



**Austrian-American Educational Commission**

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## **Academic Mobility Between Austria and the United States: Status, Trends, and New Opportunities**

**November 21, 2008**

### **Speakers**

#### **David F. Girard-diCarlo**

U.S. Ambassador to Austria

Ambassador David F. Girard-diCarlo was sworn in by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on July 1, 2008. Ambassador Girard-diCarlo officially assumed his post as Ambassador after presenting his diplomatic credentials to Austrian President Heinz Fischer on September 10, 2008.

Ambassador Girard-diCarlo served at Blank Rome LLP for 16 years as managing partner and CEO prior to becoming chairman in 2000, and he also served as chairman and CEO of Blank Rome Government Relations LLC, headquartered in Washington, DC.

Ambassador Girard-diCarlo was Pennsylvania Governor Richard L. Thornburgh's appointee to the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) from 1979–1982 and served as its chairman of the board. In 1981, he was elected as chairman of the American Public Transit Association (APTA) for a one-year term. Ambassador Girard-diCarlo was appointed by former President George Bush in 1990 to serve as a member of the board of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (AMTRAK), a position he held until 1993.

In addition to Ambassador Girard-diCarlo's professional responsibilities, his experience over the past three decades involved his active participation in the business and cultural organizations within the communities in which he lived and worked. He served in leadership positions at the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, the Philadelphia Orchestra and Academy of Music, the Walnut Street Theatre, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and the Arizona Heart Foundation - to mention a few. In 1999, he received the Judge Learned Hand Human Relations Award from the American Jewish Committee. He served on the board of Villanova University School of Law, from which he received the Gerald Abraham Award for Distinguished Service in 2003. Also in 2003, Pope John Paul II conferred upon him the Pontifical Honor of Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great for his work with Business Leaders Organized for Catholic Schools.

Ambassador Girard-diCarlo holds a J.D. from Villanova University School of Law and a B.S. in history from St. Joseph's University.

#### **Barbara Weitgruber**

- Senior Advisor for Strategy and Coordination in the field of international relations with special consideration for the interface science – research - education
- Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research
- Chair of the Working Group “European Higher Education Area in a Global Setting” in the Bologna Process

Barbara Weitgruber holds a “Magister” degree in English/American and Interdisciplinary Studies, a Certificate in Mass Media and a Translator's Diploma in English from Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz, Austria and a M. A. in Communications from the University of Illinois at Chicago, USA, where she started her professional career as a Fulbright Scholar and Teaching Assistant. She was founding staff member and then director of the Office for International Relations and lecturer at Karl-

Franzens-Universität Graz, Austria and Director of the Office for European Educational Cooperation of the Austrian Academic Exchange Service in Vienna, Austria. In December 1994 she joined the Austrian Ministry in charge of higher education and research as head of department, later became Deputy Director General for Higher Education and Director General for Scientific Research and International Relations. She is currently in charge of Strategy and Coordination in the field of international relations with special consideration for the interface science – research – education at the Federal Ministry of Science and Research, Vienna, Austria.

### **Lonnie Johnson**

Lonnie Johnson has worked in international education in Austria for 30 years. He has served as the Executive Director of the Austrian-American Educational Commission (Fulbright Commission) since 1997. He previously directed the Austrian Academic Exchange Service's Office for International Affairs ("Verbindungsstelle," 1994-97), was the Associate Director for Program Development at Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna (1991-93), and was the Associate Director and Dean of Students at the Institute of European Studies (IES), Vienna Program: the oldest and largest study abroad program for U.S. undergraduates in Austria (1979-91).

He is a native of Minnesota, who came to Austria on a study abroad program in 1973, and then graduated from St. John's University, MN (BA in the Humanities, 1974). He has lived and worked in Austria since 1974 and received his doctorate in 1983 from the University of Vienna, where he studied philosophy and history. He is the author of four books - most recently *Central Europe: Enemies, Neighbors, Friends* (New York: Oxford University Press, third revised edition forthcoming 2009) - and a number of scholarly articles and contributions to encyclopedias.

