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Rector’s Welcome

Dear Reader,

With the creation of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA), the University of Heidelberg realized the long held vision of merging various activities related to the United States in different departments of the Ruperto Carola into one disciplinary effort, and has thus helped to draw more attention to the field of American Studies. In October 2005, one year following the inauguration of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, the MAS class of 2005 successfully celebrated its graduation commencement ceremony, and the University welcomed the class of 2006. The administration of the University takes pride in the fact that the number of applicants for the HCA’s Master of Arts program continues to steadily rise, and that once again the incoming MAS candidates exemplify a high level of international diversity and expertise.

The University of Heidelberg has a rich history of many long-standing and strong ties with the United States, and is determined to do its part in building a Heidelberg bridge across the Atlantic. In addition, the University of Heidelberg is planning the creation of academic branches in the United States. With the support of our American partners, the University hopes to open the first “Heidelberg House” on American soil as early as next year. The HCA’s excellent reputation, which the institute has been able to establish in such a short period of time, will undoubtedly facilitate negotiations in this effort.

Kindest regards,

Prof. Dr. Peter Hommelhoff
Rector of the University of Heidelberg

Preface

Dear friends, colleagues, and students,

It is a great privilege and pleasure to present the second Annual Report of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies. The Report, which covers the academic year 2004/2005, will present an overview of the HCA’s many activities in the past year, as well as provide a glimpse into the future. The HCA team is proud of all that was accomplished last year, and we look forward to the new challenges that await us in 2006.

The institute has big plans for the coming year, especially our move to a new residence, the “Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais,” situated near University Square. The University of Heidelberg and the HCA are extremely grateful to the Engelhorn family, for it was largely due to their help and contributions that this new house at the Ruperto Carola, which will be dedicated to enhanced research and higher education, came into existence. Of course, we are also tremendously thankful to other sponsors that have greatly contributed to the success of the HCA, who are named in the following report. Without the generous support of our patrons and sponsors the development of the HCA would not have been possible.

In the academic field, we have reason to hope that the HCA and the University of Heidelberg will offer a PhD in American Studies, beginning in the academic year 2006/2007. In October 2006, the first of three international conferences, generously sponsored by Manfred Lautenschläger, will take place. The first conference will focus on the following topic: “State and Market in a Globalized World. Transatlantic Perspectives.”

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Dr. Detlef Junker,
Founding Director of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies
Mission Statement

The Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) is a central academic facility of the Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg. As an intellectual center dedicated to the study of the United States, the HCA serves as an interdisciplinary institute for higher education, as a center for advanced research, and as a forum for public debate.

Founded in 2003, the HCA is well on its way to becoming one of the leading centers for American Studies in Europe. It strives to provide excellent research and education opportunities for international scholars and students. In addition, the HCA strengthens the profile of the University of Heidelberg as one of Germany’s finest academic institutions.

Building on long-standing ties between Heidelberg and the United States, the HCA fosters interdisciplinary and intercultural exchange across the Atlantic.

The University of Heidelberg’s 620-year-old tradition of excellence, its international reputation, and its strong record in the study of the United States combine to create the ideal environment for the HCA.

Foundation and Development of the HCA

In January 2002, a group of Heidelberg professors and administrators set up an interdisciplinary initiative with the aim of establishing the HCA. The most important expression of their efforts was a new postgraduate studies program: the Master of Arts in American Studies (MAS). To raise public awareness of its activities, the HCA initiative organized its first public lecture series, “Typically American,” during the winter term 2002/03, which soon attracted a broad audience.

After one year of planning, the HCA opened a small office in May 2003. The HCA carried on with developing the conceptual design of the MAS and the initial layout for future research projects and conferences.

Ten departments from six faculties committed themselves to the program: American Literature, Economics, Geography, History, Musicology, Philosophy, Political Science, Law, Religious Studies, and Sociology. Further administrative initiatives were underway when the HCA began organizing the second series of its “Typically American” lectures spanning the winter semester 2003/04. In December 2003, the HCA moved into its new and current premises in Heidelberg’s beautiful Weststadt.

In April 2004, the HCA hosted its first major conference, the HCA Spring Academy 2004 on American history, culture, and politics. 26 European and American Ph.D. students from ten countries and six academic disciplines participated in this conference. The Spring Academy has become a yearly event and is already succeeding in its principal aim of establishing an international network of Ph.D. students in the field of American Studies.

In the spring of 2004 the University of Heidelberg and the Ministry of Science, Research, and the Arts of the State of Baden-Württemberg approved the regulations governing the new MAS as well as the statute of the HCA.

On October 20, 2004, the HCA was officially inaugurated as a central academic institution of the University of Heidelberg. Simultaneously, the first class of the MAS program enrolled.

Organization and Staff

As a central academic facility of the University of Heidelberg, the HCA is not a member of any single department, but is directly affiliated with the Rector’s Office.

The HCA is headed by its Board of Directors. Daily business is managed by HCA Founding Director, Professor Detlef Junker, and its Managing Director, Dr. Philipp Gassert.

Prof. Junker has been teaching as Professor of Modern History at Heidelberg since 1975. Between 1994 and 1999, Junker served as Director of the German Historical Institute (GHI) in Washington, D.C. After returning to Heidelberg in 1999, he became the first Curt Engelhorn Chair for American History at the University of Heidelberg.

Dr. Philipp Gassert received his Ph.D. from Heidelberg in 1996 and his postdoctoral degree of Habilitation in 2004. From 1994 until 1999, he was a Research Fellow at the GHI in Washington, D.C. Until 2004 he was Assistant Professor of History (Wissenschaftlicher Assistent) at the University of Heidelberg, where he now teaches as Associate Professor (Privatdozent).

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Dr. Gassert will serve as Visiting Professor at the University of Munich during the winter semester 2005/6. Until his return, Dr. Wilfried Mausbach, also a former research fellow at the GHI and most recently Volkswagen Foundation fellow at the history department in Heidelberg, will assume his duties.

Project Managers Christiane Rösch, M.A., and Alexander Emmerich, M.A., are responsible for the coordination of the MAS program.
They are supported by Alexander Vazansky, M.A. and Ole Wangerin.

Research Assistants Anne Lübbers and Elena Matveeva were the 2005 Spring Academy team.

Noemi Huber, Ass.Jur., and Claudia Müller, M.A., are in charge of administrative matters and accounting. Social events are organized by Sophie Lorenz. Holly Uhl was responsible for translations until August 2005 and has now been replaced by James Sparks. Anthony Santoro has joined the HCA as English language editor. Daniel Sommer is responsible for Public Relations and Rebekka Weinl for Fundraising. IT-infrastructure and services are managed by Sebastian Werner and Bastian Rieck, who replaced Matthias Kirchner. Vasiliki Christou, LL.M., and Frederike von Sassen are part of the team organizing the conference series “Varieties of Democratic Order.”

In October and November 2005 the HCA offered two internships. Sarah Wagenblast assisted the incoming MAS students during the orientation period. Tobias Rodemerk assisted in compiling the report on the HCA excursion to the American West.

On January 5, 2005, the Board of Directors of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) convened for the first time. The Board consists of members from the six faculties that contribute to the HCA. These are the Faculties of Chemistry and Earth Sciences; Economics; Law; Modern Languages; Philosophy; and Theology. The six representatives adopted the proposal of Prof. Dr. Hommelhoff, Rector of the University of Heidelberg, and named Professor Detlef Junker Founding Director. Professors Winfried Brugger and Michael Welker were named Assistant Directors.

Detlef Junker taught Modern History from 1975 to 1994 and held the Curt Engelhorn Chair for American History at the University of Heidelberg from 1999 to 2004. Junker was the Director of the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C., from 1994 to 1999. The foci of his research are U.S. Foreign Policy in the 20th Century, German History, International Relations and the history of transatlantic relations, and the Theory of Historical Science. His most important recent publications include the handbook "The United States and Germany in the Era of the Cold War 1945-1990," which he edited, and his monograph "Power and Mission," which was published in 2003. On May 29, 2005, Detlef Junker was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of the University of Maryland University College Europe (UMUC) in Heidelberg. Junker was recognized for his commitment to fostering German-American dialogue and cross-cultural understanding.

Professor Michael Welker represents the Faculty of Theology on the Board. He teaches systematic theology with a focus on new theories in Anglo-American Theology at the University of Heidelberg. Welker has served as Director of the Internationales Wissenschaftsforum Heidelberg since 1996. He taught at both Harvard and Princeton Universities and currently is Administrative Director of the Forschungszentrum für Internationale und Interdisziplinäre Theologie in Heidelberg. Welker is co-editor of “The End of the World and the Ends of God. Sciences and Theology on Eschatology” (2002), and the third edition of his work “Gottes Geist. Theologie des Heiligen Geistes” was published in 2005.

Professor Winfried Brugger, representative of the Faculty of Law, holds the Chair for Public Law and Philosophy of Law. He is a member of the German-American Lawyers’ Association (DAJV) and has published numerous monographs and articles on Anglo-American law, including “Einführung in das Öffentliche Recht der USA” and “Freiheit und Sicherheit. Eine staatliche Skizze mit praktischen Beispielen.” Brugger has taught as a guest professor in Houston; Washington, D.C.; and San Francisco.

Professor Manfred G. Schmidt represents the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences. He is the Executive Director of the Institute for Political Science (IPW) at the University of Heidelberg, where he has been teaching since 2000. He has published comparative studies on social policies and the welfare state in Europe and the USA in both English and German. Among his most important publications is his benchmark work “Wörterbuch zur Politik” and “Political Institutions in the Federal Republic of Germany” (2003).

Professor of Geography Peter Meusburger, representative of the Faculty of Chemistry and Earth Sciences, has been teaching Economic, Social, and Educational Geography at the University of Heidelberg since 1983. In numerous studies, Meusburger has examined the educational situation of ethnic minorities in the U.S. The culmination of his work in this area is his “Bildungsgeographie. Wissen und Ausbildung in der räumlichen Dimension.” He also is co-editor of the “Lexikon der Geographie (Vol. 1-4).” From 2001 to 2002 Meusburger was a member of the Board of Directors of the Verband der Geographen an deutschen Hochschulen (VGDH) and served as President of the Deutschen Gesellschaft für Geographie (DGfG) from 2002 to 2003.

Professor Dieter Schulz is the representative of the Faculty of Modern Languages and holds the Chair for American Literature and Culture at the Institute for English and American Philology in Heidelberg. Among his most important publications are his works “Amerikanischer Transzendentalismus” (2002) and “Suche und Abenteuer,” in which he analyses English and American narrative forms during the Romantic Period. Schulz’s teachings focus on 20th century American literature. During the winter semester of 2003/04, Schulz held his lecture on American literature as part of the HCA’s M.A in American Studies program.

Prof. Manfred Berg represents the Faculty of Philosophy. He was appointed Curt Engelhorn Chair for American History at the University of Heidelberg in October, 2005. From 1992 to 1997, Berg worked for the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C., and after completing his Habilitation in 1998 taught at the Universities of Berlin und Cologne. Berg also has served as head of the Zentrum für USA-Studien of the Leucoresa Foundation of the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. The foci of his research and teaching are 20th century American History and Foreign Policy and Minority Studies. He is the author of "The Ticket to Freedom: The NAACP and the Struggle for Black Political Integration" (2005) and is co-editor of „Deutschland und die USA in der internationalen Geschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts“ (2004).
In the summer of 2006 the HCA will move into its new offices located in a historic building in the old city center of Heidelberg.

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Martin Bussmann (Ladenburg Foundation), Dr. Kurt Bock (BASF), Honorary Senator Curt Engelhorn, Hon. Sen. Rolf Kentner (BW Bank), Honorary Senator Manfred Lautenschläger (MLP), and Dr. Hans-Peter Wild (Rudolf Wild GmbH & Co., KG) have agreed to serve on the HCA’s Board of Trustees.

Further plans include the addition of B.A. and Ph.D. programs to the HCA’s educational portfolio. Please check our website for information and updates on these exciting new educational ventures!
An Institute for Higher Education

As a center for higher education, the HCA currently offers the Master of Arts in American Studies (MAS) program.

Additionally, the HCA and the Curt Engelhorn Chair for American History at the History Department regularly organize excursions to the United States for students of the University of Heidelberg.

The Master of Arts in American Studies (MAS)

The Master of Arts in American Studies (MAS) is the most recent graduate studies program at Germany’s oldest University. The MAS is a one-year, exclusive, interdisciplinary program taught in English, aimed at qualified graduate students from Europe and overseas.

Participants are expected to bring to the program work experience and demonstrable social commitment as well as an outstanding academic record.

The MAS offers training in academic and practical skills tailored to the needs of future leaders in a transatlantic and global environment. The MAS is designed to meet the demand of the business community, academia, and politics for specialists on the United States.

The HCA admits up to 30 students to the MAS every year. Admission depends on the quality of the candidates and their previous academic merits. Most candidates will have studied law, humanities, or social sciences at the undergraduate or graduate level. The minimum academic admission requirement is a B.A. requiring at least four years of study at a recognized institute of higher education.

American Studies at the HCA is defined as exemplary and interdisciplinary teaching of in-depth knowledge about the United States of America in subjects such as American literature, economics, geography, history, law, musicology, philosophy, political science, religious studies, and sociology.

The MAS is a 12-month program starting each winter semester. The MAS curriculum is limited to a selection of disciplines and topics to give the participating students both a sound scholarly basis and opportunities for the professional application of what they have learned. The involved disciplines are subdivided into three clusters:

- Cluster 1: History, Political Science, Sociology.
- Cluster 2: Economics, Geography, Law.
- Cluster 3: American Literature, Musicology, Philosophy, Religious Studies.

Each academic year courses in six disciplines are offered, two from each cluster.

Winter semester (October to mid-February) begins with a two-week introduction followed by a weekly curriculum of six lectures, six tutorials, one interdisciplinary colloquium, and two additional courses. Participation in all six courses is mandatory for all students, although students will choose only three courses to take oral exams and write final term papers. Students will be required to hand in an outline of their M.A. thesis by the end of the winter semester in order to discuss it with their chosen supervisor.

There are no lectures during the winter break from mid-February to mid-April. This period serves as time in which to make the final decision upon and begin work for the M.A. thesis. In April, there is an excursion to a transatlantic institution in Germany or Europe.

MAS Course Outline

Winter Semester 2004/05

During the winter semester 2004/05, six lectures were offered, as well as a methodology class and an interdisciplinary colloquium.

Geography

„Territory and Society. A Geography of the United States“

Lecturer: Professor Werner Gamerith

Tutor: Dr. Eike Messow

This course explored the geographic diversity of North America with a special focus on the history of the United States. The history of colonization and both the physical and demographic aspects of America’s geography were introduced and helped to cast light on the vast array of cultural, social, and economic differences within the United States.

The lecture began with the exploration of the natural setting and resources, and considered the ways in which the natural environment affected colonization and settlement patterns well into the 19th century. Westward expansion and settlement was affected not only by geography itself, but by technological developments that aided
and sped expansion. The course accordingly considered the effect of technological developments in transportation, such as the steam engine and the railroad, on expansion and migration.

The lecture then moved on to take a closer look at the processes that took place during colonization and expansion. The course concentrated on the ways in which cultural diversity, technological ingenuity, and economic risk-taking contributed to United States’ emergence on the world economic scene. While immigration and ethnic variety have helped and continue to help to drive America’s economy, it is important from a geographical viewpoint to see that human and monetary capital are not evenly distributed across the nation, tending rather to cluster in different areas and population groups. The lecture considered the processes and driving forces of industrialization, urbanization, and tertiarization, and suburbanization chronologically. The diffusion of urban space, the building up of areas that had been rural for generations, traffic congestion, and a range of social pathologies ranging from urban poverty and criminal activities to problems within the schools confront the United States at the beginning of the 21st century.

The lecture closed by discussing these internal problems, America’s position in the global arena, and how America’s command of the world order fits the social and economic geography within the nation itself.

The tutorial, which was offered on a weekly basis, discussed lecture topics in depth and taught students how to interpret maps, diagrams, and data bases according to the particular methodologies and approaches in geography. In addition, soft skills such as rhetoric and presentation skills were introduced and practiced. The tutorial offered support for structuring and writing research papers and helped students to prepare for their oral exams. Those students who chose to major in geography turned were required to write final term papers and take a comprehensive oral exam.

History

"Power and Mission: U.S. Foreign Policy in the 20th and 21st Centuries"
Lecturer: Professor Detlef Junker
Tutor: James Sparks

In his lecture “Power and Mission: U.S. Foreign Policy in the 20th and 21st Centuries,” Professor Detlef Junker identified and analyzed the various factors that have directed the course of U.S. foreign policy since the Spanish-American War of 1898. The structure of the course focused on the main events and structural problems in American foreign policy and, in particular, examined the peculiar mix of missionary diplomacy, strategic power, and economic interests that have come to define American foreign relations. As the title of the lecture suggests, a particular emphasis was placed on the American idea of “mission” and how that concept has evolved and continues to influence America’s understanding of its own role as a leader in the international community. Spanning back to the days when the North American continent was first settled, this concept of mission, combined with that of American exceptionalism, have been two of the fundamental ingredients not only of the American identity, and but also in how the United States has formulated its stance and objectives in foreign policy. From Puritan leader John Winthrop’s vision of a “City Upon a Hill” to President Woodrow Wilson’s call to “make the world safe for democracy” and continuing into the present-day administration of George W. Bush, Americans have always envisioned themselves as being a unique nation and as having a special purpose. It was therefore imperative to identify the correlation of these concepts in U.S. foreign relations, identify their influence upon U.S. foreign policy in the past, and, just as importantly, to decipher how American exceptionalism and the idea of “mission” will continue to direct U.S. foreign policy decision-making in the 21st century.

