson

“My favorite memory of Airlie is the breakfasts — hands down. Nothing like a good, greasy American breakfast, complete with grits, hash browns, bacon, the works. And the incredible peace and quiet was heavenly — just what we needed after an action-packed week.” — Helen Fessenden

German Fellows

“I played tennis, sang in front of the stupid karaoke box, had some beer, long nights and the best fights about German politics, international terrorism, Mr. Bush and journalism. Thanks for that week, guys!” — Stephanie Nannen

At Airlie (standing from left to right): Manuel Hartung, Frank-Dieter Freiling, Tibet Sinha, Benjamin Shors, Benno Fuchs, Susanne Gieffers, Geeta Dayal, Frederick Pleitgen (far back), Christian Meier, Curt Nickisch, Leigh Dyer, Robert Levine, Robert Kiendl, Daniela Gerson, Ulrich Boser, Christian Thiele, Alex Davidson, Fabian Mohr, Christine Meffert; (sitting from left to right): Mario Scherhauser, Sabra Ayres, Stephanie Nannen, Helen Fessenden.

agreed the traditional weekend at Airlie was the highlight.

Read on for a sampling of the orientation's most memorable moments, as told by some of the 2005 Burns Fellows (edited for length and clarity):

“You wouldn't imagine that the world's only superpower communicates with the rest of the world from a room as shabby as the White House press room. It had the charm of a lawn mower garage.”

—Christian Thiele

“Visiting the press room in the White House. I am almost sure I have never seen that many lethargic journalists in my life. ... And that the German ambassador has a nice big house in D.C. I would have guessed before actually seeing the place. But that he has a bar in his basement, just as some parents of friends of mine used to have in the '80s, which became spots for alcohol-driven parties, I would not have guessed immediately.” – Christian Meier

“You wouldn't imagine that the world's only superpower communicates with the rest of the world from a room as shabby as the White House press room. It had the charm of a lawn mower garage. I believe that the U.S. taxpayer would get a great return in terms of America's image in the world if the White House hosted the planet's most prestigious in a more hospitable environment.” – Christian Thiele

“One impression among so many: meeting Sean McCormack from the Department of State. That meeting was the poorest of information, but the richest of atmosphere.” – Susanne Gieffers

“I liked finding out the White House's press room is that small and looks like a cheap school theater scene. I also liked finding out that Condoleezza Rice's spokesman is [uninformative].” – Robert Kiendl

“I have a hard time recalling all the details of our orientation week because I arrived with the flu. I got some strong medicine and a first-hand view of the American health care system (very nice folks, but rather focused on my credit card). To me, arriving in Airlie was a big relief: My flu wasn't that bad anymore and I enjoyed having a good, enlightening time with a bunch of really nice and interesting people. Airlie is a wonderful retreat.” – Fabian Mohr

2005 Burns Journalism AWARD

The Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany and IJP award two journalism prizes of \$1,000 each for the best published article or broadcast radio/video segment produced by current or former Arthur F. Burns Fellows.

One entry from Germany and one from the United States will be selected. The entry must be written or produced in calendar year 2005 and focus on relations between the United States and Germany or on a topic in either country.

In addition, there is a special prize for the best commentary on German-American or transatlantic relations published or aired by any journalist in Germany during 2005, which is also awarded by the German Board of Trustees at the Burns Dinner in Berlin in June 2006.

The deadline for this year's entries is January 30, 2006.

Send entries to:
Arthur F. Burns Award
Internationale Journalisten Programme (IJP)
Postfach 1565
61455 Königstein/Ts.
Germany

2005 Kellen Fellowship Highlights



For the second year in a row, an Anna-Maria and Stephen M. Kellen Fellow joined the Burns group for the summer orientation program in Washington and Airlie, Va. Christine Meffert (above) of Berlin's Tagesspiegel was one of this year's two Kellen Fellows who took advantage of the stellar Burns line-up of Washington high-profile appointments, followed by a weekend of relaxation and peer networking in Airlie. Cornelia Stolze, a health and science writer for Stern magazine, did not start her Fellowship until September, because she had already participated in a similar orientation program as a Burns fellow in 2001. Both Stolze and Meffert spent their five-week Kellen attachment with the San Francisco Chronicle.