### **John Yopp**

Dr. John Yopp is Associate Provost for Educational Partnerships and International Affairs and Director of the Appalachian Mathematics and Science Partnership at the University of Kentucky, U.S.A., where he is charged with leading the internationalisation of the university.

He was a member of NAFSA's international task force on the Bologna process and on the board of directors of the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE). One of his major interests is the impact of the Bologna process on U.S. and international graduate education.

John was Vice President for Graduate and Professional Education at the Educational Testing Service (ETS) from 1997 to 2003 and Vice President for Strategic Higher Education Initiatives from 2003-2004. He previously served as Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research and Dean of the Graduate School at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (SIUC) from 1986-1997. He was professor of plant physiology and biochemistry at Illinois University for 27 years.

### **Linda Tobash**

Linda Tobash is Director of University Placement Services Division at the Institute of International Education (IIE), the oldest international exchange organization in the U.S. Working mainly with Fulbright students, Scholarship, Linda leads a staff responsible for placing approximately 1,600 graduate students in U.S. university programs each year.

She also serves on the faculty of the New School University teaching courses on intercultural communication. A frequent presenter on U.S. higher education and international exchange, she has been active on numerous professional association committees and boards, most recently the NAFSA Bologna Task Force and the National Council on the Evaluation of Foreign Educational Credentials.

Prior to joining IIE, Ms. Tobash worked 18 years in the City University of New York system, and ten years as director of admissions at LaGuardia Community College. She served in the U.S. Peace Corps in Korea and received her master's degree from Teachers College, Columbia University.

## **Daniel Obst**

Daniel Obst is Director of Membership and Higher Education Services at the Institute of International Education (IIE) in New York, one of the leading not-for-profit organization in the field of international educational exchange and development training. Mr. Obst directs all the activities of the IIE Network, the Institute's university membership association of 900 higher education institutions around the world, is responsible for IIE's print and online publications, conferences and seminars, and is editor of IIE Networker, IIE's international education magazine.

Mr. Obst recently published *Funding for United States Study: A Guide for International Students and Professionals* and co-authored two white papers in IIE's series on "Meeting America's Global Education Challenge": *Exploring Host Country Capacity for Increasing U.S. Study Abroad* and *Current Trends in U.S. Study Abroad & The Impact of Strategic Diversity Initiatives*.

Mr. Obst received his B.A. in International Relations from the George Washington University and holds a Master's degree in European Studies from the London School of Economics.

## **Roberta Maierhofer**

- Vice-Rector for International Relations and Interdisciplinary Cooperation
- Professor of American Studies
- Director of the Center for the Study of the Americas
- University of Graz / Austria

Elected Vice Rector for the third time in 2007, Roberta Maierhofer plays an important part in determining Graz University's strategic priorities such as the Strategic Focus *South-Eastern Europe* which includes numerous university-wide cooperations and projects in teaching and research. Thus, the University of Graz has been an important trailblazer within the EU in realising the vision of trans-European integration, thanks to its expertise and knowledge of the needs and the potentials for cooperation of South-Eastern Europe.

With the advancement of the goals of the Bologna Process in mind, the development and implementation of Joint Degree Programs has been another major strategic project initiated and coordinated by the Vice Rectorate of International Relations that has increased not only the competitiveness of Graz as a university location, but also the graduates' competitive advantage on the international job market.

Roberta Maierhofer has also shared her expertise in international networks over the years. As member of the Coimbra Group Steering Committee, and numerous other decision making bodies of international networks, she has helped shape these organisations' focus on creating a European Higher Education Area.

As a professor of American Studies and Director of the newly-founded Center for the Study of the Americas at Graz University with teaching and research experience at various US-American and European universities, her research areas are American literature and culture, Gender Studies, documentary film, interculturality, Interamerican Studies, and narrative gerontology.