Although Professor Junker taught the lecture in English, it was nonetheless popular among German history students and the HCA candidates alike, and it was regularly attended by students from various faculties. Contributing to the success of the course were the differing views of history that often were exhibited in the ensuing discussion following the lecture. In this sense, HCA candidates offered a unique perspective as to how they had been educated in the field of U.S. history in their home countries and their comments were not only welcomed but in fact broadened the reach of the course.

The discussion of the students’ perspectives on U.S. diplomacy continued in the accompanying tutorial led by James Sparks, M.A. The goal of the tutorial was to deepen the students’ understanding of U.S. foreign policy by way of active class participation. The tutorial analyzed and discussed the various primary sources and secondary literature that had been touched upon in Professor Junker’s lecture. This allowed the students to ask specific questions related to the concepts mentioned in the lecture, discuss the historical documents which pertained to that lecture, and to exhibit their knowledge on the subject material. Similar to the lecture, the tutorial was very popular and was attended by 13 of the 15 MAS candidates at the HCA. Discussion rounds were often enlightening and vibrant and sometimes even heated, as students debated U.S. foreign policies of the past as well as present-day U.S. policies in areas such as Afghanistan and Iraq. Nonetheless, these discussions contributed to a broader understanding of the differing international views on U.S. foreign relations, often resulting in a new awareness of how the U.S. and its foreign policy initiatives were perceived globally.

In addition, the students demonstrated the results of their reading and research 15- to 20-minute oral presentations. More often than not, the students did so with the help of visual and audio material in the form of PowerPoint presentations. These presentations were followed by a brief round of questions and answers that further deepened the students’ knowledge on the subject. The history lecture and tutorial combined to provide students with a better understanding of U.S. foreign policy in the 20th and 21st centuries, and more specifically, sought to analyze the underlying factors that influenced U.S. foreign policy during that period. It was a pleasure to have worked with the class of 2004/2005 and both Professor Junker and the tutorial teacher, James Sparks, were impressed by the students’ preparation, their ambition, and their ability to quickly grasp many of the historical concepts, to which many of them had not previously been introduced.

The tutorial was attended by Stanislaw Burdzeij, Yuyun Chen, Amanda Chiu, Ean Fullerton, Danijela Ganji, Raluca Gheorghita, Asim Jusic, Ozge Ozmen, Amy Foster Parish, and Susan Saadat. Only one had legal training, but all were fully capable of dealing with the subject and the material, although some with more success than others. Their grades on the exams ranged from 1.0 to 2.3. Their term papers covered a variety of subjects: “Origins of the Constitutional Principle of Separation of Church and State”; “Same Sex Marriage”; “Abortion”; “Segregation and Desegregation in Housing Laws”; “The Constitutionality of the 2004 Unborn Victims of Violence Act”; “Medical Privacy and the Right to Die”; “Issues with the Death Penalty - Minors and Mentally Handicapped”; “ICC and U.S. non-participation”; and “Waste Management under the Commerce Clause”.

Two M.A. theses were written in the field of Law: Amanda Chiu, “Same Sex Marriage Law in the United States,” and Yuyun Chen, “The United States and the Basel Convention.” Both were very good.

**Literature**

**Veterans, Gangsters, and Hobos: American Literature from World War I to World War II**
Lecturer: Professor DIETER SCHULZ
Tutor: Dirk Lutschewitz

Professor DIETER SCHULZ’s lecture course “Veterans, Gangsters, and Hobos: American Literature from World War I to World War II” offered an introduction to major American modernist writers of the 1920s and 1930s. After a brief look at the political and social climate in the “Jazz Age,” as the 1920s are frequently called, we studied the fiction of Ernest Hemingway, Sherwood Anderson, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Sinclair Lewis, as well as the poetry of Ezra Pound, William Carlos Williams, Robert Frost, e. e. cummings, and Wallace Stevens. The works of Eugene O’Neill, the first major American dramatist, also were discussed. In the second part of the lecture we focused on the ‘social fiction’ of John Dos Passos and John Steinbeck, the drama of the 1930s (especially Clifford Odets), and the oeuvre of William Faulkner. In addition to textual analysis, we considered the interactions between literature and aesthetics, politics, and social issues.

In the accompanying tutorial led by Dirk Lutschewitz, the topics of the lecture were deepened and intensified. The seminar provided a forum for course discussions and close readings of the texts examined in the lectures. We focused particularly on Hemingway’s A Farewell to Arms (1929); Anderson’s Winesburg, Ohio (1919); Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby (1925); Faulkner’s As I Lay Dying (1930); and O’Neill’s The Hairy Ape (1922), as well as selected poems by Eliot, Pound, Frost, Williams, and Stevens. Moreover, significant genre contexts, literary terms, and issues that could not be dealt with in the lectures were discussed. The most important analytical “tools,” such as point of view, modes of speech, modes of narration, deixis, meter and rhyme, figures of speech, etc., were introduced and applied to the works mentioned above. Furthermore, students got a chance to discuss term paper outlines; in “mock exams” at the end of the semester they had the opportunity to review the topics of the lecture and to practise their presentation skills.

The tutorial was attended by Maria Andrei, Mark Olsztyn, Amy Foster Parish, Susan Saadat, Anthony Santoro, and Florian Vlad — six very committed and competent students, who engaged in lively and intriguing course discussions throughout the semester. They all did extraordinarily well in their final exams and wrote six compelling term papers on the following topics and issues: narrative technique in Faulkner and Toni Morrison (Maria Andrei), Fitzgerald and the American success myth (Mark Olsztyn), the war fiction of Hemingway and Kurt Vonnegut (Amy Foster Parish), the development of the hero in Hemingway’s Farewell to Arms (Susan Saadat), the function of the insane focal character Darl in Faulkner’s As I Lay Dying (Anthony Santoro), and heroism in A Farewell to Arms and Joseph Heller’s Catch-22 (Florian Vlad).

Five M.A. theses were written in the field of American literature: Maria Andrei, “NARRATING MEMORY IN TONI MORRISON’S BELIEVED AND WILLIAM FAULKNER’S THE SOUND AND THE FURY” (supervised by Professor DIETER SCHULZ and Professor Dietmar SCHLOSS); Ozge Ozmen, “Lake Tahoe vs. The Red Sea: A Discussion of Orientalism in Mark Twain’s Traveling with the Innocents Abroad” (Professor Schloss); Mark Olsztyn, “Through a Red Lens: Upton Sinclair’s Jimmy Higgins and the Socialist Cause in the Great War” (Professor Schloss); Amy Foster Parish, “He Thinks of It Often: In Search of Deserters in American War Literature” (Professor Schulz); and Florian Vlad, “Metamorphoses of War Discourse in Twentieth-Century American Fiction” (Professor Schulz).
Political Science
“The Political System of the United States”
Lecturer: Professor Klaus von Beyme
Tutor: Pierre Hagedorn

The Political System of the United States was taught by Professor Klaus von Beyme of the University of Heidelberg’s Political Science Department. The lecture course took place weekly and its purpose was to give an overview of the most important aspects of the political system of the United States.

The course began with an overview of the values and beliefs in American political culture. This was followed by a discussion of the political parties and a description of the electoral system. Since the 2004 US presidential elections also were held during this time, the class was able to analyze the results first-hand as a case study.

The lecture then moved on to cover the American constitution from a political science perspective, and continued with social conflicts in American society including race, ethnic groups, class, and gender. This naturally led to the discussion of interest groups and social movements and subsequently to their role in the American political system. Of course, the three branches of American government – the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial – could not be left out. Their roles and interaction in the system of checks and balances were examined closely.

The class then moved on to issues of policy outcome and governability, with a special focus on social policy. Finally, the semester was concluded with an outlook on the role of the US in world politics.

The lecture not only gave students of the MAS program insight into the central themes related to the American system of government, but also gave them the opportunity to get to know everyday life at a German university. In fact, the lecture was so popular that students who were not part of the MAS program often attended the class and the lecture hall was crowded each week. The fact that the MAS program provides the university with courses taught in English thus also benefits other students.

A weekly tutorial offered by Pierre Hagedorn took place immediately after the lecture. The tutorial complemented the lecture and provided room for discussion on issues that could not be thoroughly examined in the lecture course. Its proximity to the lecture ensured that the acquired knowledge was still fresh in the minds of the students and that they could plunge into the discussion right away.

The tutorial provided the students with a theoretical background of the issues dealt with in the lecture course. Since most of the MAS students were new to the field of political science, basic concepts of the subject had to be introduced to them for a better understanding of those topics addressed in the lecture. In addition, the tutorial gave students the opportunity to ask for clarification concerning the content of the lecture. It thereby also gave students room for an informed academic discussion of the issues and concepts of the week’s lecture. Finally, the tutorial prepared the students for the oral examination and the term papers that were the basis for their grades. This was achieved through an oral presentation and small written assignments that ensured that they began thinking about their term papers early in the semester. All students did well in the oral examination and the term papers and some chose topics related to political science for their Master’s thesis. Thus, Professor von Beyme’s lecture fulfilled its role to awaken the students’ interest for political science and to give them an insight into the political system of the U.S.

Two M.A. theses were written in Political Science: Ean Fullerton, “Women and Children Last: U.S. Failure to Ratify CEDAW and the CRC;” and Asim Jusic, “The Weimar Intellectual Baggage in Leo Strauss’s Natural Right and History.”

Religious Studies
“The Almost Chosen People: Religion in America”
Lecturer: Professor Robert Jewett
Tutor: Ole Wangerin

Eight students in the MAS 2005 program chose Religious Studies as their major during the first semester. Weekly lectures were given by Robert Jewett, who is the Harry R. Kendall Professor Emeritus at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Northwestern University, Illinois. The accompanying tutorial classes were led by Ole Wangerin.

“The Almost Chosen People: Religion in America” provided a survey of religious institutions in America from the colonial period to the early 21st century. The story of religion in America was portrayed as a story of not just a few, but rather as a story of natives and immigrants, of women, men and children, of powerful political parties and movements, of mutual temptations, yet also often of tender generosity and kindness. Weekly lectures offered an overview of the time period, but also invited the students to raise questions and challenge the views of the lecturer. Besides the HCA students, a number of other students from the University of Heidelberg attended the lectures and engaged in the discussions. Weekly tutorial classes were for HCA students. The small group of eight students took advantage of the opportunity to dig deeper into certain topics and to trace various movements and major theological ideas throughout American history. Much room was left open for discussion, as well as for the presentation of the students’ own scholarly work.

The various cultural and religious backgrounds of the students further enriched the learning experience. The students from Hong Kong, Palestine, Turkey, Romania, Poland, Albania, and the United States brought their personal points of view and their strong cultural and religious convictions to the discussions. The religious rhetoric of the current U.S. President, George W. Bush, combined with the emotional debates around the 2004 presidential election caused much discussion during classes and high emotions among students of Christian and Muslim background.

The wide range of interest of the students was reflected by the various topics of the research.

After the first semester, two of the students decided to write their M.A. thesis in the field of Religious Studies. Stanislaw Burdziej handed in a paper on “Theocratic Experiments through American History: From Puritans to Christian Reconstructionists,” an excellent piece of interdisciplinary research, employing historical, social scientific, and legal sources and methods. In his thesis, Mr. Burdziej analyzed three examples of theocratic impulse, such as Puritanism in New England, the prohibition movement that resulted in the Eighteenth Amendment, and finally the Christian Right movement in current American politics.

Anthony Santoro, in his impressive thesis “That Ye May Know: The Creation of Nat Turner, the Fanatic Prophet,” describes the identity and viewpoint of the black revolutionary, Nat Turner. Mr. Santoro not only demonstrated an excellent knowledge of all relevant sources and secondary literature, but his thesis also conforms to the highest standards of historical and theological research in the long Heidelberg tradition, striking a new path through the confusion of evidence and interpretation. His thesis was suggested for publication and Mr. Santoro also received the HCA Book Prize for his overall performance in the M.A. in American Studies.

Methodology
Lecturer: Alexander Vazansky

During the winter semester the Methodology class provided students with an intense learning experience. The course met twice a week and students were required to read two to three essays in preparation for the different sessions. Methodology differed from other classes offered in the program during the winter semester in that it was not concerned with any particular aspect of American culture, such as history, religion, or law. Instead, the course looked at American Studies as a discipline. What issues and questions informed the development of and the current debates in this field? What methods and skills would the students need to employ in order to delve further into the field? During the course of the semester students read and analyzed not only articles on the origin, history, theory, and methods of American Studies, but also texts on the problems of academic writing.

From its inception in the mid-twentieth century American Studies has been a very introspective discipline. From the beginning, the field was conceived as an interdisciplinary effort that combined disciplines such as history, literature, and sociology to analyze and describe American culture. Because of its interdisciplinary nature, American Studies scholars struggled with the question of whether American Studies could or should develop its own original methodology. From Henry Nash Smith’s “Can American Studies Develop a Method,” through Robert Spiller’s “Unity and Diversity in the Study of American Culture: The American Studies Association in Perspective,” to Gene Wise’s “Paradigm Dramas in American Studies: A Cultural and Institutional History of the Movement,” scholars debated theories and methods underlying the discipline.

These debates gained even more facets when Women’s and Gender Studies, as well as Minority Studies, challenged previous assumptions about a coherent and unified American culture. Articles such as Nina Baym’s “Melodramas of Beset Manhood: How Theories of American Fiction Exclude Women Authors” or Linda K. Kerber’s “Diversity and the Transformation of American Studies” added new perspectives and approaches to the field. Collections such as Donald E. Pease’s and Robyn Wiegman’s The Futures of American Studies, written over half a century after the discipline’s beginnings, show that viewpoints on theory and methods in American Studies have become ever more diverse. These readings and others discussed in the Methodology course provided students with an introduction into the field and suggested perspectives and questions they needed to consider when conducting their own research.

Along with the more theoretical discussions on the development of the field the course was also concerned with more practical aspects of academic writing. Students were made aware of the choices they needed to make in writing their own texts. Whom were they addressing? What did they want to convey? What stylistic and syntactic choices did they need to make? Several sessions were devoted discussing and reviewing the students’ own writing. The class read excerpts from their colleagues’ essays, correcting mistakes and suggesting how the writing could be improved. For the student being reviewed this was of course often a painful, but ultimately beneficial process.

Inaugurating the series, appropriately enough, with a discussion about the upcoming 2004 U.S. Presidential Elections was John McQueen, then Chairman of Democrats Abroad, Germany. Democrats Abroad is the international arm of the Democratic Party, which seeks to represent the better than seven million Americans living abroad. McQueen’s talk was highly informative, contrasting the Democratic and Republican platforms in the run-up to the election. McQueen called attention to elements of the contest that impacted Americans living abroad especially, or only, issues that stay well below the radar in the domestic parts of the campaign.

Nor was America’s potential and projected political impact the only concern. Berndt Ostendorf, Professor of North American Cultural History at the America Institute of the University of Munich, considered the impact of American culture. In addressing the question of what makes American culture so popular, Ostendorf elaborated on the extent to which American culture is variously imported and exported, and how it blends with and changes the cultures into which it is introduced. The following week, Professor Gary Anderson
spoke on the results of the 2004 Elections and on the U.S. electoral process in general. Anderson, Director of the International Office of Zeppelin University in Friedrichshafen, spoke on a wide range of electoral issues, from the institution of the Electoral College to regional and national electoral issues, to any changes that can be seen in the blue/red divide in the immediate aftermath of the election. Anderson’s talk was lively and informative, and particularly engaging, as everyone present was well-informed and interested in discussing the election results.

Turning away from effects America has on the world, Professor Hiroshi Motomura came to speak on a process by which the world affects America: immigration. Motomura, currently Kenan Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of North Carolina School of Law, engaged the students in a unique role play, giving each group a profile and ideology and asking them to address difficult questions pertaining to immigration. Forced in some cases to think against their own perspectives, the result was a vivid discussion and exchange, with Motomura providing the history of relevant immigration case law precedent and historical detail to supplement the “decisions” made around the table.

Continuing the immigration theme was Gary J. Waltner in his talk on Mennonite immigrations to and groups within the United States. Waltner is the Director of the Mennonite Research Center, Rheinland-Pfalz. Waltner’s talk, beginning with a detailed history of the growth of the Mennonites in Europe, encompassed an array of push and pull factors and how they determined Mennonite settlement patterns within the United States.

From those who moved across the ocean to pursue the American Dream to those moving across the continent in search of the same, Thomas Schmidt-Beste, Professor of Musicology at the University of Heidelberg, and Helga Beste, Professor of American Literature at the University of Heidelberg, presented on American music and its ties to other art forms. The students were shown segments of film versions of Thornton Wilder’s Our Town and John Steinbeck’s Of Mice and Men and asked to critique the musical score supporting the film, with interesting results.

The HCA’s own Professor William Funk, Visiting Fulbright Professor and Lecturer for the winter Constitutional Law course, gave two presentations as part of the interdisciplinary colloquium. In the first, he gave a history of American constitutional law as it pertains to privacy and sex, including the developments leading to the right to privacy with regards to contraception and consensual sex; the fundamental right of marriage, and the particularities involved with fundamental rights; and previous constitutional controversies with regard to marriage, such as prohibitions against interracial marriage. After elaborating upon the applicable case law precedent, Funk let the discussion take its course, fielding and asking provocative questions, and going so far as to construct what he believes the likely scenario should the United States Supreme Court hear a case centering on the right of homosexuals to marry.