Visit ICFJ's Kellen Fellowship website at www.icfj.org/kellen.html for more details.



Benno Fuchs filming the Statue of Liberty

Fellowship Impressions

“When the bureau chief fell ill, he asked me to keep an interview appointment with Wolfgang Schäuble. I was a little nervous – not because I had never interviewed a politician in Germany but because I had never actually interviewed a politician at all.

The Burns Fellowship gave me this opportunity – one of several – to do a kind of work that I hadn’t done before, and that’s what made it such a great experience. I spent the summer away, not only from the city I’m used to but the subjects and stories I’m used to. I was outside my normal comfort zone. And I loved it. (And the interview went fine.) ...

Now there are those who will say that if you don’t speak German and know a good deal about the country the Burns Fellowship isn’t worth it. I can only speak from my own experience, but that experience was a great one. I had to learn a lot in a short time, appear foolish and rely on the expertise of others. But to some extent that’s what journalism is all about. ...

None of this is to suggest that I have a career in front of me writing about German politicians or Berlin opera companies. But it’s good to know I can.

If you work in a bureau, you’ll get an interesting sense of how the U.S. media covers foreign events. For the

Times, and most U.S. dailies, it means reporting on trends rather than breaking news. The goal isn’t to report on discrete events – poll results, local elections – but to explain what’s going on in another country. Increasingly, what the Times supplies isn’t news but context – it explains the world. There are those who believe the paper weighs in on Europe too infrequently. But I think readers are better served by deeper stories that convey a sense of what’s going on than by a series of reports on individual events they then have to connect in their mind.”

—**Robert Levine**,
Freelance journalist, New York
Hosted by The New York Times, Berlin



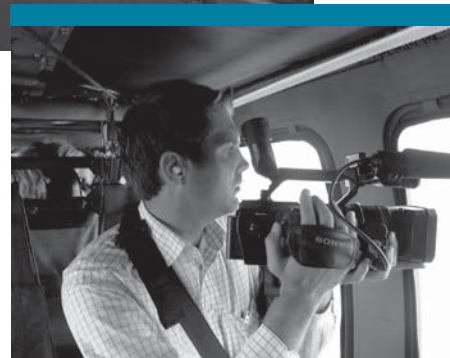
Fred Pleitgen’s coverage of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans

“From the first day, the Burns Fellowship was an extraordinary opportunity to learn about immigration issues in Europe and in Germany in general, to write in-depth stories, and to work with top editors. Another wonderful part of the Fellowship, that I hope will stick with me long after Berlin, is the connections I made with colleagues both German and American.

I fell in love with Berlin – its mixture of old and new, scrappy edge, the way everyone has a bike, lakes, the galleries in every back yard, flower shops and all the beautiful parks filled with old socialist statues. I feel my mind has been opened by my time in the city, and now there are so many more sites I

want to see there and questions I want to ask. Before this summer, Germany was never on my list of top destinations, but now I know I will be back.”

—**Daniela Gerson**, Staff reporter, The New York Sun, New York
Hosted by Der Spiegel online (English edition), Berlin

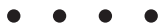


“To my surprise, journalism works quite differently in Germany. Writers insert much more of their own opinion into news and feature pieces. While such bias can be problematic, it does lead to more thoughtful, trenchant stories. In contrast to the U.S., the international coverage is, well, international. Die Welt, for instance, ran a number of pieces on the political machinations leading up to the nomination of Supreme Court Justice John Roberts. ...

I also got a feel of what it would be like to be a far-flung correspondent, and reporting from another country is a blast. You feel like every event can be made into a story. The biggest problem is that the American media doesn't really care what happens in the rest of the world, even a country as economically and culturally significant as Germany. I often heard the maxim, 'If it isn't Hitler or hops, don't bother pitching it' – and it seems to be true. ...

My Fellowship was a tremendous experience. I learned a lot about Germany and journalism, and I believe the experience will be a great help to my career. In fact, my editor at Die Welt invited me to continue to write for them, and I plan to do so. I would highly recommend this program to any young journalist."