## **Bodo B. Schlegelmilch**

- Dipl. Betriebswirt (1979), Fachhochschule Köln
- MSc (1981), Manchester Business School
- PhD (1983), Manchester Business School
- D.Litt. (2007) Manchester Business School
- FCIM (1990) Chartered Institute of Marketing

Professor Schlegelmilch is Dean of the WU Executive Academy and Professor of International Marketing & Management at the Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien (Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration). He is also Academic Director of the Vienna and Bucharest Executive MBA Program, Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Marketing and Adjunct Professor of International

Business Studies at the University of Minnesota, Carlson School of Management (USA), the University of Leeds (UK), Kingston University, London (U.K.) and Thammasat University (Thailand).

Earlier, he held tenured posts at Thunderbird - School of International Management in Arizona, the University of Wales in Swansea, and the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. During his career, he also held visiting positions at the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Miami in Florida and the University of Cologne. He also worked for Deutsche Bank and Procter & Gamble in Germany.

In terms of research, Dr. Schlegelmilch has been recognized as one of the world's top 15 authors publishing in leading international marketing journals and has been listed in "Who's Who in International Business Education and Research."

### **Friedrich K. Stadler**

Joint professorial appointment for "History and Philosophy of Science" at the Institute of Contemporary History and Institute for Philosophy since October 2008; previously Associate Professor (History and Philosophy of Science): University of Vienna, Department of Contemporary History; Head of the Department of Contemporary History, University of Vienna (2001-08); Founder and Director: Institut Wiener Kreis/Vienna Circle Institute (Institut Wiener Kreis. Verein zur Förderung Wissenschaftlicher Weltauffassung); Initiator and Organizer: Vienna International Summer University - Scientific World Conceptions (VISU-SWC), organized by IVC/University of Vienna since July 2001; Fulbright Research Fellow and Teacher at the University of Minnesota, Minnesota Center for Philosophy of Science and Center for Austrian Studies, Minneapolis (USA), Fall Term 1998.

Project Leader of International Research Projects: Moritz Schlick Edition Project (FWF, 2003-2008); The Banishment and Return of the Philosophy of Science: Rudolf Carnap and Wolfgang Stegmüller (FWF, 2005-2007); Bildungsbiografien und Wissenstransfers. Studierende an der Universität Wien vor und nach 1938 (Jubiläumsfonds ÖNB, 2004-2007)

Main Fields of Research and Teaching: History and Philosophy of Science, Analytic Philosophy/Logical Empiricism of the 19th/20th Centuries (esp. Mach, Wittgenstein, Popper, Feyerabend and the Vienna Circle), Intellectual Migration and Exile Studies (Emigration and Exile of the German Speaking Scholars), Central European and Austrian Intellectual History (Contemporary Austrian History of Science). Theory and Methodology of Contemporary History and Historiography.

### **Günter Lepperdinger**

Günter Lepperdinger attended basic Genetics and Biology Courses at the University of Salzburg, graduated in Chemistry at the University of Vienna in 1991 and holds a doctoral degree in Biochemistry. He is molecular biologist and embryologist by training, and is an adjunct professor of Biochemistry at the University of Salzburg and an adjunct professor of Developmental Biology at the University of Innsbruck.

He started his research career at the former Institute of Molecular Biology of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, worked at the Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry in Martinsried, at the National Institute for Child Health and Development, NIH Bethesda Maryland, and currently holds a position as a principle investigator and section head at the Institute for Biomedical Aging Research of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Innsbruck, Austria. His research interests are stem cell biology in the human organism and biochemistry of hyaluronan metabolism in development and pathology.

He is a recipient of the Christian-Doppler-Award, the Best of Biotechnology Award, the Werner-Welzig-Award. He is an APART fellow of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Burgen Scholar of the Academia Europaea and Elected Life-Time Member of the International Society for Hyaluronan Sciences. He served as an Associate Editor for Experimental Gerontology - Elsevier, and still is Section Editor for Gerontology- Karger, as well as Editorial Board Member of many international scientific journals. He is Co-founder and Vice President of the Austrian Scientists and Scholars in North America - ASCINA.