Professor Funk’s second presentation, though less controversial than the previous, was no less interesting. Funk, who practiced law at the U.S. Departments of Justice and of Energy and currently teaches Constitutional, Administrative, and Environmental Law at Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland, outlined the history of environmental legislation in the United States, with particular attention paid to the “high-water mark” of environmentalist legislation in the early 1970s with the founding such regulatory agencies as the Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of such laws as the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Toxic Substances Control Act. From that point forward, the discussion focused on the developments of and changes to the laws governing federal regulatory agencies and how the legislation has changed to keep pace with new environmental concerns, or the instances in which it has failed to do so.

Professor Ayanna Yonnemura returned immigration issues to the colloquium. Yonnemura, Assistant Professor of Urban Studies at Loyola Marymount University, spoke on the history of Japanese-Americans in the United States. Yonnemura’s talk also considered approaches to evaluating demographic data concerning ethnic minorities in American cities. A more truly transatlantic and global approach to immigration was brought by Dr. Berndt von Maltzan, CEO of Deutsche Bank Private Banking. Von Maltzan compared banking structures across the Atlantic, highlighting elements particular to the German and American models, and went on to compare the credit structures and how these impact consumption and all levels of the economy. While not providing any “hot investment tips,” von Maltzan’s presentation was impressive in its detail and precision.

Closing out the colloquium for the semester was Helmut Schmahl, Professor of Modern History at the University of Mainz. Schmahl’s presentation, a consideration of German migration and settlement patterns within the United States, was a fitting end to a successful semester. The presentations were highly varied and interesting, and the diverse backgrounds and concentrations of the guest presenters provided a truly unique, interdisciplinary experience.

Summer Semester 2005

Two interdisciplinary seminars were offered during the summer semester. The methodology class and the interdisciplinary colloquium continued from the winter term.

The Media in U.S. Culture
Lecturers: Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung and PD Dr. Philipp Gassert

Taking the Vietnam War as its focus, this interdisciplinary seminar aimed at introducing the students to the various methodological approaches employed by History, Literature, and Cultural Studies. Beginning with the Vietnam War, we asked how America’s first “T.V. war” was reported in the news media, including such events as Walter Cronkite’s famous report on the 1968 Tet offensive. In the following sessions the impact of the war was further explored by considering the domestic political scene. The questions the seminar explored were far-ranging and extended into contemporary America. How did American society react to the war? What was the impact of the anti-war movement? What role did the returning veterans play? What were the symbolic social practices that the communications media employed? What were the political, economic,
and cultural implications of media portrayal of the war and social protests? How has the media been criticized in contemporary culture? What was typically “American” about the way in which the United States coped with the legacy of Vietnam? How has the war been memorialized in film and in public spaces such as the Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial in Washington?

After having looked at these questions we had acquired a solid historical and cultural background sufficient to delve into Bobbie Ann Mason’s In Country (1985), the novel that was selected as our literary text. Looking at Vietnam through the eyes of a seventeen-year old young woman, Samantha Hughes, whose father had been killed in action, In Country explores the hidden legacy of the war in a small Kentucky town. Finding no answers from her family and friends, Samantha experiences the war filtered through the media, by watching M*A*S*H reruns on TV (a series set in Korea but often taken as an allegory for the U.S. engagement in Vietnam) and listening to her mother’s old records from the 1960s, as well as more recent cultural representations of Vietnam such as Bruce Springsteen’s “Born in the U.S.A.”

Longing for an authentic expression of the Vietnam War, she finally makes the trip to Washington Sam does find the kind of authenticity that she is longing for. She finds not only the names of her father and her uncle’s buddies, but her name, Sam Hughes, appears engraved on the wall itself. The war has become tangible and real through her personal encounter with those mourning at the memorial, opening a space for her as the younger generation, for the women who lived through the war on the home front, and for those who live with the reality of the war’s aftermath.

Law and Religion Seminar

Lecturers: Professor William Funk and Professor Robert Jewett

Professors William Funk and Robert Jewett offered an interdisciplinary seminar on Law and Religion during the summer term of 2005. The seminar considered contemporary issues arising in the United States involving law and religion. Many of these issues arise under the Free Exercise or Establishment Clauses of the First Amendment, but some involve cultural issues and the law applicable to churches. The seminar explored the place of religion in the American constitutional system and methods of analysis and approach from both the legal and theological perspective.

The seminar began with introductory lectures from and discussions between Professors Funk and Jewett on such topics as the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment and an overview of historical issues related thereto; issues related to conscientious objection to military service; original intent, textual, contextual, historical, and teleological methods of constitutional interpretation and their parallels within religious approaches to scripture; the definition of religion; and the impact of religion on legal issues. Each of these debates was followed by an intense and enlightening discussion, in which students and professors alike questioned and debated each other.

With this background, the seminar then moved into its more active phase, in which the participants prepared and argued various important Supreme and Federal Appeals Court cases pertaining to Free Exercise and Establishment Clause issues. Students served alternately as lawyers and judges, as each case required arguments on behalf of both litigants. Professor Jewett served as a variable amicus curiae, or friend of the court, and presented briefs on behalf of other interested parties. Jewett’s presentations brought to life the complications involved in the decision-making process and provided a tangible, direct example of the ways in which the issues being debated were not confined to the Court itself, but to society at large. In some cases, the “justices,” those students and professors not presenting an argument in that particular case, were visibly swayed by the amicus, and had to consider their verdict based not only on the merits of the case itself, but on the effect their decision would have on other groups.

Once the cases were heard, the justices turned to ruling, and explaining their reasons for so deciding. Professor Funk served as Chief Justice and summed up the arguments, tallied the votes, and more than once cast the deciding vote himself before tying the topics and legal particulars argued over in class to those at issue in the actual case. The students made great oral statements and everyone in the class, including the professors, learned a lot out of this unique interdisciplinary experience.

Methodology

Lecturer: Alexander Vazansky

During the summer semester Methodology only met for one session per week. Now the discussions mainly focused on practical aspects of writing a Master’s thesis, from writing a proposal, through oral presentations, to matters of structuring and annotating a thesis. Towards the end of the semester students read and criticized excerpts from each other’s work.

From a teacher’s point of view Alexander Vazansky was gratified to see how initially somewhat awe-struck and at points confused students grew increasingly confident both as experts in the field of American Studies and as writers.

Interdisciplinary Colloquium

The colloquium program during the summer semester differed somewhat from the winter semester in that there were fewer guest speakers. Instead, the MAS students had to present outlines of their thesis projects in a two day intensive workshop on May 12-13, 2005. This left room for only five guest speakers. Although the second colloquium offered students fewer chances to hear outside perspectives, those presentations and lectures offered lacked neither quality nor insight. Moreover, three of the five lectures were organized in conjunction with other departments, demonstrating once again the close ties between the HCA and the individual departments from which it was created.

For the first session of the colloquium on April 14, the students, accompanied by Professor Junker, Dr. Gassert and other staff members,
were invited by Manfred Lautenschläger to join him at the conference room of the MLP building in Rohrbach/Boxberg. The conference room, which is located on one of the top floors of the building, offers a magnificent view of the Rhine Valley. In this impressive setting, Manfred Lautenschläger, founder of the MLP and chairman of its supervisory board, gave a presentation on the company’s history and its current organization, activities and growth. Mr. Lautenschläger, who has been an important benefactor of the HCA, has been integral in making MLP into one of the world’s top financial services providers. Moreover, Mr. Lautenschläger’s contribution to the colloquium was of particular importance because it offered students a glimpse at the possibilities existing for university graduates outside the field of academia.

The second lecture students attended as part of the colloquium was organized by Professor Dr. Winfried Brugger, a Professor at the Law Department and member of the HCA Board of Directors. On this occasion, the guest speaker was Edward J. Eberle, Professor of Law at Roger Williams University in Rhode Island. Professor Eberle’s presentation fit well into the interdisciplinary curriculum of the MAS, tying together history, law, and religion. The lecture focused on the life of Roger Williams, a seventeenth century religious thinker, who developed theories on the inviolability of conscience. Professor Eberle traced the resonance of William’s theories back to the religious freedoms contained in the constitution. A lively discussion followed, in which students as well as faculty members from three different departments participated, showing once again how fruitful cross-disciplinary dialogue can be. On May 12 and 13, MAS students and faculty attended an intensive workshop, in which the students outlined their thesis projects.

The wide range of topics presented showed that many students had become extremely interested in the interdisciplinary topics that had been offered by the HCA during the winter term. Some students were interested in exploring the effects of American foreign policy in their native countries, often combining a historical and political science perspective. For example, whereas Susan Saadat proposed a thesis analyzing the United States’ role in the Iranian Coup of 1953, Solinda Kaman presented a project on Woodrow Wilson’s position on Albanian independence during the negotiations for the League of Nations. The League of Nations and its successor organization, the United Nations, also drew the interest of two additional students. Raluca Gheorghita proposed a study in which she planned to analyze how the United States government learned from the failures of the League of Nations, and how those lessons helped in the creation of the U.N. Een Fullerton was interested in more recent issues, analyzing why the U.S. failed to ratify the U.N. conventions on the rights of women and children. International law was also a topic of interest for Yuyun Chen, who proposed comparing U.S. and international environmental law in her MA thesis. In addition, Literary and Cultural Studies were disciplines that many students chose to incorporate into their projects. These areas have always played a significant role in American studies, and a number of students chose to focus on American literary works and their cultural impact in the historical context. Özge Özmen, for example, presented an outline on Orientalism in Marc Twain’s A Tramp Abroad, and Amy Parish proposed an analysis of desertion in twentieth century war novels. Overall, the chosen thesis topics proved to be as diverse as the students’ backgrounds. The students demonstrated that they were well on their way to becoming American studies scholars in their own right.

After the workshop, there were three more sessions of the colloquium. On May 31, Professor Gerald Fogarty, S.J., a professor of religious studies at the University of Virginia and an ordained priest, lectured on the history of American Catholicism covering centuries of Catholic life in North America. The lecture was co-organized by the Religious Studies department. The fifth guest speaker again offered students a glimpse at the possibilities open to graduates outside the academic realm. Christine Weiss, a doctoral candidate at the History department of the University of Heidelberg, told students about her experiences as an intern at the Albany office of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton. The colloquium concluded with a lecture organized through the University’s English department. This final lecture was given by Professor David M. Robinson of Oregon State University, who spoke on This is My World Now: Henry David Thoreau by Moonlight.

Outlook on the MAS Course Outline 2005/06

Geography
“Social Landscapes of North America”
Lecturer: Professor Cesar N. Caviedes
Tutor: Thorsten Reuter

It is understood that a regional entity consists of a setting (the physical landscapes, the activities, the means of communication) and of the actors (the ethnic, cultural, and social groups) that interact in the physical setting. Thus, a course on regional geography portrays the socio-political texture of a country (or continent) as it reflects the physical or economic characteristics of the setting. Looked at as a “regional unit,” the United States represents a complex entity that is both powerful and at the same time vulnerable to the different interests that co-exist in the vast reaches of the country. An accurate picture of the United States can be obtained only when the essence of the various regional entities that make up the country are understood: when the ethnic groups are characterized, when the religious or secular underpinnings are considered; when the differences between urban and rural environments are grasped, and when the socio-economic differences across the country are incorporated into the total picture.

This course begins by defining the setting and the actors in the United States. Building on this, the economic foundations and the social conditions are explored. Furthermore, the class deals with political responses and polarization, the main points in international relations, and the attraction of the American Way of Life. The last question in the class will be “why is Canada different?”

History (WS 2005/06)
“The Reluctant Empire? An Introduction to U.S. Foreign Relations in the 20th Century”
Lecturer: Professor Manfred Berg
Tutor: James Sparks

On the eve of the 20th century the United States first emerged as a major player in world politics. One hundred years later, America prides itself on being the sole remaining superpower. Cautiously enough, Americans continue to debate whether the U.S. actually is or should be an empire, and if so, what kind of an empire? A traditional empire driven by the quest for power and domination? A liberal empire committed to spreading freedom and democracy? An informal empire predicated
upon economic penetration and cultural attraction? Has the United States actively sought world hegemony or has it reluctantly taken up the burdens of empire? This course will attempt to provide a broad overview of America’s rise to world power in the 20th century. In addition to providing an outline of major developments and events, it will introduce students to theoretical and historiographical concepts in interpreting U.S. foreign relations and to the traditions, ideologies, and key interests that have shaped America’s interactions with the rest of the world.

In the accompanying tutorial led by James Sparks, M.A., the students have the unique opportunity to discuss and analyze primary sources and documents pertaining to U.S. foreign policies, which were touched upon in the lecture. The tutorial is seen as a discussion forum, in which students can deepen their knowledge of the subject material and ask questions. At the same time, the tutorial encourages a higher level of participation from the students insofar as they are not only expected to express their views on the topics reviewed in the lecture, but also are required to give brief oral presentations in order to exhibit their command of the subject material. The goal of the tutorial is to deepen the students’ understanding of U.S. foreign policy by examining and discussing the underlying factors which both directly and indirectly influenced U.S. foreign policy decision making in the 20th century.

The oldest written national constitution in the world – presently almost 220 years old – has been amended only 27 times. It owes its enduring relevance to continued interpretation — by the courts, by the national and state governments, by local governments, by administrative agencies, by the media, and by private individuals. There is no clash of interests or values in American society which does not lend itself to formulation in constitutional terms and for which constitutional law does not provide a fertile context for analysis and resolution or for further consideration of the requirements of justice. This survey course aims at exposing students to American constitutional law’s history, structure, processes, major principles and concepts, analytical methods, and interpretive approaches. The intention is to provide an “integrated understanding” of the American constitutional system while introducing the main substantive areas of the law involved: Federal court jurisdiction and judicial review; executive power and the separation of powers; congressional power and federalism; equal protection and affirmative action; substantive due process and privacy; free speech; and freedom of religion. Students will be assigned reading from the course textbook as well as excerpts of court opinions which they are expected to be able to discuss actively during the lecture classes. In addition, a weekly tutorial will provide an opportunity for closer examination and more thorough discussion of the cases and issues mentioned during the lectures.

**Law (WS 2005/06)**

“An Introduction to American Constitutional Law”

**Lecturer:** Professor Steven Less

**Tutor:** Vasiliki Christou

This lecture course will assess the multifold contributions of American writers to the international modernist movement. Students will be introduced to different American modernist schools and to their cultural and aesthetic philosophies. After a consideration of the uses of the terms “modern,” “modernity,” “modernist,” and “modernism,” we will begin with Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot, and H.D., a group of American avant-garde poets who decided to make their home in Europe; we will take up their contention that a modernist writer must, first and foremost, come to terms with “tradition.” The second section of the lecture course will deal with the poems and poetic theories of Robert Frost, William Carlos Williams, and Wallace Stevens — poets who adopted an anti-traditionalist and “nativist” stance. In the third section, we will discuss the modernist orientations of three novelists: Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and William Faulkner.

A consideration of the Harlem Renaissance and such writers as Langston Hughes, Jean Toomer, and Zora Neale Hurston in the modernist context and a preview of the literature and philosophy of post-modernism will round out this lecture course.

The accompanying tutorial led by Dirk Lutschewitz will provide ample opportunity for course discussions and in-depth analyses of some of the texts covered in the lecture, including Hemingway’s *The Sun Also Rises* (1926), Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby* (1925), and Faulkner’s *The Sound and the Fury* (1929), as well as selected poems and essays by Pound, Eliot, Stevens, Frost, and Williams. In addition to the authors covered in the lecture class, we will deal with the works of Eugene O’Neill (especially *The Hairy Ape* and *Mourning Becomes Electra*), the first major American dramatist. Important literary terms will be introduced and applied to the works mentioned above (point of view, modes of speech, modes of narration, meter and rhyme, figures of speech, etc.). Furthermore, students will be given a chance to discuss term paper projects and to review topics prior to their final exams.

**Political Science**

“Business, Government, and the U.S. Political System”

**Lecturer:** Professor Richard Lehne

**Tutor:** Pierre Hagedorn

The course US Government and Business is taught by Richard Lehne, a Fulbright Visiting Professor from Rutgers University, New Jersey. As the title of the lecture suggests, the course explores major issues in relations between government and business in the United States and highlights principal features of the American political system.

Among the topics considered are US political traditions, the structure of government, public opinion, interest groups, corporations as political actors, lobbying, competition policy, regulation, industrial policy, and social policy. Each topic is also examined in a comparative perspective. Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan, and the European Union serve as the bases for comparison.

The method of instruction provides for interaction between the students and the professor. Students are given ample opportunity to raise questions in the course. For each class, the assigned readings give the students a different perspective on the lecture topic or explore aspects of the lecture in more detail. In addition, the syllabus identifies websites that provide further information on the week’s topic or illustrates the major aspects of the topic in the activities of a major organization. Furthermore, additional readings are suggested each week for the students who want to pursue the issues in greater depth.

The weekly tutorial offered by Pierre Hagedorn serves as a complement to the lecture. The tutorial provides the students with the opportunity to discuss the issues raised in the lecture course.
Additionally, it allows the students to explore some aspects of each week’s topic in more detail and, according to Professor Lehne, “to clarify the confusion sown by the professor in the lecture.” Finally, each student is required to make a short oral presentation and to hand in small assignments that are intended to help them prepare for the final term paper.

