Springtime is the busiest time of year for the Austrian-American Educational Commission! AAEC staff is in the process of finalizing grant arrangements for Austrian students, foreign language teaching assistants, and scholars bound for the U.S. in 2011-12 as well as their American counterparts, who are planning on spending part of their upcoming academic year in Austria. In addition to these 70 plus Fulbright grantees, the placement of over one-hundred-and-forty U.S. teaching assistants at schools in communities large and small all over Austria is in full swing.

I hope that all recipients of this Newsletter will take the opportunity to pass on the good word about the many fine opportunities the Fulbright Program has to offer (and the advice that advanced planning is a key part of the application process).

Editorial

Dear Fulbright Alumni

The new Fulbright Forum went online in mid February and has 300 members to date. It is a virtual venue for connecting all current and former U.S. and Austrian Fulbright grantees that also will include updates and posts with the latest events and news about Fulbright programs.

If you want to become a member of the Fulbright Forum, familiarize yourself with the rules at: http://www.fulbright.at/rules.html.

It is important to register with a real name (= First name; Surname) because only Fulbright grantees and alums will have access to the Forum, and we can only activate users we recognize. Don’t forget to add your grant category (Austrian Scholar, U.S. Scholar, Austrian Student, U.S. Student and German or English Language Teaching Assistant) and your grant year. We are looking forward to your contribution at: http://www.fulbright.at/forum/.
Why Academic Exchange Matters!

On November 18-19, 2010 over 100 participants attended the conference ‘Impacts: Does Academic Exchange Matter?’ at the Amerika Haus in Vienna. Organized under the auspices of the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Fulbright Program in Austria in 1950, it aimed to highlighting ongoing research on various topics related to academic exchange, cultural diplomacy, scholarly internationalism and their ultimate impacts on foreign relations.

After introductory marks by Mr. Jan Krč, Public Affairs Counselor at the U.S. Embassy, Dr. Josef Leidenfrost, Dr. Lonnie Johnson, and Dr. Thomas König, Prof. Liping Bu (Alma College, MI) gave a keynote on ‘Cultural Exchange and International Relations: What’s Unique about the United States of America?’ followed by a panel on ‘Histories of Academic Exchange’ with papers by George H. Blaustein (Harvard) on ‘The Salzburg Seminar, American Literature, and Academic Exchange’; Andrew Hannon (Yale) on ‘Academic Exchange in the New Lefts, Cultural Studies and American Studies’; and Kurt Tweraser (Arkansas) on the Fulbright’s ‘Belief Systems, National Mission, and Political Context.’

Other panels addressed a wide variety of historical topics, management issues, and comparative perspectives, and a reception followed by a screening of Georg Steinböck’s documentary Fulbright at Sixty marked the end of the first day.

The program continued on Friday with a keynote by Austrian Fulbright alum Prof. Walter Grünzweig (Dortmund) on ‘Fulbright, Dialogue and Globalization: The Future of International Educational Exchange’ and panels on ‘Policy Perspectives’; ‘The Role of Exchanges in Austria and Germany’; and ‘Academic Exchange Today.’ For more information and abstracts, please consult: www.fulbright.at/impacts.html

“Ideologically and administratively, the Fulbright Program has created the models and blueprints for all subsequent post-war exchange programs”

(Walter Grünzweig)
U.S. Ambassador Eacho’s Fulbright Reception

The Ambassador of the United States of America, William C. Eacho, III and his wife, Donna, invited incoming U.S. and returning Austrian Fulbright students and scholars to a reception at their residence on November 23, 2010. The Ambassador welcomed Mag. Barbara Weitgruber (AAEC Chair), Prof. Karlheinz Schwarz (President of the Austrian Alumni Association), and friends and associates of the Fulbright Program as well as Gilman scholarship recipients currently in Austria.

American Corner Innsbruck

Fulbright Program Officer Mag. Alexandra Enzi participated at an American Corner Innsbruck (ACI) event in her role as Educational Adviser. She provided the audience with an overview of the Fulbright program and opportunities for study and research in the U.S.A. at an event attended by 130 people from the University of Innsbruck that allowed representatives of different exchange programs and organizations to engage in detailed Q & A.