—**Ulrich Boser**, Contributing editor, US News and World Report, Washington, DC
Hosted by Die Welt, Berlin

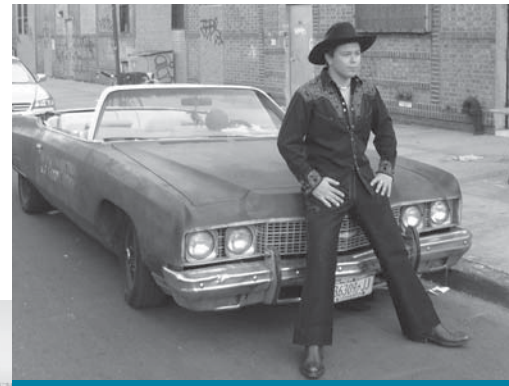


"Fortunately, I had the freedom to write about other topics aside from media as well. I contributed an article on the German elections and Angela Merkel. Also, my last article for the Inquirer was a piece on the German scientist Gunter von Hagens, the (in)famous creator of the Bodyworlds exhibition, which opened in Philadelphia in October. The story made the cover page of the Sunday paper, which has a circulation of roughly 800,000.

I particularly enjoyed working with the various editors. I can't remember a time when my articles were edited with such care and thoughtfulness; editors actually taking the time to talk an article through. And although I am not a native speaker, I never got the impression that editors wanted to impose their language on me. Even though fact-checking questions from the copydesk took time to answer, this was also an important exercise that I will hopefully remember."

—**Christian Meier**, Freelance journalist, Welt am Sonntag, Bonn
Hosted by the Philadelphia Inquirer

Fellows and their cars: German 'Cowboy' Benno Fuchs with old car in Brooklyn and American Sabra Ayres with new Porsche in Stuttgart.



"The editors at the Zeitung were mostly interested in having me write opinion pieces concerning transatlantic relations. I wrote four short pieces for the Zeitung. I had little previous experience writing commentary pieces, so this was a welcomed challenge. ...

I would suggest to any future fellows that learning a smidgen of the language is essential to getting on, even if almost every German you meet will speak English fairly well. Getting a feel for how they use their language is part of gaining an understanding of their culture."

—**Sabra Ayres**, Moscow correspondent, Cox newspapers
Hosted by Stuttgarter Zeitung, Stuttgart



"Working as a reporter for three different media – online, newspaper, radio – and protecting my gear against the omnipresent dust were the biggest challenges. Apart from that, Burning Man is very remote – no telephone, no cell-phone coverage, no reliable internet connection. So we had to

cancel our plans to live-blog from the desert. But in the end it worked out fine – I returned with amazing photos of this great cultural happening and stories that were big fun to write. It was a unique experience to test all my reporting equipment under extreme conditions – sandstorms, blazing heat, cold nights – and check if working for completely different media can work out. It can – but you should be organized. ...



"Burning Man" — Fabian Mohr reported from the desert on this annual extraordinary art event.

Looking back I'm very glad I went overseas with the Arthur F. Burns Fellowship – it's a priceless experience in terms of learning new journalistic methods and working under different, sometimes challenging

conditions, going in-depth with your topics and proving your skills as a foreign reporter. To me, the Burns Fellowship was also a great opportunity to start working as a professional photo reporter – something I had dreamed about for a long time."

—**Fabian Mohr**, Reporter for Bayerischer Rundfunk online, Munich
Hosted by the San Jose Mercury News

Dialog, continued from page 1

results of our elections must be incomprehensible. The idea that there is a large section of America that is conservative (and would probably vote for the FDP, given a chance) is alien to them precisely because German journalists only cover America from New York, Washington and Seattle, and rarely go to a red state except to visit Disney World.

American journalists too may not like

In response

By Adrienne Woltersdorf

These comments on German media reflect, in my opinion, the real dilemma of transatlantic relations. The author's picture of Germany is as biased as the image he portrays of how Germans think about Americans.

"To a German," he states, "the results of our elections must be incomprehensible." Well, that is true – to a certain extent. Germany is a deeply secular society, the United States is not. Americans, especially in the red states, are conservative. So are Germans. But the concept of conservatism for the Midwestern Republican is voting for less government. For conservative Germans, it means voting for more government, as shown in the recent September elections.