Religious Studies (WS 2005/06)
“The Almost Chosen People: Religion in America”
Lecturer: Professor Robert Jewett
Tutor: Ole Wangerin

In a society so remarkably secular in so many ways, religion frequently has stood at the heart of the American experience itself. Presidents often claim to be inspired by a greater power, while American society continually struggles over religious issues. The 43rd President of the United States, George W. Bush, is convinced: “I would not be President today if I hadn’t stopped drinking 17 years ago. And I could only do that with the grace of God.”

“The Almost Chosen People: Religion in America” tries to explain the interplay between religious groups and the state over the last 400 years. The idea of a specific American “civil religion” as an understanding of the American experience produced instead of established religion the concept of the “redeemer nation,” in which the nation plays the role of God’s New Israel in redeeming the world. On the one hand, Prof. Robert Jewett’s lecture draws an alarming picture of the potential dangers of the strong civil religion in America if interpreted as a call to redeem the world by the destruction of enemies (zealous nationalism). On the other hand, Prof. Jewett describes the encouraging possibilities of the rich religious life in the USA and of an interpretation of the ‘civil religion’ as a call to redeem the world for coexistence by impartial justice (prophetic realism).

“Religion in America” begins with the Puritan’s ‘exodus’ from Europe and their goal of establishing a “city upon a hill.” It deals with the Awakenings, the American Revolution and the Civil War, abolitionism, American Progressivism, racism and the Civil Rights Movements, Anti-Catholicism and Anti-Semitism, protests against war, the rise of a new American Conservatism, and the crusade against terrorism. Judaism, Buddhism and Islam are included in the survey, along with American sects such as the Mormons, the Jehovah’s Witnesses, and Modern Fundamentalism.

The class meets twice a week and is a combination of lecture, discussion, tutorial, and independent scholarly work. The lectures by Prof. Jewett offer an overview of the period and examples of how historians have addressed key questions raised by the period. After approximately 50 minutes of lecture, students are invited to ask questions and to present their own views on the specific topic under discussion.

Tutorial classes led by Ole Wangerin do not cover the same material as discussed during the lecture. They will deal with the Christian roots of American religion in general and with the impact of religion on certain developments in American history. The American sense of mission shall be described, and the rise of the national life shall be explained. Additionally, it allows the students to explore some aspects of each week’s topic in more detail and, according to Professor Lehne, “to clarify the confusion sown by the professor in the lecture.” Finally, each student is required to make a short oral presentation and to hand in small assignments that are intended to help them prepare for the final term paper.

Interdisciplinary Colloquium

The Colloquium will be renamed “Interdisciplinary Research Seminar” for 2005-06. The change reflects a reconsideration of the concept of the Interdisciplinary Seminar, which was modified to help the students with their research and M.A. theses more directly. The guests that have been invited for next year’s series were selected for the methods and approaches that they take to their subjects, and it is this selection that was targeted at the needs of MAS students. Co-chaired by Dr. Wilfried Mausbach, Christiane Rösch, and Alexander Emmerich, the Seminar also will highlight research currently underway at the University of Heidelberg.

The Seminar will begin with Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung’s presentation “What is/are American Studies?” Fischer-Hornung will guide the group through the complex world of the different disciplines belonging to American Studies and give an overview to the current state of research in the field at large. Last year’s Fulbright Visiting Fellow, Professor William Funk of the Lewis and Clark Law School, will give an introduction to his work on the same sex marriage debate. Further topics in the series will include presentations from Professor Dietmar Schloss’ on “Intellectuals in a Transatlantic Context;” from Juan Bruce-Novoa on “America’s Real Cultural Production: The Body in the Box;” and from Prof. Cesar N. Caviedes of the University of Florida, currently a Humboldt Fellow at the HCA, presenting his research on “El Nino and History.” Finally, Alexander Emmerich from the HCA will introduce the class to techniques in film analysis, using “Mr. Smith goes to Washington” (1939) and the original “Star Wars” (1977) as examples.
MAS Teaching Staff

MAS Teaching Staff 2004/05

Prof. Dr. Klaus von Beyme

Klaus von Beyme was born in 1934 in Saarau/Schlesien. He completed his studies in the fields of Political Science, History and Sociology at the universities of Heidelberg, Munich, Paris and Moscow. From 1967 to 1973, Professor von Beyme taught Political Science at the University of Tübingen, and from 1973 to 1999 he continued his work as a Professor of Political Science at the University of Heidelberg. In addition, from 1982 to 1985 Professor von Beyme was President of the International Political Science Association. His major research fields are Comparative Politics and Political Theory, and he is the author of numerous books and articles published in these fields.

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Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung

Dorothea Fischer-Hornung studied English and German at St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri as well as at the universities of Munich and Tübingen. Afterwards, she completed her PhD in American Literature at the University of Heidelberg. Her special interests are African American studies, ethnic studies, and women’s studies. She is the author and editor of several books and numerous papers on African American dance and literature, ethnic crime fiction and Native American literature. Currently, she is president of MESEA, Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and the Americas, and editor of Atlantic Studies, a new interdisciplinary journal published by Routledge, U.K.

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Prof. Dr. William Funk

William Funk studied at Harvard and Columbia Universities and practiced law in the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of Energy, and on the Legislation Subcommittee of the Intelligence Committee of the U.S. House of Representative. For the past 20 years he has taught Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, and Environmental Law at the Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon. He is the author of two books and numerous articles, primarily concerning administrative law, and has served as the Chair of the Administrative Law Sections of both the American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools.

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Prof. Dr. Werner Gamerith

Werner Gamerith studied Geography, Geology, and Geobotany at the Universities of Salzburg, Innsbruck, Graz, and Klagenfurt (Austria). From 1993 to 2002, he worked as an Assistant Professor at the Geography Department of the University of Heidelberg. In 2002 he obtained a postdoctoral degree and continued his work at Heidelberg as an Associate Professor. From 2002 to 2004, Prof. Gamerith was the General Secretary of the German Association for Geography. He also served as Vice President of the Heidelberg Geography Association from 1994 to 2004. Werner Gamerith is currently a substitute professor of Regional Geography at the University of Passau. His research topics focus around social and urban geography with particular interest in the United States. Werner Gamerith is author or co-editor of eleven books on a broad thematic range of cultural and human geography.

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PD Dr. Philipp Gassert

Philipp Gassert studied History, Economics, and Public Law at the University of Heidelberg, the University of Angers (France), and at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. From 1994 to 1999, he was a research fellow at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. From 1999 to 2004 he has served as Assistant Professor of History at the University of Heidelberg. In May of 2003, he became the Managing Director of the HCA and in 2004 Associate Professor of History (Privatdozent) at Heidelberg. Dr. Gassert is currently a Visiting Professor of North American Cultural History at the University of Munich. He is the author of many books and essays on German-American relations, the history of the United States, and German history since 1945.

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Prof. Dr. Robert Jewett

Robert Jewett is the Harry R. Kendall Professor Emeritus at the Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and the Northwestern University doctoral program. He is currently a guest Professor in the Wissenschaftlich-theologisches Seminar in Heidelberg. Prof. Jewett is the author or editor of eighteen books and more than 140 articles, ranging from technical biblical investigations to analyses of American culture. His most recent books are The Myth of the American Superhero and Captain America and the Crusade against Evil: The Dilemma of Zealous Nationalism

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Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Detlef Junker

Detlef Junker studied History, Political Science, Philosophy, and German Philology at the University of Kiel and the University of Innsbruck. In 1974, he received the Venia legendi for Modern History and Theory of History. From 1975 to 1994, Professor Junker was Professor of Modern History at the University of Heidelberg. From 1994 to 1999, he was Director of the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. From 1999 to 2005, Professor Junker held the Curt Engelhorn Chair for American History at the University of Heidelberg. The foci of his research are U.S foreign policy, transatlantic relations, and German-American relations.

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Alexander Vazansky, M.A.

Alexander Vazansky studied History and American Literature at the Universities of Heidelberg and at Miami University, Ohio. He received his Master of Arts from Miami University. Mr. Vazansky wrote his MA Thesis on “American Perceptions of Postwar Germany.” He worked as a TA for the Curt-Engelhorn-Chair of American History. Furthermore, he was a lecturer for German as a Foreign Language at the University of Heidelberg and at Yale University. Currently, he is working on his PhD Thesis, “An Army in Crisis: Social Conflicts in the United States Army, Europe and 7th Army, 1968-1975.”

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Outlook on the MAS Teaching Staff 2005/06

Prof. Dr. Manfred Berg
History

Manfred Berg studied History, Political Science, Philosophy, and Public Law in Heidelberg. From 1989 until 1992 he has been working as assistant professor at the History Department of the John F. Kennedy-Institute for North American Studies of the Free University of Berlin. He spent several years in Washington, D.C., as research fellow and Deputy Director of the German Historical Institute. From 2003 to 2005, he was Executive Director of the Center for U.S. Studies at the Leucorea Foundation in Wittenberg. In October, 2005, Berg was appointed Curt Engelhorn Professor of American History at the University of Heidelberg.

Prof. Dr. Cesar N. Caviedes
Alexander von Humboldt Fellow
Geography

Cesar N. Caviedes studied and taught at the Catholic University of Valparaíso in his home country of Chile. After further studies at the University of Freiburg in Italy, he began doctoral studies in 1969 at the University of Freiburg. His international resume continued at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and at the University of Saskatchewan-Regina. In 1980, he became the chair for Latin American geography at the University of Florida. Caviedes has received awards from the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung, the University of Florida. Caviedes has received awards from the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung, the University of Florida. Caviedes has received awards from the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung, the University of Florida.

Alexander Emmerich, M.A.
Interdisciplinary Colloquium

Alexander Emmerich studied Ancient, Medieval and Modern History, German Philology, and Political Science at the University of Heidelberg. His M.A. thesis explored "German Immigrants to the USA and the Case of Acculturation, 1830-1893". His recently completed doctoral dissertation is entitled "From an Immigrant to a Millionaire. The Life of John Jacob Astor." He has served as Project Manager for the HCA since April, 2003, and is responsible for the coordination of research projects.

Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung
Interdisciplinary Seminar

Dorothea Fischer-Hornung studied English and German at St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri as well as at the universities of Munich and Tübingen. Afterwards, she completed her PhD in American Literature at the University of Heidelberg. Her special interests are African American studies, ethnic studies, and women’s studies. She is the author and editor of several books and numerous papers on African American dance and literature, ethnic crime fiction and Native American literature. Currently, she is president of MESEA, Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and the Americas, and editor of Atlantic Studies, a new interdisciplinary journal published by Routledge, U.K.

PD Dr. Philipp Gassert
Interdisciplinary Seminar

Philipp Gassert studied History, Economics, and Public Law at the University of Heidelberg, the University of Angers (France), and at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. From 1994 to 1999, he was a research fellow at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. From 1999 to 2004 he has served as Assistant Professor of History at the University of Heidelberg. In May of 2003, he became the Managing Director of the HCA and in 2004 Associate Professor of History (Privatdozent) at Heidelberg. Dr. Gassert is currently a Visiting Professor of North American Cultural History at the University of Munich. He is the author of many books and essays on German-American relations, the history of the United States, and German history since 1945.

Prof. Dr. Robert Jewett
Religious Studies

Robert Jewett is the Harry R. Kendall Professor Emeritus at the Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and the Northwestern University doctoral program. He is currently a guest Professor in the Wissenschaftlich-theologisches Seminar in Heidelberg. Prof. Jewett is the author or editor of eighteen books and more than 140 articles, ranging from technical biblical investigations to analyses of American culture. His most recent books are “The Myth of the American Superhero” and “Captain America and the Crusade against Evil: The Dilemma of Zealous Nationalism.”
Dr. Steven Less

Law

Dr. Less is a senior research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg, where he is also Managing Editor of the MPI’s semi-annual bibliography of public international law. A member of the NJ and NY bar associations, Less worked for a general practice law firm in NJ before first coming to Heidelberg on a DAAD grant. Since 1999, he has offered an introduction to Anglo-American law and legal terminology, covering public law, at the University of Heidelberg. He has also previously lectured on Anglo-American civil law within the same course series. In addition, Less has taught international law and international human rights at Schiller International University in Heidelberg. Less obtained an undergraduate degree from Middlebury College in Vermont. He subsequently studied law at Seton Hall University School of Law in New Jersey and completed a doctorate at the University of Heidelberg, supported by a Max Planck Society fellowship. Besides his comparative law thesis concerning involuntary commitment to psychiatric hospitals in the United States and Germany, Less has published articles on American and international law, most recently focusing on terrorism.

Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss

Literature

Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss teaches American literature and culture at the English Department of the University of Heidelberg. He holds degrees in English and German Philology from the University of Heidelberg (Habilitation) and Northwestern University, Evanston (M.A., Ph.D.). As a Fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies, he was a visiting scholar at the English and History Departments at Harvard University. He has published widely in the fields of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century literature and culture; his most recent book, The Virtuous Republic (2003), examines the political visions of American writers during the Founding Period of the United States. Presently he is working on a book on the contemporary US-American novel tentatively entitled “American Paradise: Cultural Criticism in the Age of Postmodernity and Postindustrialism”. He is also trying to set up a new interdisciplinary group research project at the HCA investigating the role of intellectuals and intellectual cultures in American society

Dr. Wilfried Mausbach

Interdisciplinary Colloquium

Wilfried Mausbach received his Ph.D. from the University of Cologne, where he studied History, Political Science, and Philosophy. He has been a research fellow at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C., and has held Assistant Professorships in History at both the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at the Free University Berlin and the University of Heidelberg, where he was a Volkswagen Foundation fellow. His major research interests are in transnational and intercultural history with a focus on German-American relations during the twentieth century. He is the author of “From Morgenthau to Marshall: American Economic Policy toward Germany, 1944-1947” (in German; Zwischen Morgenthau und Marshall: Das wirtschaftspolitische Deutschland-konzept der USA 1944-1947 [Düsseldorf: Droste, 1996]), is co-editor of America, the Vietnam War, and the World: Comparative and International Perspectives (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003), and is adjunct editor of The United States and Germany in the Era of the Cold War, 1945-1990: A Handbook, 2 vols. (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004). He is currently substituting for Philipp Gassert as Managing Director of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies.

Christiane Rösch, M.A.

Interdisciplinary Colloquium

Christiane Rösch studied English Literature and Linguistics and Ancient, Medieval, and Modern History at the University of Heidelberg. In 1999, she received her M.A. in Modern History from the University of Durham/UK where she studied “Politics and Society in the USA.” Her M.A. thesis focused on Max Weber’s and Hermann Oncken’s scholarship on the United States, 1900-1928. Currently, she is finishing her dissertation “Winning the West. West Germany’s cultural foreign policy, 1955-1972.” Her fields of interest include Cold War History, Transatlantic Relations, and Cultural History. Since 2003, she has served as Course Coordinator and Project Manager for the Heidelberg Center for American Studies.

Alexander Vazansky, M.A.

Methodology

Alexander Vazansky studied History and American Literature at the University of Heidelberg and at Miami University, Ohio. He received his Master of Arts from Miami University. He wrote his M.A. thesis on “American Perceptions of Postwar Germany.” He worked as a TA for the Curt Engelhorn Chair of American History and taught German as a Foreign Language at the University of Heidelberg and at Yale University. Currently, he is working on his doctoral dissertation entitled “An Army in Crisis: Social Conflicts in the United States Army, Europe and 7th Army, 1968-1975.”
**MAS Class of 2005**

**Maria Andrei**  
Maria Andrei was born in 1981 in Faget in Romania. In 2004 she earned her B.A., majoring in English and minoring in American Studies at the University of Bucharest. Maria chose Heidelberg for her M.A., because of the excellent research opportunities and the long academic tradition of Heidelberg University. Maria Andrei was the recipient of the Bernd Avon Maltzan-Scholarship 2004/05 in the MAS program. She majored in Literature, History, and Religious Studies in the MAS program. Her M.A. thesis was entitled “Narrating Memory in Toni Morrison’s Beloved and William Faulkner’s The Sound and the Fury”. Maria hopes to pursue a Ph.D. in American studies.

**Stanisław Burdziej**  
Born in 1979 in Toruń, Poland, Stanisław Burdziej received a Diploma in Special European Studies from the Jean Monnet Center for European Studies at the Nicolas Copernicus University (NCU) in Toruń in 2002. He earned an M.A. in Sociology from NCU in 2003 and a B.A. in Italian in 2004. Since 2003 he has been working on his Ph.D. on the sociology of religion in Poland and the U.S., but decided to take a sabbatical and join the MAS program after participating in the HCA Spring Academy 2004. In the MAS he majored in History, Law, and Religious Studies, writing his thesis on “Theocratic Experiments through American History: From the Puritans to Christian Reconstructionists.” He was the recipient of a 2004/05 Wild Scholarship. Stanislaw has returned to NCU, where he is now teaching sociology, to finish his Ph.D.

**Yuyun Chen**  
Yuyun Chen was born in 1976 in Shanghai, China. After receiving her B.A. in English and International Journalism from the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology (USST) in 1998, she began her professional career with a Shanghai public relations company. In 2002 she returned to USST, earning an M.A. in Foreign Linguistics and Applied Linguistics in 2003. Before coming to Heidelberg, she worked as a professional Chinese teacher. Yuyun, the recipient of a 2004/05 Wild Scholarship, majored in Geography, Law, and Political Science. Her thesis dealt with “The Interplay of International Environmental Law and U.S. Environmental Law.” Yuyun Chen wants to earn her Ph.D. at Heidelberg before returning to China to pursue a career in media.