### **Peter Ertl**

Initially, Peter Ertl studied Food Sciences and Biotechnology at the University of Life Sciences and Natural Resources Vienna, Austria. He then entered a Ph.D. program in Chemistry (in 1997) at the University of Waterloo (Ontario, Canada). Following the completion of his Ph.D. in 2001, he worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the College of Chemistry of the University of California at Berkeley (CA, US). Subsequently, he co-founded Rapid Laboratory Microsystems Inc. (ON, Canada) in 2003 where he worked as Director of Product Development. In 2006, he joined the Division of Nano-System-Technologies at the Austrian Research Centers and since 2008 he is also a lecturer at the Technical University Vienna (TU). His research interests involve the development of lab-on-a-chip systems for cell analysis to overcome diagnostic challenges in nanotoxicology, medicine and biotechnology.

### **Stefan Eichberger**

Stefan Eichberger works as a program manager for “brainpower austria”, a program of the Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (bmvit), managed by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG).

He studied Environmental Sciences at the University of Graz and earned a Master at the post-graduate university course “MSc Space Sciences”.

Prior to the FFG he worked at the Office of Science & Technology in Washington D.C., was scientific staff at the Institute of Digital Image Processing at Joanneum Research and at Austrian Mobility Research (FGM), both located in Graz.

### **Eugen Stark**

Eugen Stark is director of the Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation, one of Austria's most important organizations for promoting transatlantic cooperation and aiming to transfer knowledge between the United States and Austria in the areas of economics, social and natural sciences.

In addition, he is a legal counselor for Austria Wirtschaftsservice/erp-funds, a special bank owned by the Federal Republic of Austria entrusted with providing business-related economic support. Being one of the most important instruments of economic policy in Austria, the Austria Wirtschaftsservice/erp-funds' mission goals are utilizing know-how, founding new enterprises, business succession, sustained growth, internationalization, strengthening the capital market, and technology and innovation.

He is based in Vienna and holds a master's degree and an LL.M. in US-Business Law.

### **Wolfgang Stoiber**

Mag. Wolfgang Stoiber is Executive Director of the Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation, one of Austria's most important organizations for promoting transatlantic cooperation and aiming to transfer knowledge between the United States and Austria in the areas of economics, social and natural sciences.

Since 1985 he has worked for Austria Wirtschaftsservice/erp-funds. In addition, he is a treasurer for Austria Wirtschaftsservice/erp-funds and the National Foundation for Research, Technology and Development.

Wolfgang Stoiber is a graduate of the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration.

**Barbara Haberl**

1963 born in Graz

1987 Mag. phil. (American and German Studies) at the Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz

1989 M.A. (Comparative Literature) at the State University of New York at Binghamton

Lived in Munich from 1990 to 2004 - was employed at the International Youth Library for 2 years, then at a film company for 8 years

2001 Dr. phil. (American Studies) at the Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz

Since 2004 employed at the Office for Awards and Fellowships of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna

Since October 2007 Head of the Office

**Lydia Skarits**

Lydia Skarits is the head of the Academic Cooperation and Mobility Unit (ACM) at Austrian Exchange Service (ÖAD). She started to work with ÖAD in 1998 at the Local Branch Office Vienna (1998 – 2000), afterwards at Bureau for Academic Mobility (2000-2004) and holds the recent position since 2004. The ÖAD is Austria's leading non-profit-making service organisation in the field of international cooperation in education and research. The Academic Cooperation and Mobility Unit (ACM) administers unilateral, bilateral and multilateral grant programmes as well as scholarship programmes of the Austrian Development Co-operation (EZA) and scientific and technological agreements. The grant programmes are available to Austrian and international students, graduates and researchers.

She has a degree in Cultural and Social Anthropology, graduated from the University of Vienna.

**Alexandra Enzi**

Mag. Alexandra Enzi has been working for the Austrian-American Educational Commission for the past five years. Ms. Enzi is administering the "outgoing" programs for Austrian students, teaching assistants and scholars and is also serving as an educational advisor.

Alexandra is a graduate of the University of Klagenfurt (English/American Studies and German Studies) and spent one semester as an exchange student at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls in 1996.