

Fulbright-Hall Distinguished Chair for Entrepreneurship anchored at the WU Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien from 2009-10 through 2012-13

WU Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien together with the Austrian Fulbright Commission is pleased to announce that Kathryn and Craig Hall have agreed to sponsor the Fulbright-Hall Distinguished Chair for Entrepreneurship for three additional academic years.

“Within the last five years the Fulbright-Hall Distinguished Chair has been hosted by various Universities in Central Europe” explains **Lonnie Johnson**, Executive Director of the Austrian Fulbright Commission: “It was anchored in Warsaw and Sofia, then – last year – at the WU Vienna, follow by Prague this year and Budapest in the coming year. The Fulbright-Hall Chair, which is among the most generous awards available to U.S. scholars under the auspices of the Fulbright Program, was established shortly after the end of the Halls' tenure in Vienna in 2001 and has ‘floated’ in Central Europe over a five year period. The Fulbright Commission’s good experience with the WU encouraged us to anchor the Fulbright-Hall Distinguished Chair at the WU under the auspices of a extension of the collaborative agreement between the Halls and the Austrian Fulbright Commission.”

“This sponsorship clearly shows WU’s attractiveness for U.S. experts. I am proud and happy for our faculty and students who will benefit from exchanging views and experiences with top U.S. professors on an high academic level”, **Barbara Sporn**, WU’s Vice-Rector for Research, International Affairs and External Relations points out.

A sponsorship for entrepreneurship

The sponsorship by former U.S. Ambassador Kathryn Hall and her husband Craig – himself a successful entrepreneur in the U.S. – provides for a Fulbright grant of USD 40,000 for a semester for one professor per year for a three-year period. As of the 2009-10 academic year, the Fulbright-Hall Distinguished Chair will be anchored at the Department for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the WU Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien. Grantees will teach two courses at the WU and one "block course" at a partner institution of the WU in Central Europe. “ The Central European dimension of this Distinguished Chair was and is an important issue for the Halls” Johnson observed.

New opportunities for specialists in innovation

Nikolaus Franke, WU Professor for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, is also pleased by the good news. “This kind of sponsorship provides opportunities for intensifying cooperation with top international experts in the field. It will have a positive impact on our research and teaching and make further international networks accessible for us,” says Nikolaus Franke.

Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) in the U.S. handles applications for the Fulbright scholar program. Please consult the following URL for details on this award: <http://www.cies.org/Chairs/2009/country/FulFulD2.htm>

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