**Amanda Nga-Yan Chiu**  
Born in 1981 in Hong Kong, China, Amanda Chiu studied English and Japanese Studies at the University of Hong Kong, earning her B.A. in 2004. Amanda majored in Law, Political Science, and Religious Studies. Her thesis was entitled “Mirage of Amrriage and Beyond: The Same-Sex Marriage Debate in America.” After returning to Hong Kong, she was offered a position as research assistant at her home university, but as yet is undecided how to pursue her career in the tourism industry.

**Ean Fullerton**  
Ean Fullerton was born in New York City in 1982. He studied Political Science, History, and Human Rights at Columbia College, Columbia University, New York, receiving his B.A. in Political Science in 2004. Ean was an intern with the Drum Major Institute in 2004, where he worked as a policy analyst. Ean chose to come to Heidelberg to earn his M.A. in American Studies to gain an outside perspective on his home country. He majored in Geography, History, and Law. His thesis, “Women and Children Last: U.S. Failure to Ratify CEDAW and the CRC,” examines the non-ratification of two major human rights conventions by the United States. Ean is currently considering returning to Heidelberg to pursue a Ph.D.

**Daniela Ganji**  
Daniela Ganji was born in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia in 1977, and is a citizen of Slovakia. After brief periods of study at the University of Koblenz-Landau and the University of Vienna, Daniela received a Master of Arts at Comenius University, where she specialized in English, German, and Slovak. She chose to apply to the HCA because of her interest in American Studies but also because she wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to study at the renowned University of Heidelberg and fine tune her German language skills. She majored in History, Law, and Political Science, and wrote her thesis on “US Diplomacy vis-à-vis European Union.” Daniela hopes to pursue a career that focuses on the European Union and transatlantic institutions.
Raluca Gheorghita
Raluca Gheorghita was born in 1981 in Bucharest, Romania. Before entering the American Studies program in Heidelberg, Raluca received a Bachelor’s degree at the University of Bucharest, where she studied English and French. Raluca was initially drawn to the MAS program because she was interested in German culture and was attracted by the long and rich tradition of the University of Heidelberg. A recipient of the HCA’s Director’s Fellowship, Raluca majored in History, Religious Studies, and Law and wrote her thesis on “The United States and the League of Nations: Lessons of the Past.” Raluca is currently enrolled at University College, London.

Asim Juric
A citizen of Bosnia, Asim Juric was born in Sarajevo in 1975. Before applying to the MAS program, Asim received a diploma in Banking and Finance, as well as a Law degree at the University of Sarajevo. In addition, Asim worked as an intern for the World Bank prior to his arrival in Heidelberg. Asim applied to the HCA because he wanted to broaden his knowledge of the U.S. political system, U.S. constitutional law, and U.S. foreign policy. Accordingly, Asim selected History, Political Science and Law as his majors while at the HCA. He wrote his thesis on “The Weimar Intellectual Baggage in Leo Strauss’s Natural Right and History.” Although Asim is currently a Project Coordinator for the World University Service Austria, he hopes to one day either work in academia or practice law.

Solinda Kamani
Solinda Kamani was born in 1977 in Fier, Albania. Before coming to Heidelberg, Solinda obtained a Bachelor of Arts in the subjects of History and Geography at the University of Tirana, and also worked as a historian-archaeologist at the Institute of Cultural Monuments in Tirana. She applied to the HCA because she wanted to enrich her understanding and expand her knowledge of the US political process. While at the HCA, Solinda chose to major in History, Religious Studies, and Geography. She wrote her Masters thesis on the topic, “The American Policy toward Albania 1917-1921.” Solinda is currently employed at the Institute of Cultural Monuments in Tirana.

Mark Olsztyn
Mark Olsztyn was born in 1964 in Dearborn, MI. Prior to his studies at the HCA, Mark received his Bachelor of Arts at Arizona State University and thereafter obtained a Master of Arts at Yale University in the subjects Graphic Design, Art History, and German. Mark was attracted to the MAS program because he and his family live nearby and the program offered him the chance to further his education. While attending the HCA, Mark focused his studies on History, Literature and Religious Studies, and he wrote his MA thesis entitled “Through a Red Lens: Upton Sinclair’s Jimmie Higgins and the Socialist Cause in the Great War.” Mark is currently a full-time father and husband and hopes to continue his higher education in the planned HCA Ph.D. program.

Özge Özmen
Özge Özmen was born in 1982 in Istanbul, Turkey. She received her B.A. in American Culture and Literature from Bilkent University, Ankara, in 2004. Building on her undergraduate work, Özge discovered the MAS through the recommendation of some of her professors. Attracted by the program and Heidelberg itself, she chose to continue her education at the HCA, where she majored in History, Law, and Religious Studies. Her thesis was entitled “Lake Tahoe vs. the Red Sea: A Discussion of Orientalism in Mark Twain’s ‘Traveling with the Innocents Abroad.’” Özge intends to continue on to doctoral work in American Studies.

Amy Foster Parish
Amy Foster Parish was born in 1978 in Frankfort, Kentucky. She obtained her B.A. in 2000 from the University of Louisville, where she majored in English. Amy was interested in the HCA’s offer of inside knowledge with an outside perspective, a pairing that she hoped to replicate for herself in the course of her studies. She also welcomed the chance to study her own culture from the outside at a university as well-renowned as Heidelberg. Amy majored in History, Law, and Literature, and her M.A. thesis was entitled “He Thinks of it Often: In Search of Deserters in American War Literature.” Amy hopes to continue on to a Ph.D.
Susan Ruppert
Susan Ruppert was born in Hannover, Germany, in 1980. She received her B.S. in International Business with a concentration in English from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, in 2004. Her previous experience as an international student, which included assisting international students with their matriculation and adjustments, coincided with the international outlook of the MAS. Susan majored in History, Law, and Literature. Susan’s thesis was entitled “U.S. Foreign Policy toward Iran: The Impact of the 1953 Coup upon U.S.-Iranian Relations.” She plans to pursue a career in economics.

Anthony Santoro
Anthony Santoro was born in Newport News, Virginia, in 1978. He earned his B.A. in English and History at the University of Virginia in 1999. Anthony was attracted to the HCA because of its explicitly interdisciplinary structure, which comported well with his own educational aims. He also found the location advantageous, as it would help him learn more about his wife’s culture and background. He majored in History, Literature, and Religious Studies. Anthony’s thesis was entitled “That Ye May Know: The Construction of Nat Turner, the Fanatic Prophet.” Anthony intends to pursue a Ph.D. in American Studies, preferably at the University of Heidelberg.

Florian Vlad
Florian Vlad was born in Iasi, Romania, in 1980. He received his B.A. in English and German from Ovidius University, Constanta, in 2004. Florian is the recipient of several awards, including First Prize in a BBC World Service essay writing competition (1997), and has published articles in The Oakhamian (UK), Mamaliga (US), and Cuget Liber (Romania). Florian was interested in Heidelberg both to further his German and because of the atmosphere of the university itself. He majored in History, Literature, and Political Science, and his thesis was entitled “Metamorphoses of War Discourse in 20th Century American Fiction.” Florian plans to pursue a Ph.D.

Outlook on the MAS Class of 2006

Tamar Bakradze
(Georgia)
Born in 1981 in Tbilisi, Georgia, Tamar Bakradze received a B.A. in English Literature in 2003 and an M.A. in American Studies in 2005 from Tbilisi State University. She was a high school teacher in 2002/03 and is the recipient of an LBBW Scholarship 2005/06.

Eka Chixladze
(Georgia)
Eka Chixladze was born in Kutaisi, Georgia, in 1980. In 2003, she received her B.A. in English Language and Literature from Tbilisi State University and an M.A. in American Studies in 2005. Eka has worked as an English teacher and as a translator and has published an article in the Georgian “Journal of American Studies.” She was awarded with the Schurman Society Scholarship 2005/06.

Raluca-Lucia Cimpean
(Romania)
Born in 1981 in Blaj, Romania, Raluca Cimpean studied English and Romanian Language and Literature at the Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, where she earned her B.A. in 2004 and an M.A. in American Studies in 2005. Before coming to Heidelberg, she was an English teacher at Babes-Bolyai University.

Raymond Eberling
(USA)
Raymond Eberling, born in 1948 in Suffern, New York, was a secondary school teacher before he joined the U.S. Air Force. A retired Lieutenant Colonel, Ray is a Desert Storm Veteran and recipient of numerous commendations and honors. He holds a B.A. in Education from the University of Florida, an M.S. in Systems Management from the University of Southern California, and a B.A. with distinction in Creative Writing from Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, Florida.

Emily Floeck
(Canada)
Born in Vancouver, Canada, in 1983, Emily Floeck received her B.A. in History from the University of British Columbia in 2005 and her “Diplome du Programme Internationale” from the Institut d’etudes Politiques in Paris in 2004.

Aron Román Garcia
(Mexico)
Aron Roman was born in Zacatepec, Mexico, in 1982. He completed his undergraduate studies at the Universidad Internacional en Cuernavaca, Mexico, majoring in Spanish Literature. In 2004 he was a teaching assistant at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas. Aron has taught Spanish in Germany since 2005.

Nurzada Joldoshbekova
(Kyrgyzstan)
Nurzada Joldoshbekova was born in Kyzil-Adir, Kyrgyzstan, in 1980. She received her B.A. in American Studies from American University-Central Asia in Kyrgyzstan in 2005. She won a Future Leaders Exchange Program Scholarship and spent 2000/01 in Cedar Springs, Michigan.

Yuliya Vyacheslavivna Kyrprychova
(Ukraine)
Born in Potsdam, Germany, in 1979, Yuliya Kyrprychova graduated from the University of Zaporozhye in the Ukraine in 2000 with a B.A. in English Philology. In 2001, she earned her Diploma: Specialist in English Philology, which qualified her to teach English and German. In addition to teaching, she came to Germany as an au pair.
Selina Lai Suet Lin (China)
Selina Lai was born in 1980 in Hong Kong. She graduated from the University of Hong Kong with a B.A. in English and Comparative Literature in 2002. She has since served as a research assistant in American Studies at the University of Hong Kong.

Chisato Oka (Japan)
Chisato Oka was born in Tokyo, Japan, in 1980. She received her B.A. from Temple University in 2004, where she majored in Broadcasting. Subsequent to her graduation, Chisato served as a production assistant for MTV Japan.

Natallia Alexeyevna Parkhachut (Belarus)
Born in Brest, Belarus, in 1980, Natallia Parkhachut graduated from Brest State A.S. Pushkin University, Belarus, in 2004. She also has studied at Lawrence University, Appleton, WI, and has worked for a Belarusian-American joint venture.

Justin Schwerling (USA)
Justin Schwerling was born in Toledo, OH, in 1978. He received his B.S. in Communications from Ohio University in 2004. In addition to his studies, Justin is a member of the National Press Photographer Association.

Ahmed Shiaan (Maldives)
Ahmed Shiaan was born in Male, Maldives, in 1975. He obtained his B.A. in Economics, History, and Political Science from Bangalore University, India, in 2002. A member of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Maldives, Ahmed hopes to use his MAS studies to further his diplomatic career.

Cristina Stanca-Mustea (Romania)
Cristina Stanca-Mustea was born in Bucharest, Romania, in 1982. She received her B.A. in Romanian and American Studies from the University of Bucharest in 2005. Cristina is the 2005 recipient of the DAAD Fellowship as part of the STIBET program.

Anna Stojak (Poland)
Born in Skieniewice, Poland, in 1981, Anna Stojak received her M.A. in Sociology and Social Science from Jagiellonian University in Krakow in 2005. Recipient of the Friends of the HCA scholarship, Anna’s interest in American Studies was piqued following a year abroad at Antioch University, Ohio.

Corina Torres (Peru)
Corina Torres was born in Lima, Peru, in 1970. A naturalized American citizen, she received her B.A. in Sociology from George Mason University in 1998. A committed social worker, Corina brings to the MAS an interest in poverty and immigration issues.

Suge Wei (China)
Born in Beijing, China, in 1982, Suge earned her B.A. in English at the Beijing Foreign Studies University in 2005. The recipient of numerous academic awards, Suge also translated Richard Wagner’s Beethoven into Chinese. She is the recipient of the 2005 Director’s Fellowship.

MAS Social Activities

TGIF

The TGIF or “Thank God it’s Friday” celebration has quickly become a festive and popular tradition at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies. This social gathering, which takes place on the first Friday of each month, is an opportunity for the students and faculty to meet outside the classroom and become acquainted with one another on a more personal basis. In many ways, the TGIF gathering brings the staff and students together and underlines the unique sense of unity that is evident at the HCA. Whether student or teacher, staff member or intern, and regardless of the line of activity one might be involved with at the HCA, the TGIF is a celebration in which all are invited to partake, and it provides a jovial atmosphere to ring in the weekend.

MAS Berlin Excursion

In April, after all of the term papers and examinations for the Winter Semester were completed, and just prior to beginning the Summer Semester, HCA students took part in a weeklong excursion to Berlin. In this city of contradictions, students were able to explore past, present, and future in a German, transatlantic, and global context. The first day of the trip was among the most hectic. The students met at the Heidelberg Hauptbahnhof (Main Train Station) early in the morning of April 4, to depart for the six-hour train ride to Berlin. Once there, the students checked into their hotel and refreshed themselves shortly before heading downtown to the German Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt) for an exclusive tour and lecture. Gregor Schotten treated HCA students to an excellent tour of the facilities and a thoughtful, detailed lecture on German-American relations, with regard both to the contemporary political and diplomatic situation and to the historical development of the relationship, followed by an extensive question and answer session.

Tuesday brought a tour of the city itself. Beginning in the Lichtenberg section of Berlin, students were bussed throughout the sprawling metropolis over the three-hour tour. That famous symbol of a divided city, country, and world, the Berlin Wall
seemed always in sight or just around the next corner. Together with other famous symbols of division, such as the Brandenburg Gate (Brandenburger Tor) and Checkpoint Charlie, the Wall is an inescapable reminder of the past and the work that has been and continues to be done to bring peoples together.

The tour of the city also highlighted some of the marvels of Berlin’s variegated architecture. Berlin is home to many magnificent churches, such as the Berlin Cathedral (Berliner Dom), the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church (Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedaechtniskirche), and the identical Hugenot and German Cathedrals (Französischer und Deutscher Dom) churches at Gendarmenmarkt. Another sharp contrast is the Nikolaiviertel, which is a reconstructed showcasing of Old Berlin, and the Potsdamer Platz, home to dizzying skyscrapers. Another architectural marvel is the German Bundestag, at which the HCA had an exclusive tour and lecture that afternoon. The lecture, which took place above the Plenarsaal, provided a wealth of information on the unique features of the Bundestag, on such matters as design and architecture, the politics of interior design, and the meanings behind the symbols both within and without. This lecture was widely discussed afterward and was one of the more interesting moments of the excursion.

Continuing with the transatlantic theme of the excursion, HCA students went from the Bundestag to a reception and discussion at the America House (Amerikahaus), an arm of the United States Department of State. There, the discussion with Dr. Roy Weatherston, Cultural Attaché, was spirited and lively, providing insights into the workings of the American diplomatic corps. Dr. Weatherston’s talk was as geographically varied as the HCA itself, ranging over continents and through the various countries in which he has worked. More interestingly, the speakers had worked in the home nations of several HCA students, which allowed the discussion to become more intimate as the cultural and informational exchange was more personal and detailed.

The following day, the students headed over to the Jewish Museum, one of the more sobering events on the excursion. This monument to Jewish life and history in Germany over the last two millennia moved each student in a different way as it presented in detail the complex history of Jews in Germany, with attention paid to all of the celebrations and tragedies that make up that history. Itself a monument to memory in its various forms, the Museum hosts several exhibitions and pieces of art concerning memory. The design of the Libeskind Building, which is laid out along axes of memory, and exhibitions such as the Holocaust Tower, the Garden of Exile and Emigration, the Fallen Leaves (Shalechet), and the permanent Two Millennia of German Jewish History exhibition incite the visitor to consider the making and effect of memory, past, present, and future.

Thursday saw a return to the transatlantic theme with a visit to the Allied Museum. This museum focuses on the immediate post-World War II history of Germany and the reconstruction of the West. Particular attention was devoted to the Berlin Airlift of June, 1948 through September, 1949, and to a chapter in German-American history that is often overlooked, the coming together of couples in post-war Germany. The Allied Museum is not only a display of developmental and governmental changes in post-war Germany; it is also a showcasing of how ordinary people reacted to an extraordinary world.

That afternoon, the group visited the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at the Free University of Berlin (Freie Universität Berlin). One of Europe’s premier centers for North American Studies, the Institute is a pivotal transatlantic institution. There the students were given a lecture on the history of the Kennedy Institute and of Kennedy’s relationship with Berlin itself and taken on a tour of the facilities, including the library complex.

MAS Luncheon

On February 15, 2005 Jakob Köhlhofer, director of the German-American Institute (DAI) Heidelberg, invited MAS students and staffers to a luncheon at the DAI with two of the most distinguished scholars in the field of American Studies, Donald E. Pease and John Carlos Rowe. For the students the luncheon offered the opportunity to meet two authors they had read for their methodology class. They were able to discuss current trends in the development of the discipline as well as the field’s relevance in analyzing current cultural trends in U.S. politics.

Donald Pease, professor of English, Avalon Foundation Chair of the Humanities, and Chair of the Liberal Arts Studies Program at Dartmouth College, is the co-editor of The Futures of American Studies (Duke University Press 2002), already one of the most influential essay collections on the development of the discipline.

John Carlos Rowe, Associates’ Professor of the Humanities at the University of Southern California, is one of the contributors to the collection. He has also published a monograph The New American Studies in 2002 on the relevance of the field in the twenty-first century.