The Mausshardt piece reflects, I'm sorry to say, how some left-wing 68er Germans feel about Bush Americans, and it is anti-Americanism in its purest form. But it was a column in the society section, where different authors write regularly about very personal feelings. The serious and balanced reporting about New Orleans in the taz news, foreign policy and the Op-Ed sections was done by Michael Streck – a former Burns and Kellen Fellow who spent the past four years reporting from almost every U.S. state, and who is under no suspicion of being a die-hard anti-American. Gosh, if Europeans would take every sarcastic U.S. weekend column about Krauts, Frogs, etc., serious ... well, poor French fries.

U.S. media coverage of Germany and Europe apparently is not very in-depth. Otherwise, the author would not have implied that Germans would have agreed

these "unwashed masses" but at least they admit they're there. And when the story needs it, they track one down for a quote and give him his day in court.

James Bernsen (1998-Burns) was commissioned in 2004 as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve. He is currently serving stateside in the reserve and continues to write for the Lone Star Report, a Texas political newsletter.

– and even participated – in a war against Saddam Hussein, if only the German media coverage of American politics was more favorable.

The American war in Iraq has been criticized – for the right reasons as we sadly know today – almost everywhere in Europe. This is definitely not the result of false, lazy or unprofessional media coverage. The reasons why Europeans were critical of this war would need more space than is available here.

There are plenty of examples of poor media coverage by U.S. colleagues, including The New York Times' erroneous reporting on weapons of mass destruction and American anti-war demonstrations not being covered by U.S. media at all.

The author rightfully criticizes that foreign U.S. correspondents are based only in Washington and New York, and that they are not able to travel as much as they should. Some of this is out of inconvenience, but mostly it is due to cost cutting. Such a trend is bad for any media coverage. Not surprisingly, this is not a concern of U.S. journalists in Germany – because there are so few left.

Adrienne Woltersdorf (1998-Burns; 2003-Kellen) recently moved to Washington, D.C., to serve as foreign correspondent for taz – die tageszeitung.

The Arthur F. Burns Fellowship News is published twice a year by the International Center for Journalists.

Burns Program Staff:
Frank-Dieter Freiling, Director, IJP
Mario Scherhauser, Program Officer, ICFJ

Newsletter Layout: Jill Gallagher, freelance designer

Alumni News, continued from page 3

2003

After marrying Paul W. Benton in July, Sigrid Auferbeck Benton moved assignments within Handelsblatt to become its banking correspondent in Frankfurt. Andrew Curry and Joellen Perry have both returned to Berlin, this time as Fulbright Journalism Scholars. Curry is also enrolled at the University of Frankfurt/Oder. Sascha Lehnartz introduced his new book, "Global Players," at a party in Berlin in October. Arno Schütze, dpa



Otto Niklas Schütze with dad Arno

correspondent in Tübingen since last year, became father of son Otto Niklas on Aug. 14. Markus Verbeet married Stephanie Gille. Clemens Wergin started his own political blog on foreign affairs developments: <http://blog.Tagesspiegel.de/flatworld>.

2004

Corinna Emundts, in addition to freelancing for Frankfurter Rundschau, joined the foreign news magazine "Internationale Politik." Nicola Leske now works out of Reuters' Amsterdam bureau. After finishing his Burns Fellowship last year, Andrew Wallmeyer spent eight months as a business reporter with the Wisconsin State Journal and then received a Bosch Fellowship in July. On his fellowship, he is working at the AP Berlin bureau until the end of this year and will go to the Financial Times Frankfurt office in early 2006.

A Letter from Turkey

A trip from Christianity's history to Europe's future

By Waltraud Kaserer, Berlin

The timing could not have been better. When a group of Burns alumni visited Turkey at the beginning of September, uncertainty was at its peak if negotiations would start for the country to enter the European Union.

During this weeklong IJP research trip, we traveled to Antakya, Ankara and Istanbul as well as to Aleppo in neighboring Syria. The program was funded by the Körber-Stiftung, a German foundation that facilitates the German-Turkish dialogue, and the main topics were Turkey's accession to the E.U. and the peaceful coexistence and cooperation of religious and ethnic minorities with the Muslim majority population.