A highlight for U.S. Fulbright students every year is the Ball of the Technical University (TU-Ball) at the Hofburg Palace in Vienna. The Austrian Fulbright Alumni Association has traditionally invited the U.S. Fulbrighters to attend this ball, which was held on January 27, and organizes waltzing lessons for them in preparation for the big evening on the dance floor.
Regional English Teaching Assistants Training

On November 3-5, 2010 the U.S. Embassy Zagreb hosted a Regional English Teaching Assistant Training in Croatia. Mag. Andreas Raab, Program Officer for U.S. Teaching Assistantships at the Austrian Fulbright Commission, along with representatives from the U.S. Embassy in Zagreb, Regional Language Officers, ETA Trainers, and 11 English TAs participated in the conference. The program consisted of workshops and presentations on topics such as 'Classroom Management' and 'Communicative Activities.'

EUR Fulbright Commission Staff Workshop

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State organized a special workshop in Washington and New York City for Fulbright Commission staff from Europe from October 31-November 5, 2010. AAEC Program Officer Dr. Irene Zavarsky was among the 21 other Fulbright Commission staff members from Europe in attendance.

Institute of International Education (IIE), New York Headquarters

FLTA-Midyear Conference in Washington, DC

Fulbright FLTAs from over 30 different countries participated in the Annual Midyear Conference for all participants in the Foreign Language Teaching Assistantship program (FTLA) in Washington D.C. from December 9-13, 2010: an event opened by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton this year. The conference gave all program participants an opportunity to exchange ideas, compare notes, and build skills.
On January 27-28, 60 USTAs participated in ‘Hands-On,’ a seminar organized by the Teachers of English in Austria (TEA) and conceived to enhance the skills of the English Teaching Assistants in Austria. TEA organized this two-day event in conjunction with the Pädagogische Hochschule, Vienna, and with support from the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture. The participants appreciated this opportunity to exchange experiences with their peers and participate in workshops designed to strengthen their skills in the classroom.

EU and NATO Seminar

The Belgian Fulbright Commission annually invites Fulbright students from all over Europe to participate in its week-long EU and NATO Seminar, which includes meetings with members of the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament, the U.S.-EU Mission, and NATO. U.S. grantee Anna Katselas represented Austria.

“I will remember the Seminar on the EU and NATO as one of the highlights of my year. I came away from the trip knowing a lot more not only about the various EU and NATO institutions, but also about Belgium, Luxembourg and my fellow Fulbrighters in Europe.”
(Anna Katselas)

LLM Night 2011

The AAEC was among the fifteen institutions that participated in the LLM Night, hosted by the Faculty of Law of the University of Vienna on March 21, 2011. The purpose of this LLM fair was to provide interested students with information on the Master of Law studies programs in the U.S. as well as strategies for finding the right programs and crafting competitive applications.
US Screenings of Fulbright at Sixty

Dr. Lonnie Johnson and Georg Steinböck, the filmmaker the AAEC commissioned to produce the documentary *Fulbright at Sixty: The Austrian American Fulbright Program, 1950-2010*, took the film on the road in the United States in October 2010 and screened it at the Center for Austrian Studies at the University of Minnesota on Oct. 4 (with opening remarks by the founder of the Center for Austrian Studies Professor William E. Wright, a Fulbright grantee to Austria in 1954-55); the Annual Meeting of the German Studies Association in Oakland, California on Oct. 9 (with opening remarks by the founder and former executive director of the GSA, Prof. Gerald Kleinfeld, a Fulbright grantee to Austria in 1958-59); the Austrian Embassy in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 12 (with opening remarks by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Academic Programs and Austrian Ambassador Christian Prosl); and at the Institute of International Education in New York City on Oct. 15 (with opening remarks by IIE-VP Mary Kirk and Austrian Consul General Peter Brezovsky). The AAEC would like to thank all of those individuals and institutions that made these screenings possible.

Steinböck’s forty-five minute documentary in English and German (with English subtitles) captures the experiences of former and current Austrian and American Fulbrighters through interviews, photographs from personal and institutional archives, and excerpts from grantee Super-8 footage from the 1960s as well as documentaries. The AAEC has posted the film in four ten to twelve minute segments on YouTube at [http://www.youtube.com/user/FulbrightAustria](http://www.youtube.com/user/FulbrightAustria).

Upcoming 2011

April 28 to May 1, 2011: **Altenmarkt Seminar in American Studies** - a special opportunity for all current U.S. and Austrian Fulbright grantees to meet

May 1, 2011
Application deadline for the **Austrian Fulbright Student Program 2012-13**

May 6, 2011: The AAEC is organizing a **PhD-Workshop** on for all students interested in doing a PhD in the U.S.

May 10, 2011, 6.00 P.M., Diplomatic Academy, Vienna

“**Grand Strategy: U.S. Foreign Policy from George W. Bush to Barak Obama**” - Prof. Stuart Kaufman (University of Delaware), Fulbright-Diplomatic Academy Visiting Professor of International Relations