Other popular sights in the Berlin area were the Checkpoint Charlie Museum (Mauermuseum/Museum Haus am Checkpoint Charlie), which one student described as a monument to human ingenuity; the Museum Island, home to, among others, the Pergamon and the National Gallery (Alte Nationalgalerie); the Charlottenburg Palace; and Sans-Souci in nearby Potsdam. Overall, the excursion was a great success. In the midst of an international American Studies program, the Berlin excursion was a chance not only to deepen
Prof. Pease’s remarks were concerned with the notion of American exceptionalism, historically one of the central paradigms of American Studies, and its expression in politics and culture. Pease sees two phases of exceptionalism in American culture. During the first phase, beginning during World War II, American culture was characterized as the stable exception to Europe’s constant culture of strife. After the collapse of the Soviet Union and the emergence of the European Union, such an oppositional definition was no longer feasible or useful. The new exceptionalism is characterized by the U.S. government’s claim that the United States, as the sole remaining superpower, is above the rules and laws that govern the nations of the world. Both speakers believe that it is vital for American studies to provide a critical analysis of the United States and question its cultural assumptions.

During the final discussion the two speakers pointed out the exceptionalist and anti-modernist agenda of the neoconservatives in the current U.S. administration. Neoconservatives and religious fundamentalists are allied in arguing for the primacy of militant security in foreign and domestic policy. Dissent had been viewed as a positive concept only as long as U.S. policy was defined in conflict with an enemy that suppressed political dissent, such as the Soviet Union. Both speakers saw the European Union as a bastion for values of openness and tolerance which they believe are endangered in the United States.

Overall the participants of the luncheon enjoyed a stimulating and fruitful discussion that gave rise to the hope that the HCA and the DAI will be able to put together similar events in the future.

MAS Transatlantic Wine Tasting at the BASF

During the winter term 2004/05, one of, if not the social highlight was the generous invitation from BASF AG to an exquisite “transatlantic wine tasting” accompanied by an excellent dinner. BASF has generously supported the activities of the HCA since the center’s foundation in 2003. On January 31, 2005, a group of around 40 scholars – HCA staff, tutors, and MAS students – made their way to nearby Ludwigshafen to acquire an experience for the HCA. In the end, nobody went home hungry and everyone had acquired a taste for at least one of the offered wines.

The Gateway Arch (St. Louis, MO): Gateway to the West and perfect starting point for the Western Excursion.

Excursion to the U.S.A.

The HCA and the Curt Engelhorn Chair for American History at the University’s History Department cooperate frequently to organize an excursion to the United States. This cooperation offers students the opportunity to gain first hand knowledge of the U.S. Previous excursions, then organized exclusively by the Curt Engelhorn Chair, included “The Cities of Liberty”, visiting the sites of the American Revolution in 2000 and “The Mind of the South: Conflict, Commerce, and Construction Since 1861”, visiting the Deep South in 2002.

“How the West Was Won”: Heidelberg Student Trip to the American West, September 4 to 22, 2005

J. William Fulbright once remarked that the United States did not become a world power due to its actions in the field of foreign policy, but because it used the 19th century to develop the North American continent. In this sense, the successive waves of exploration, conquering, and settlement of the American West laid the foundation for the dominant role that the United States later was able to play in world politics. While the conquest of the areas west of the Mississippi was achieved at considerable cost, especially for the original inhabitants of these vast territories, expansion shaped American politics, culture, and society. Thus, the course of American history can hardly be explained without taking the impact of the West into account.

Exploring the historical as well as the present significance of the American West was the aim of this 18-day excursion, which was organized by Alexander Emmerich, Philipp Gassert, and Christiane Roesch of the HCA and which was made possible through generous grants from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Schurman Foundation, the University of Heidelberg Faculty of Philosophy, the University of Heidelberg International Office, and the Compagnie Franche. On September 4, fifteen Heidelberg students and six HCA staff members, including Founding Director Detlef Junker, embarked on the long journey across the American West from St. Louis to San Francisco.

All of the participants had prepared themselves for this trip by attending one of two seminars on Western history that had been taught at Heidelberg during the preceding semesters: How the West Was Won: The History of U.S. Continental
Expansion (winter semester 2004/05) and The West of the West: 19th Century California History (summer semester 2003).

St. Louis, the natural starting point for any exploration into the vast hinterland which the United States had acquired with the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, provided us with our first base. The site of the Museum of Western Expansion as well as the Gateway Arch, St. Louis also hosts the famous Court House, where what became known as the Dred Scott Case first was heard in local courts in 1847. Expertly lead by a National Park Service Ranger, we studied the role of the West in the aggravating of the sectional conflict that finally led to the American Civil War. On the following day, we hit the road, traveling in a brand-new and comfortable bus that became our second home during the following two weeks. Stopping in Independence, Missouri, the site of the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library, the students participated in a White House Decision Center role-play on the Berlin Crisis. Acting as advisers to President Truman, as members of Congress, and as journalists, they tried to understand some of the difficulties facing American decision-makers during the atomic ages of the Cold War. In Lincoln, Nebraska, we finally had arrived in the “true West.” During a visit to the Nebraska State Capitol we received a thorough introduction into past and present politics of a prairie state, where agricultural interests are still a dominant feature. Much of the day was devoted to a visit to the University of Nebraska, one of Heidelberg’s American partner universities. After a welcome reception hosted by Prof. Kenneth Winkle, Chair of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln History Department, the Heidelberg group sat down with a number of our Nebraska colleagues to discuss current trend in the historiography of the American West. Professors Alan Steinweis, a former Fulbright Visiting Professor to Heidelberg, and John Wunder had organized a workshop with graduate students and the History Department’s Western historians. Following presentations of the various research projects currently being conducted by Nebraska’s Western historians, we were drawn into a lively exchange on comparative and historical perspectives of “frontiers” and “borderlands” in recent historiography.

In the evening Philipp Gassert and Detlef Junker jointly presented the 2005 Carroll R. Pauley Memorial Lecture on “The American Century and Beyond: Two German Perspectives.” Given the recent ruptures in transatlantic relations, this lecture was followed by a vivid debate.

The following two days were devoted to the Oregon Trail and the history of the settlement of the American West. Traveling along the Platte River, with stops at Fort McPherson National Cemetery and Buffalo Bill’s home in North Platte, we visited a number of historically significant sites along the Oregon Trail: Chimney Rock, Scott’s Bluff, the Register Cliffs, and Fort Laramie National Historic Site, one of the military strongholds erected during the 1850s to help pacify the prairie and site of several notorious “Indian Treaties.” A late-morning hike up Scott’s Bluff in searing temperatures provided us with a first-hand experience not only of Western nature, but also of the harsh climate with which the original inhabitants of the American West and the 19th-century newcomers had to contend. This two-day trip through the high prairie came to an end in Lusk, WY, a railhead from which cattle were shipped East during the late 19th century.

Our visit to Ft. Laramie introduced the next theme of our trip, the “Indian Wars” on the northern Great Plains, which pitted the U.S. government, its Indian allies, and the dominant Indian nation on the northern prairies, mainly the Lakota (Sioux), against each other. The Black Hills of South Dakota, which the Lakota consider sacred ground, were of particular concern during these violent conflicts. After a first encounter with a (peaceful) buffalo herd in Wind Cave National Park, we visited two of the more controversial memorials in the Black Hills: the Crazy Horse Memorial and Mount Rushmore National Monument. The violent end of the conflict between the Lakota and the U.S. government stood at the center of Wounded Knee Museum, which we visited in Wall, South Dakota. We also encountered the present situation while traveling through the Badlands and the Pine Ridge Reservation. This exploration of the Indian Wars was concluded with a visit to the Little Bighorn Battlefield in Montana, site of “Custer’s Last Stand,” and the museum that has been erected there by the Crow Indians.

Through the wide open spaces of northern Wyoming and southern Montana we were led directly into Yellowstone National Park, where we spent two days exploring the natural history of the American West, as well as the history of public and private efforts to conserve some of the most famous natural wonders of the United States. Our two days of exploration into Western nature kicked off in grand fashion as we awoke to a herd of elk relaxing outside of our hotel and continued in grand fashion, with hikes and visits to geysers, waterfalls, and lakeshores.
Our detour through Yellowstone more than exceeded expectations, and some members of our group had a close encounter not only with two buffalo, but with a black bear. Heading south through Idaho, we further explored the history of travel and communication at the Golden Spike National Site at Promontory Point, Utah, where the first transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869.

The religious history of the American West provided the main focus of our next destination, Salt Lake City. There we visited Temple Square, where The Church of Jesus Christ and the Latter Day Saints (the Mormon Church) maintains its international headquarters. Salt Lake also served as the backdrop of a round of scholarly discussion with members of another of Heidelberg’s partner universities, the University of Utah at Salt Lake City. Here we were welcomed by Prof. Robert Goldberg and his students from the History Department. This second roundtable focused on issues particular to the 20th century American West, an image which in a way has become linked with conservative politicians. We again enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of our American hosts as well as a lively and productive discussion with graduate students and professors from the Utah History Department. In addition, we enjoyed meeting some German exchange students as well as University of Utah administrators at the University’s International Department.

The final leg of our trip led us across the Utah and Nevada desert, including an overnight stay in the gambling town of Winnemucca. We finally reached the shores of the Pacific after crossing the Sierra Nevada over Donner Pass. The Golden Gate Bridge greeted us wrapped in characteristic swaths of fog, which provided for an impressive backdrop for a final group picture. In San Francisco the history of Asian immigration, Napa Valley, and the U.S. penitentiary on Alcatraz Island completed our historical explorations and further added to the stunning variety of visited sites, each representing often conflicting views of the America’s past and present. We rounded out our program of scholarly visits with a meeting at the University of California at Berkely, where we were welcomed by Christina von Hodenberg, DAAD Visiting Professor for History. Since this was only two days after the German national elections, the discussion centered on current affairs as well as the continuing impact of the East-West divide on German political culture. After feasting on Indian cuisine on the last night of our journey, we bid the American West farewell. After 21 hours en route we finally returned to Germany, tired, but wiser, and with many eye-opening experiences behind us.
I feel privileged to join you today – to celebrate the success of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies – a fine new institution in a great old university. Not always an easy combination. All honor to those who have made it succeed.

Perhaps it is particularly appropriate that someone should be here from my own university, Johns Hopkins. It is sometimes called the first German university in America. Founded in 1876, it was our first research university on the German model – the first to offer the Ph.D. degree. My own school within Johns Hopkins – the Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Washington, D.C. – the first to offer the Ph.D. degree.

My own school within Johns Hopkins – the Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), together with its Bologna Center, has been laboring in transatlantic studies for over sixty years.

We are heartened and flattered to find such distinguished new company. My colleagues at SAIS join me in sending you our warmest greetings and congratulations.

One of the greatest advantages of “area studies” is that it more or less demands an interdisciplinary approach. If you want to make sense of what goes on in a country or a region, economics cannot be separated from politics, nor politics from history and philosophy, nor from sociology, literature, art or music. Music, for example: Can any account of the forming of a German nation state in the 19th century be complete without considering the ideas and influence of Richard Wagner? Would Italians have created a nation state without Verdi?

Obviously, no one can master all these dimensions, their linkages, and their distinctive disciplines. One does what one can. But it does help to start with an approach that is sensitive to the interconnectedness of things. A holistic approach is compelled to be more open to the richness and complexity of human affairs. It encourages a more active, less easily satisfied curiosity, perhaps also a greater humility.

Historically, this interdisciplinary approach to history, the very idea of a culture, has been a particular German specialty, associated with the flood-tide of German Romanticism and Philosophical Idealism – with its accompanying politics of liberal nationalism. These ideas form a tradition rich with insight and creativity. Leery as we are of the excesses of nationalism, we should not forget how wonderfully open and generous this early German nationalism was. Think of Herder.

His basic message to Germans was: Preserve and honor your own culture, the better to respect and enjoy the cultures of your neighbors. Herder saw “European” culture not as a beautifully manicured lawn but as richly diverse flower-garden, where every nation was its own plant, with its own distinctive flowers, and its own inalienable right to bloom. Herder was, we might say, the first Gaullist good European. He was himself a prodigious and loving student of other cultures – Hebrew, Slavic, Norse, Ancient Greek.

Romanticism, together with its omnivorous curiosity and sympathy, also brought with it a particularly dynamic form of political imagination – a magical capacity for transforming the present into the future, without losing the past. This capacity for creative continuity was a great gift to the moral and political imagination of the West. In our own world, constantly driven to rediscover and redefine itself, we urgently need to regain that Romantic imagination: So that we can continue becoming something new, as indeed we must, without ceasing to be what we have been before. So that we can not only understand, honor and adapt our own traditions, but enter with sympathy into those of our global neighbors, and thereby become more open and sensitive to a broader range of human feeling and experience.

This omnivorous, holistic approach, of course, is not very “academic.” Academic disciplines have a tendency to see less, in order to understand it better – to construct, a priori, a limited but coherent vision of reality, and exclude whatever doesn’t fit within it, to achieve rational clarity by using abstractions to censor reality. Of course, this narrowing of focus is essential to any academic discipline, but has many dangers and should always be challenged.

Otherwise imaginations imprison themselves in a house of abstractions, with windows and doors closed. Communication with other houses gradually diminishes. People grow deaf to each other. What they do not understand, they dislike. Worse, they grow afraid of each other. Something like that, unfortunately, is what has been happening to our transatlantic relationship. Today’s transatlantic difficulties are not merely an unusually heavy load of particular conflicts and grievances. They reflect something more fundamental: basic differences in the way we look at the world. To start with my side of the Atlantic:

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the American political imagination has been bemused by a “unipolar” vision of world order – a global system of interrelated states with one clearly dominant “superpower.” America’s power is seen as radically superior to that of any other country,
This vision of unipolar power comes in two dimensions, economic and military. The economic was the work of the Clinton administration. The mid-1990’s saw an unprecedented boom, built on high consumption, low saving, heavy investment in new technologies, and fueled by huge inflows of foreign capital. For the first time since World War II, America’s productivity growth began regularly outpacing that of Europe and Japan. Unemployment was at near-record lows and inflation scarcely visible. When Clinton left office in 2000, the federal budget was pointed toward a large surplus. So much success naturally served to reinforce America’s self-image as the avatar of liberal globalization. True, the U.S. continued to run a large, and growing, external or current account deficit. America’s economy was continuing to absorb – consume and invest – substantially more than it produced. That external deficit had to be financed by an equivalent inflow of foreign capital. In the 1990’s, that seemed not to be a problem. Private foreign investors, attracted above all by the technology boom, regularly flooded the U.S. with more than enough capital to cover the external deficit. Rather than worry about their deficit, Americans could congratulate themselves on the attractiveness of their huge and fast-expanding economy. And although the debts kept growing rapidly, the GDP grew still faster.

This unipolar economic vision has had, all along, its military twin – the U.S. as the only global superpower. Developing this side of the unipolar vision has been the specialty of the Bush administration. The invasion of Iraq, however brilliantly executed at the outset, seems in the end to have replaced a rogue state that was being successfully contained with a failed state that requires an indefinite and bloody occupation. Failed states, societies in chaos, obsessed with their grievances, are natural breeding grounds for global terrorism, to which we feel ourselves highly vulnerable.

Of course, we argue that terrorism is an illegitimate form of military power. We should not be surprised if the argument carries little weight with the terrorists themselves. Terrorism is the asymmetric populist weapon, the natural recourse of the weak and dispossessed of this world. Against terrorism our large and spectacularly expensive military establishment is of limited use. It is trained and equipped to attack other military establishments that cooperate by meeting us head-on. But our enemies do not always cooperate. They refuse to fight the wars for which we are so lavishly prepared and they are not. Instead they turn to terrorism — the form of warfare that suits their weakness and mocks our strength.

The U.S. is also vulnerable at the other end of the military spectrum — the realm of strategic nuclear weapons. These, like terrorism, produce highly asymmetrical results. As with terrorism, a perverse military logic works against the U.S. The more America’s overwhelming military power threatens smaller countries with forcible regime change, the more they seek asymmetric weapons to deter us. As they can no longer fight, toe to toe, against our conventional military power, their options are terrorism on the one hand and nuclear weapons or weapons of mass destruction on the other.

Meanwhile, it is no secret that many of our military leaders feel the U.S. to be already dangerously overstretched. The greater our military victories, it almost seems, the weaker we have grown. In Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. has defeated two undoubtedly evil regimes. But, by itself, the U.S. lacks the military power, as well as the political and moral authority, to bring either victory to a tolerable conclusion. To do so will require the military, political and economic assistance of many countries. To enlist those resources requires legitimacy from a genuine consensus in the international community. Under such circumstances, a militarized foreign policy, scorning allies and global institutions, is not very promising.

Well, if the evolution of military power belies a Pax Americana, what about the evolution of economic power? Is the world economy “unipolar?” Recent events and long-term trends suggest otherwise. In 2001, the feverish stock market bubbled and collapsed. The administration and the Congress reacted with substantial tax cuts and, after the atrocities of 9/11, with security spending approaching a Cold War scale. Big fiscal deficits returned, while the big external deficits continued growing. Private foreign investment, however, fell sharply and the dollar with it. Today, the principal financiers of America’s big external deficit are Japan and China. [Figures] In effect, their central banks finance their own national exports to America. Japan, rich and stagnant, has done this for decades and may well continue. But sooner or later, China, still a very poor country, with a huge internal market of its own to develop, seems likely to find a more satisfactory use of its savings than subsidizing America’s consumption. Without its big Chinese subsidy, the dollar would fall and presumably America’s foreign consumption would falter. This might help to revive manufacturing in America, but also implies a painful drop in living standards. Certainly, the assumption of unlimited resources, implicit in the vision of the unipolar superpower, would be more difficult to sustain. A major breakdown in the world’s financial system could very well follow.