First we flew to Adana at the southeast Mediterranean coast of Turkey and traveled to Antakya, where we saw the remains of almost 3,000 years of cultural, religious and architectural richness and power. The city has since become a melting pot for all major one-god religions.

Antakya's Mayor Mehmet Yeloglu praised the cooperation of the Muslims with the Jews and the Christian churches, which was also acknowledged by the heads of the local Orthodox Church, the Catholic Church and the Jewish community. The problem that Christians and Jews faced is not their minority status and lack of tolerance. Their problem is size. Because many young people have left Antakya for Istanbul, only about 3,000 Christians and 100 Jews are left in the city. The Rabbi, who performs the weekly service, travels from far away.

We also visited Vakifliköy, the only remaining Armenian village on the hill Musa Dagh on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. During World War I, the Ottoman regime dislodged and murdered the Armenian people. Avedis Denirei, 92, and his family survived the genocide by fleeing up into the mountains before a French ship evacuated them to Port Said. Years later they returned to their village. The refusal of the Turkish state to recognize the murder of more than a million Armenians is not a big issue in the village. "This is something politicians have to negotiate," Mayor Berc Katun said. The issues that the inhabitants of Vakifliköy are concerned with are how to prevent the younger generation from leaving and how to make a living from tourism and exporting citrus fruits.

Vakifliköy is a perfect example of how life and society is changing in preparation for Turkey's accession to the E.U. Requests for state support to rebuild the church were unsuccessful for 50 years, and only recently the government gave money to erect a completely new church.

In and around Antakya, the E.U. accession is seen as an opening to a big export market and as a facilitator for traveling without a visa. The closer we got to the prime minister's office, the more political weight the accession gained and the more people knew about the real opportunities and challenges of this undertaking.



Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and alumni in Turkey (left to right): 4th row: Gerold Büchner (1991, Berliner Zeitung, Brüssel); Albrecht Metzger (1999, freelance, Hamburg), Frank-Dieter Freiling (IJP/ZDF, Mainz), Ulf Meyer (2004, freelance, Berlin), Steve Kettmann (1999, freelance, Berlin); 3rd row: Tobias Armbrüster (1997, SWR, London), Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Christiane Schlötzer (Süddeutsche Zeitung, Istanbul); 2nd row: Stefanie Bolzen (2003, Die Welt, Berlin), Oya Susanne Abali (Deutsch-Türkischer Dialog, Körber-Stiftung, Hamburg), Cordula Tutt (2001, FTD, Berlin), Allison Frost (2004, Oregon Public Broadcasting, Portland), Nadja Kriewald (n-tv, Berlin); Front row: Barbara Junge (1998, Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin), Waltraud Kaserer (2003, freelance, Berlin)

Transportation Minister Binali Yildirim explained the necessity of railway projects connecting Europe and Asia. But his evaluation that Turkey could become a member of the E.U. within six years seemed completely unrealistic.

The interview with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan brought a more realistic picture of what was at stake. Together with other German print and TV journalists, we talked to Erdogan in his residence in the center of Ankara. The prime minister tried to present a relaxed response to the ongoing opposition within the E.U. He even found positive words for Austria's Chancellor Wolfgang Schüssel, who has been the leader of the resistance against Turkish accession. But one could feel the tension and fear that the E.U. would reject Turkey.

The negative public opinion among many E.U. countries also was the main topic at the "House of the German-Turkish Dialogue" in Istanbul, where a conference was attended by more than a dozen Turkish journalists. This controversial discussion confirmed our impressions that we had while traveling through Turkey about the importance of the potential E.U. accession in the context of history as well as much-needed reforms – no matter if Turkey eventually joins the European Union or not.

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Named in honor of the late former U.S. ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany and former Federal Reserve Board chairman, the Arthur F. Burns Fellowship Program fosters greater understanding of German—U.S. relations among future leaders of the news media.

The Burns program was established in 1988 in Germany by the Internationale Journalisten-Programme (formerly the Initiative Jugendpresse) and was originally designed for young German journalists. In 1990, the fellowship expanded to include American journalists, making it a true exchange.

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