Longer term trends in the world economy also seem in disharmony with the unipolar vision. Respectable projections see the Chinese GDP overtaking the American in a few decades. Nothing, of course, guarantees China’s continuing rapid growth. As has happened so often over the past two centuries, war and revolution may come to rob this gifted people of the fruits of their labor and talent. But if China does collapse, the rest of the world is unlikely to escape unscathed. China could, however, continue growing rapidly for a long time. There is still a huge reserve of Chinese labor to draw on, plus an enormous gap between Chinese and Western wages. China, moreover, has a phenomenal savings rate — some estimate roughly 60% of GDP. China is also becoming a major technological and scientific power in its own right.
China’s continuing success will undoubtedly shake things up in the world. Not only will its GDP eventually overtake that of the U.S., and the EU and perhaps go well beyond either, but its competitive prowess also gravely threatens Western living standards. So what? The postwar Western living standards. So what? The postwar luxury and Western interests. But the competitive adjustments made everyone better off in the end. Why should China’s rise, or India’s for that matter, have different effects? 

The answer is that both introduce an unprecedented problem of scale. The earlier rising Asian economies — South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore or Malaysia — had populations of middle-sized or small European states. Even Japan’s population is smaller than that of France and Germany combined. As competition drove Japanese and Western wages toward a common average, the pressure on Japanese wages to go up was much greater than on Western wages to go down. Bringing the huge populations of China and India into the global workforce will have a different impact. The new global average for wages will have a long way to fall from current Western standards.

Naturally, Western workforces will fight to insulate themselves to preserve their living standards and their welfare systems. Under the circumstances, wide-scale protectionism seems a likely political imperative. A world evolving in this way implies not a closely integrated and U.S. dominated world economy but one more segmented and politically regulated. National economies relatively compatible with one another will perhaps group into large blocs, perhaps each around a dominant or common currency, or a relatively stable monetary union. Ideally, these blocs will remain reasonably open to each other. But the occasions for severe conflict — both within countries and among them — will be very great. In short, today’s unfolding trends do not necessarily promise either abundance or peace. Instead, they point to a harsh confrontation between Asian growth and Western prosperity. Compared to these global adjustments coming upon us in this new century, the problems of the last century — absorbing a rising Germany and America — seem comparatively trivial.

Well, what is the upshot of all this analysis? The answer seems simple. Neither economically nor militarily is the world unipolar, nor is it moving in that direction. It is therefore difficult not to regard the whole American unipolar perspective on the future as a serious historic misperception, leading to dangerously dysfunctional policies. If catastrophe is to be avoided in this new century, as the global system grows more plural, and inherently more conflictual, the world’s great powers, rising and declining, must learn to conciliate each others’ reasonable dreams, and develop machinery to anticipate problems before they grow unmanageable. The most promising model is unlikely to be unipolar America’s hegemonic fantasy. But if we are lucky, perhaps it will be something like the currently unfashionable dreams of the European Union.

This brings me to Europe’s vision of the post-Soviet global system. Many Europeans would deny having anything so grandiose as a global vision. Unlike many Americans, who dream of a world that is American, Europeans dream only of Maastricht and Copenhagen — a “Europe that is European.” But this is hardly a trivial ambition.

With their EU, European states have been creating a new political formula — a Union of nation states. It is not a federation, or even a federation in the making, but rather an association of free states, increasing their real sovereign power by cooperating. Together, they achieve national aims that they could never hope to achieve alone. Europe’s Union is a great advance over traditional state systems. It is a community that enables rather than diminishes national sovereignty. It enriches national identity by adding a regional identity. In each of its members, it supplies a kind of institutionalized super-ego to discipline national power, to transform interstate relations from a zero-sum game to one of mutual gain. At the same time, it provides the machinery for elaborating, achieving and protecting national interests in a world of neighbors. In short, the Union becomes a vital element in the constitution of each of its members. It embodies a political technology of great promise, not only in Europe but elsewhere across the globe.

The benefits are great as well for the United States. America’s hyperactive power abroad threatens its own constitutional balance at home. So much military power and financial wealth, combined with an enthusiastically imperial mindset among America’s political elites, threatens to overwhelm the country’s old-fashioned system of national checks and balances. Surely, that is one of the most compelling lessons of the Iraq war. A global super power, it seems, requires a global dimension to its constitution. The more powerful the U.S. becomes, the more a friendly but strong Europe becomes essential not only to limit, refine and reinforce American power in the world, but also to contain it at home. A strong cohesive European Union, with a mind of its own, would itself go a long way toward ending American daydreams of a unipolar world.

In short, Europe and the U.S. have become part of each others’ constitutional balance. The U.S. needs a strong Europe — to preserve its own sanity. Europe, to be sure, also needs the U.S. There would never have been a European confederacy without strong American support. The U.S. was
Europe's silent partner, a guarantor against Europe's Bad Old Times returning. If Europe and America are to regain their interest and regard for each other, that vital Cold War relationship now urgently needs redefining.

If we fail, as we failed in the Iraq war, we shall end up defeating each other. Instead of a united and balanced West, there will be an overextended and hysterical America and a fragmented and embittered Europe. Given the enormous problems of global adjustment that lie ahead, the West needs to stop failing — to rise to its own great creative political traditions, to put its own house in order. Only thus can we meet the demands of the rest of the world with imagination and generosity.

It is critical, of course, that Europe's model be saved in Europe itself. Enlarged Europe now faces a fundamental existential crisis. Failure is no longer unthinkable. On the one hand, the challenge is organizational: how to embrace so many diverse countries without losing coherence and direction. On the other hand, the challenge is social and economic: how to preserve the welfare state in a global economy with China and India. Each challenge is also a dilemma. The promise of enlargement has proved the most effective way to stabilize former communist countries, and in most cases to help them stop failing — to rise to its own great creative political traditions, to put its own house in order. Only thus can we meet the demands of the rest of the world with imagination and generosity.

Reforming Europe's welfare state poses a similar dilemma. Continental Europe's communitarian state may be a great advance over the more primitive capitalism so vaunted these days in Britain and America. But Europe's civilized economic model now has to compete within radically more competitive global markets. It needs to reconcile its humane social values with greater economic efficiency. And it will have to use political power to protect its prosperity and its social values, but without destroying its competitive vitality, or its democracy. Here, having the EU should greatly strengthen Europe's hand.

Protection within an internally liberal but large and diverse bloc risks serious collateral damage to competitiveness as protection on a national scale. Arguably, a new vocation for protectionism may prove the key to restoring the EU to popular favor. So far, more liberalization has been the primary direction of at least the EU's declaratory policy. But while the “Lisbon Goals” are, no doubt, a necessary and worthy effort to upgrade European labor, as we have seen in the French and Dutch referenda, an EU linked to further liberalization seems not to be a winning proposition politically. Nor, taken alone, does such a policy seem likely to be a practical economic success. Continental Europe's productivity is already very high. In other words, protectionism seems an inevitable component of any successful European adaptation to the new globalization.

Can a protectionist EU reconcile its needs with those of China? After all, China, too, has a right to grow and blossom. China is itself a huge and rapidly expanding market, with particular opportunities for Western industries. Europe cannot afford to lose those opportunities, to cut itself off from the most dynamic parts of the world economy.

Finding a balance through these conflicting aims and values poses a great intellectual and practical challenge. Europe and America will both need to rejuvenate their creative imaginations, to draw on their deeper reserves of philosophy and history. That is why Europe's rich postwar experience in supranational institution building is so important for the world, as well as for itself.

You, the graduates of the Class of 2005 and the candidates of the Class of 2006, of course, are the heirs of that experience. It is yours — to use well, or use badly. It begins to look as if your generation is fated to live in one of those historic moments that will either be a great success or a terrible failure. For better or worse, Americans know they cannot hide from shaping history. Europeans must know this too. To play its own proper role, Europe must grow into a more balanced and rounded power, with the collective means — military as well as economic — to make its weight felt more effectively. As Europe grows more assertive and effective, more confident of what its own rich experience has to offer the world, Europe and America should begin to regain their old intimacy. Our imaginations will once more be able to speak freely to each other — to enrich and strengthen one another.

Meanwhile, we can hope that our great educational institutions, like yours and mine, have helped to prepare your generation, on both sides of the Atlantic, for the great trials ahead. We can hope that your visions of the future are balanced and humane — and that they do justice to the best of our own past.

The Commencement Speaker

David P. Calleo is Dean Acheson Professor and Director of the European Studies Program at Johns Hopkins University’s Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Washington, D.C.

David Calleo earned his Ph.D. in political science from Yale University in 1959 and has taught at Brown, Yale, and Columbia Universities. David Calleo was a visiting fellow in Bonn and Munich as well as in Geneva, Oxford, and Paris. He is a member of various academic organizations and has served as consultant to the U.S. Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs under President Lyndon B. Johnson. Calleo has published numerous articles and books on Germany, European affairs, and transatlantic relations. In 2004, David Calleo was George H. W. Bush Fellow at the American Academy in Berlin.

A Center for Advanced Research

As a center for advanced research, the HCA provides and intellectual and organizational setting for international and interdisciplinary research projects as well as for individual research.

Building on the foundation of established programs at the University of Heidelberg, the HCA is on its way towards establishing a scholarship and transatlantic exchange program. Future plans include offering equipped office space as well as financial support for visiting scholars.

The HCA hosts and organizes international conferences, symposia, workshops, and seminars.

The HCA Spring Academy

The Conference
The HCA Spring Academy aims to establish a European network of young and aspiring researchers. Each year the HCA invites international Ph.D. students from diverse academic backgrounds within American Studies to Heidelberg to present their dissertation projects in the field of American Studies. The conference is complemented by lectures, workshops, and an excursion. The HCA invites international scholars to share their expertise with the participants of the Spring Academy.

The HCA Spring Academy 2005 – American History, Culture, and Politics was held from February 28 to March 4, 2005, and brought together 20 Ph.D. students from ten countries, representing eight academic disciplines. During the five-day conference the participants discussed their dissertation projects and received feedback on form and content. Supervised by international Chairs from Germany, the Netherlands, and the United States these interdisciplinary discourses provided inspiring new perspectives on the respective research projects. Additionally, the Spring Academy offered participants the opportunity to work closely with distinguished experts in the field of American Studies. Four guest speakers from Germany and the U.S. were invited for lectures and workshops.

The Venue
The HCA Spring Academy took place at the Internationales Wissenschaftsforum Heidelberg (IWH). Located in the old city center of Heidelberg, this beautiful villa offered ideal conditions for the conference, with comfortable accommodations and well-equipped assembly rooms.

Support By John Deere
In 1837, John Deere founded the company that would come to bear his name. Incorporated as Deere & Company in 1868, it has grown from a one-man blacksmith shop into a worldwide corporation. In 1956, the company purchased a majority share of the Lanz tractor factory in Mannheim, taking its first steps toward becoming a multinational corporation. Today John Deere does business in more than 160 countries and employs 46,000 people worldwide. John Deere is the world’s leading producer of farm equipment and is a major producer of construction and forestry equipment and lawn care products, as well as a provider of financial solutions and healthcare services. John Deere generously supported the HCA Spring Academy 2005.

"Another Happy Accident": The HCA Spring Academy 2005
This year’s HCA Spring Academy took place from February 28 to March 4, 2005. At this early date, Heidelberg was not exactly on the cusp to spring, but in the middle of a beautiful winter. When the participants arrived on Sunday, February 27, Heidelberg glistened in sunshine under a five-inch cover of snow.

The 20 participants, coming from all over Europe (France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Norway, Poland, Romania, and Spain) and the U.S. had probably expected the weather to be different, but by the end of the day they could start to feel the “Spring Spirit” of the event, when the group and the HCA staff met for a first informal meeting at a pub in the old city center of Heidelberg. Curious to meet the people about whom they had read in the Spring Academy’s participant’s handbook, the participants soon made acquaintances. Lively discussions on cultural differences and common grounds started while enjoying traditional German food and beer.

The next morning started with an opening session at the IWH, the venue of the Spring Academy, where the participants were welcomed by HCA Managing Director Dr. Philipp Gassert. At the following reception at the Bel Etage of the Old University of Heidelberg, the participants were welcomed by Prof. Angelos Chaniotis, Vice Presi-
dent for International Relations of the University of Heidelberg, and by HCA Founding Director Prof. Detlef Junker. Prof. Junker’s remarks focused on the HCA’s desire to build upon the success of the Spring Academy and turn early successes into a tradition of excellence. Prof. Junker further predicted that by the end of the week the participants would be both wiser academically and happier. He also thanked John Deere for its generous support of the HCA Spring Academy.

Each day four Ph.D. students presented their dissertation projects. The presentations were grouped into thematically linked panels with two speakers each. After the twenty-minute presentations the floor was open for discussion for 40 minutes.

Monday’s panels dealt with questions of “Identity and Ethnology” and “Pop-Culture.” They were chaired by Dr. Heike Raphael-Hernandez, Professor of English at the University of Maryland in Europe, Heidelberg. Dr. Raphael-Hernandez is an expert on African and Latino Minorities and has published widely on multi-ethnic literatures in the U.S.

The first of the Ph.D. students to give her presentation was Ewa Kopyczynska from Krakow, Poland, where she studied Administration and Sociology at the Jagiellonian University. Her doctoral research is focused on the status of American cultural anthropology. The focus of her interest is the concept of social anthropology created by one of the most famous American anthropologists, Franz Boas. Since Boas studied in Heidelberg, Ewa Kopyczynska was very happy to present her research in this very location. In her speech she focused on Boas’ reflections on emotional prejudices, the ‘scientific’ concept of race, and the moral relationships between majority and minority cultures. In the next presentation Ewa Antoszek, from Lublin, Poland, followed up on the issue of ethnicity and ethnic coexistence in the U.S. Antoszek studied English Literature at Maria Curie-Sklodowska University and received her Diploma in American Studies at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts. Her Ph.D. project is an analysis of the various influences on the process of creating the identity of a Mexican-American woman. After a lively discussion which was cut off by the time limit Ewa Antoszek asked her chair Heike Raphael-Hernandez, a specialist in this field of research, to meet afterwards so she could follow up on the new theoretical proposals that came up in the discussion. This showed not only that the concept of having experts from specific fields of research chairing the respective panels improved the feedback for the participants, but also that the idea of establishing a network of young researchers and renowned scholars was aided by providing an intimate and congenial setting, enabling the participants as well as the contributors to exchange ideas and opinions. Their type of exchange would remain a constant throughout the week.

After the lunch break Raluca Rogoveanu opened the panel on “pop culture.” Rogoveanu studied English Literature and Linguistics at the University of Bucharest, Romania, where she is now a Ph.D. candidate. At the Spring Academy she presented the chapter of her dissertation entitled “Fascination and Utopia in the 1950s: The construction of the Beat and Hippie Ritual.” She analyzed the solidarity and cohesion of the Beat group in the various stages of its formation and development by identifying the cultural markers that separated this group from other social circles. She defined Beat culture as a counterculture that displayed a rebellious resistance against socially adopted norms and practices.

Continuing with pop culture, Sonia Baelo Allue turned to the 1980s and 90s in her analysis of the work of Bret Easton Ellis. Allue, from Saragossa, Spain, studied English and American Studies. Her dissertation project attempts to locate Ellis in the debates concerning popular, consumer, and high culture, as well as to evaluate the role of his work in contemporary American literature. After a lively discussion about high- and low-culture literature, Allue confessed that while she personally dislikes “American Psycho,” it is still an exemplary work.

By the end of the day the participants already had the feeling that they had known each other for much longer than 24 hours. Despite a long and intense schedule, the tireless participants went on to celebrate one of their colleagues’ birthday.

On Tuesday the four presentations were grouped in panels about “National and International Law” and the “New Right in the U.S.” The discussions were chaired by Dr. Manfred Berg, Curt Engelhorn Chair of American History at the University of Heidelberg, who is an expert in U.S. history and law.

Vasiliki Christou opened the first panel talking about U.S. national law and hate speech. Christou received her LL.M. at the University of Athens, Greece, and is now a Ph.D. student at the University of Heidelberg. She presented her dissertation project on hate speech, which she argued reflects the conflict between the various groups that exist in a multicultural society. Taking as her example how American legislation deals with cross burning, she combined cultural issues with legal analysis and provided fascinating insights into U.S. jurisdiction.

In the following presentation, Sibylle Scheipers, a Ph.D. student of Political Science in Berlin and currently a Marie Curie Fellow at the European Institute at Birmingham University, UK, spoke on international law. Under the title “Sovereignty and Human Rights: Reconstructing an (Il)legal Contradiction,” she gave an overview of the institutionalization of the International Criminal Court and the role of the U.S. therewith.

After a short break Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung, from the English Department of the University of Heidelberg, opened her workshop on American Studies by questioning whether American Studies is singular or plural, asking “What is or are American Studies?” Fischer-Hornung took up many of the issues that had been raised during the day. The participants engaged in the discussion each argued from a different disciplinary background what the defining characteristics of American Studies were. The discussion reached its peak of philosophical reflection when Fischer-Hornung stated that “American Studies is already Utopia.” By the end no consensus could be reached on whether American Studies represents a singular approach or a plurality of approaches.

After a short break, Alf Tønnesen presented the first draft of his Ph.D. project entitled “Paving the Way for Reagan: A Comparison of Paul Weyrich’s...”
and Richard Viguerie’s Contribution to Ronald Reagan’s capture of the White House.” Tønnesen studied English at the University of Oslo, and has recently begun work on his Ph.D. in American Political Science. Being in the early stages of his project, he asked his fellow participants for advice on how to proceed. The committed participation of the students resulted in a constructive reorganization of the research design. Tønnesen was anxious to write down all of the new information he received and was grateful for the constructive criticism.

Claire Greslé-Favier also talked about the New Right, focusing on a special issue of New Right policy. Greslé-Favier, from France, received her M.A. at the University of Oregon, and currently is teaching at the University of Dortmund. Her speech covered “The Temptation of Abstinence.” With Britney Spears as an introductory example, the audience was all ears. The discussion, which centered on the true lack of abstinence on the part of Britney Spears and Benjamin Franklin, was entertaining and informative. At the end of this fourth panel, Dr. Manfred Berg thanked all contributors, speakers as well as the audience, for this lively morning session.

The afternoon schedule was rearranged due to the fact that Ronald Steel, Professor of International Relations at the University of Southern California, cancelled for health reasons. He was scheduled to give a workshop on “Liberalism, Imperialism and the Wilsonian Agenda.” Instead, the participants could now enjoy a beautiful sunny winter day with a tour of the Heidelberg Castle guided by Elena Matveeva and Alexander Emmerich, both members of the HCA staff.

Wednesday’s presentations were grouped in panels on “Images of the United States” and “Dealing with History,” both of which were chaired by Dr. Philipp Gassert, Managing Director of the HCA and Associate Professor of History at the University of Heidelberg, an expert in the fields of U.S. and German history.

Rósa Magnúsdóttir provided an “Image of the United States” from the perspective of the Soviet Union. Magnúsdóttir, from Iceland, received her M.A. in Russian Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she now is at work on her dissertation. She gave a fascinating talk about “The People of the United States: How They Live, Work and Play: Diffusion and Receptions of American Official Propaganda in the USSR from 1945 to 1959.” She received a lot of feedback from the students from Eastern Europe, who shared their experiences of how they perceived the U.S. when the USSR still existed. One student remembered that her parents used to listen to the “Voice of America,” but would send her to bed every time to make sure that she could not tell anyone.

Another outside perspective on the U.S. was explored by Judith Michel, who studied American Studies, Political Science, and History at the University of Hamburg, where she is now working on her dissertation. Her presentation focused on the Willy Brandt’s relationship with the United States. Michel seeks to reconstruct Brandt’s perception of the U.S. and analyze how this perception influenced his decisions in certain transatlantic events. This presentation, building on previous, facilitated consideration of the meaning of “perception” in history.

After a short break Michael Butter, who has studied American Studies and History and is now a Ph.D. student at the University of Bonn, was the first speaker of the panel “Dealing with History.” “Dealing with the Devil: Hitler in American Fiction 1939-2003” looks at a genre that Butter calls “Hitler fiction,” contributing to discussions on the Americanization of the Holocaust and the role of the auto- and heterostereotypes within American culture and to the ongoing debate on cultural memory. Proving that the network was already functioning at this early stage, Butter received very helpful advice on where to find important primary sources, such as the very rare Disney movie “Donald in Nazi-Germany.”

Jan Surmann presented another aspect of “Dealing with History.” Surmann has studied History, Politics, and Philosophy at the University of Hamburg, where he now is working on his dissertation. In his research on “Holocaust-Remembrance and Restitution: The U.S. History Policy at the End of the 20th Century,” he investigates the emergence of a new approach to history in the U.S. and the practical changes it brought about in dealing with the material consequences of the Holocaust.

To loosen the tight schedule, and to give some extra benefits to the participants, an excursion was planned on Wednesday afternoon. The trip’s destination was the European Central Bank (ECB) in Frankfurt (Main). The group was welcomed by Mr. Janno Toots of the Press and Information Division in the main conference room of the ECB in the center of the financial district of Frankfurt. Mr. Toots gave a presentation on “Tasks and Functions of the ECB”. After being introduced to the work of the ECB, the following discussion focused on the relation between the euro and dollar zones.

The visit to the ECB allowed for sightseeing in Frankfurt. Returning to Heidelberg, the group went to a pub to meet the chair of the next day’s panels, Dr. Giles Scott-Smith from the Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg, the Netherlands, whose research generally focuses on transatlantic relations during the Cold War period. During dinner the topics of the next day were already hotly debated, and everyone was excited about the next day’s presentations.

Thursday morning’s panels dealt with the “Cold War” and “Transatlantic Relations.” The first to start on the Cold War was Ulrike Wunderle, who studied Contemporary History, Politics, and History of Art at the University of Tübingen, were she is at work on her dissertation as part of the research project “Society and War: War Experience in Modern History.” Her presentation dealt with the reaction of nuclear physicists to the political problems brought about by the combination of the Cold War and the Atomic Age. She investigated how their perceptions, interpretations, and actions in the political sphere were influenced by their scientific backgrounds. The lively discussion following included insights from an American participant whose grandfather worked on the Manhattan Project.

Daniel Mori

Daniel Mori, who has studied History at the University of Florence, continued with the Cold War, presenting his dissertation on “Visions of Détente: American Ideology and Balance of Power Politics.” A vivid debate centered on the
term “Cold War” itself: does it cover a single time period from 1945-1989, or were there in fact different phases of cold war in a “cold war system.” Continuing the debate from the night before, the discussion period barely sufficed.

After a short break, the panel on transatlantic relations started with the presentation from Christian Decoster, who is a Ph.D. student in History at the University of Bonn. His topic was “Konrad Adenauer and John F. Kennedy – Differences and similarities in their actions and their convictions on appropriate policy courses in the Cold War era.

An analysis of more recent developments in transatlantic relations was presented by Katarzyna Furmanek, who graduated in International Relations at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, where she is now a Ph.D. student. Her talk focused on “Security Relations in the Transatlantic Arena in the 21st Century.” Her dissertation will cover transatlantic relations and related security issues during President George W. Bush’s first term and possible changes after his reelection. The vivid discussion afterwards showed the participants’ interest in these issues but also addressed difficulties particular to research on contemporary politics.

Comparing the actions of Adenauer and Kennedy, as well as their perception of the Cuba-Berlin linkage, he demonstrated the differences and similarities in their actions and their convictions on appropriate policy courses in the Cold War era.

After the lunch break, Prof. Dietmar Schloss from the English Department of the University of Heidelberg, led a workshop on “American Intellectuals and American Intellectual Cultures from the Colonial Period to the Present.” He introduced the Spring Academy participants to a new interdisciplinary research project entitled “Intellectuals and Intellectual Cultures: Transatlantic Perspectives.” The project is to be part of a larger research program on „Varieties of Democratic Order,“ which will be directed by the HCA. Prof. Schloss’ talk provided an overview of the changing perceptions of intellectuals and their role in American society. The following discussion was fruitful both for Prof. Schloss and for the participants.

Friday’s two panels dealt with Gender and Ethnicity. Both were chaired by Dr. Marion Breunig, Lecturer at the History Department of the University of Heidelberg, whose work focuses on Security Relations in the Transatlantic Perspectives. The project is to be part of a larger research program on “Varieties of Democratic Order,” which will be directed by the HCA. Prof. Schloss’ talk provided an overview of the changing perceptions of intellectuals and their role in American society. The following discussion was fruitful both for Prof. Schloss and for the participants.

The last presentation by Mischa Honeck, a Ph.D. student in History at the University of Heidelberg, was entitled “In Pursuit of ‘Freedom’: African-, Anglo-, and German-American Alliances in the Abolition Movement, 1854-1863.” This project looks at specific cases of interaction and cultural exchange that occurred between these ethnic groups under the cover of abolitionism. The audience was very impressed by his examination of how slaves in certain parts of the U.S. shaped the time they spent “off duty” and what leisure activities they pursued provided many new insights.

The following presentation by Birte Horn concerned “Superwoman in Contemporary American Culture: Popular Feminism in Movies and Television Shows.” Horn received her M.A. in History, Social History, and English at the University of Bielefeld, where she now is writing her dissertation. In the early stages of her research, she appreciated advice on theoretical approach, methodology and the choice of case studies.

After a short break the final panel began with Hunt Boulware from Columbia, South Carolina, who is now a Ph.D. student in History at the University of Cambridge. His fascinating talk on “Blacks and the Urban Tavern Culture of Charleston and Savannah Prior to the Revolution.” was particularly intriguing, given the importance of slavery in U.S. history. Boulware’s description of how slaves in certain parts of the U.S. shaped the time they spent “off duty” and what leisure activities they pursued provided many new insights.
In the afternoon the workshop on Gender issues took place. It was held by Kriste Lindenmeyer, Professor of History at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, currently Senior Fulbright Scholar at the University of Halle-Wittenberg. Having participated in the previous panels, Prof. Lindenmeyer frequently referred to the topics that were discussed that morning, urging the participants not to neglect gender issues in their research. Gender perspectives should not be treated as separate and distinct, as they are an essential part of understanding the history of the U.S. “Getting rid of the boxes” was the essential message of the final workshop.

On Saturday morning, tired but wiser and happier, students returned to their homes and destinations spread all over Europe with the promise of definitely having a follow-up Spring Academy, maybe in Norway, maybe in Italy. In a way spring was already there, despite the wintery temperature. The success of this year’s conference shows that the Spring Academy is one step closer to becoming truly a tradition of excellence.

The concluding discussion was chaired by Prof. Junker, and summed up the Spring Academy 2005. All of the participants were asked to evaluate the past week. The participants stated that their expectations had been far exceeded. The discussions greatly benefited their scholarly work, the Spring Academy fulfilled its networking purpose on academic and personal levels, and the week in Heidelberg was a great experience for all of them. In the evening the participants of the HCA Spring Academy 2005 and the HCA staff went to a farewell party at a bar in the old city center of Heidelberg, enjoying dinner and having a good time.

The HCA hopes to build upon this success with the Spring Academy 2006, to be held from April 3 to April 7. Guest lectures and workshops will be given by Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung and Prof. Robert Jewett of the University of Heidelberg; by Dr. Julia Foulkes, who teaches history at the New School University in New York City; and by Stephen Szabo, Professor of European Studies at Johns Hopkins University’s Paul H. Nitze School for Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C.

From the viewpoint of Diplomatic History, Philip Matthes (Bonn) illustrated the moderate success of GDR “lobbying” in the US in the context of the GDR’s campaign for recognition in the 1960s. Matthes outlined GDR attempts to improve her image by fostering social contacts between artists; students; German-Americans; and members of the civil rights, peace, and feminist movements in a pre-diplomatic sphere. However, this lobbying, though more widespread than previously thought, never achieved any significant impact on Washington’s decision making.

Heiner Stahl (Potsdam) and Edward Larkey (Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore) led the consideration of cultural elements of US-GDR relations. Stahl demonstrated how radio added to the transmission of pop culture into the GDR in response to a strong demand. US easy listening music was not merely consumed but creatively adapted in the “GDR folk song movement” (Singbewegung). Since this US import was not so much an intended US initiative but a volituous GDR reception, Stahl introduced the term “self-Americanization.” Larkey analyzed "DT 64," a station for young listeners, and examined the applications from GDR teenagers to become “teen editor” for this Berlin station. Successful applicants were invited to edit a one-hour program and introduce their choices on air. Larkey’s analysis allowed a deeper insight into official “Westernization”. The official GDR allowed the “West” on air to fight tendencies of disintegration among the GDR youth. A close reading of the applications and the respective accepting or declining letters from the station gives a vivid example of the extent to which the editors’ and the applicants’ understanding of music was “Americanized.”

Outlook: HCA Spring Academy 2006

Generating a lively and profitable cross-disciplinary dialogue, the HCA Spring Academy has established itself as one of the highlights in the HCA’s academic calendar. Leading up to its third year, the Spring Academy already is succeeding in its principal aim of establishing an international network of Ph.D. students in the field of American Studies.
Holger Stunz (Mainz) and Jens Niederhut (Köln) followed the culture track and tackled important questions of interaction and networks between the US and the GDR. Stunz followed the discussions in American music magazines to show how much reporters and readers perceived from the GDR music scene. The more the GDR emphasized her own way in music, the more the US audience lost interest in the second Germany. The new working-class-oriented approach to cultural policies dissociated the US fans of German music from the GDR. Niederhut carefully laid out the network of GDR-US academic exchange in the early 1970s. On the one hand, the GDR needed her scientists as cultural ambassadors in the West, while on the other she was terrified by the temptations the GDR scientists faced on their westward travels. Niederhut used travel reports to exemplify the scientists’ multilayered intake of the USA that they encountered. Condemnations of scientific competition according to GDR party lines are found in the files as often as are praises of the open working atmosphere overseas.

Film as an ideological battleground was laid out by Rosemary Stott (London) and Peter U. Weiss (Potsdam). Stott walked the participants through the history of the GDR import and selection of American movies in the 1960s and 1970s. Though stagnating at about 10 percent of general GDR film imports, the movies – especially those of the “Hollywood Renaissance” with Jane Fonda and Jack Nicholson – provided an important window to the West and provided a deeper understanding of the acceptability of the USA by GDR officials. Weiss analyzed the successful GDR spy thriller “For Eyes Only” and associated it to the American development of this genre, which was both the inspiration and the enemy of the GDR spy movies.

Christian Mariotte (Paris) and Carsten Dippel (Potsdam) focused on intellectual and religious interaction between the US and the GDR. Mariotte identified the image of America among Jewish authors in the GDR based on their personal experiences in the USA. 1920s scepticism of America, personal perspectives, and Marxist interpretations were blended in the work of Günter Kunert, Irene Runge and Barbara Honigmann. Mariotte took the interpretation one step further and convincingly presented the interrelatedness between the new awareness of Jewish identity among GDR Jews and the experience of the Jewish identity in the USA. Dippel spoke on the cases of religious interaction among protestant churches in the US and the GDR. He referred to indirect interaction, such as influences of Gospel music in the services, and direct interactions via reciprocal visits of church members, book, and instrument donations by US congregations and visits to the GDR of church leaders such as Billy Graham in 1983.

The concluding lecture by Young-Son Hong broadened the view of GDR-US relations from a global and post-colonial perspective. Her “Cold War Battle for the Third World, 1950-1970” showed how US information policy confronted GDR propaganda in developing countries. Anticomunist and Free World arguments on the US side were challenged by the GDR sing song of US exploitation, American imperialism, and political discrimination. Hong demanded a new transnational perspective on post-WWII German history.

Philipp Gassert (HCA), Rainer Schnoor (Potsdam), and Dorothee Wierling (Hamburg) contributed as eyewitnesses and specialists in the discussions and provided stimulating, thought-provoking questions to further the intense working atmosphere.

The publication of the conferences’ proceedings will include contributions from Konrad Jarausch, Stefan Meining, and Anna-Cristina Giovannopoulos in addition to the participants of the workshop. The collection of essays with the working title “Enemy Mine - The Difficult Relationship Between the US and the GDR, 1949/89” has been submitted to the “Stiftung Aufarbeitung” as part of an application for a support grant to publish the volume in 2006.

### IFK Protest

**Interdisciplinary Research Forum on Protest Movements, Activism and Social Dissent**

In 2003 the Interdisciplinary Research Forum on Protest Movements, Activism and Social Dissent was founded by HCA Research Fellow Martin Klimke, M.A., together with Joachim Scharloth of the University of Zurich. The “Interdisziplinäres Forschungskolloquium Protestbewegungen” (IFK Protest) explores the protest movements of the 1960s that continue to capture our imagination. The decade is commonly remembered as an era of global change, culturally as well as politically. In numerous countries, images of protest, gender-related conflict, counter-cultural indulgence, sexual liberation, and government repression define the public perception of those years. However, as archives gradually open, the decade and especially its protest movements increasingly become the focus of historical research. In particular, a new generation of scholars born during or after the Sixties is pressing to overcome the stalemate between alternate recollections of former activists and their adversaries. This shift can be seen not only in the field of Historiography, but also in such disciplines as Political Science, Sociology, Literature, and Linguistics, which point to a plethora of previously neglected aspects of that decade. The IFK Protest was founded to provide a forum for these innovative approaches.

The first IFK Protest conference was held at the University of Heidelberg on July 9 and 10, 2004, entitled „Gelebt, ernannt und erforscht? – 1968 auf dem Weg vom kommunikativen zum kulturellen Gedächtnis."

In 2005, IFK Protest hosted its second conference entitled “Maos Rote Garden ? 1968 zwischen kulturevolutionärem Anspruch und subsversiver Praxis: Kultur- und Mediengeschichtliche Aspekte der Studentenbewegung” on February 4 and 5 at the German Department of the University of Zurich.

The conference focused on changing perceptions of the 1960s, which no longer are seen simply as a time of political upheaval, but also as a period of fundamental cultural change in various parts of society. Alternative modes of behavior and fashion, new forms of living, the destandardization of society. Alternative modes of behavior and fashion, new forms of living, the destandardization of society. Alternative modes of behavior and fashion, new forms of living, the destandardization of society. Alternative modes of behavior and fashion, new forms of living, the destandardization of society. The main theme of the conference was the reconstruction of these new cultural codes and an analysis of their utilization in political protest. Through a close examination of these symbolic structures, their origins, and their diffusion mechanisms, new and hitherto neglected...
perspectives of the student movements of the 1960s were discussed. On the one hand, the focus was on how public discourses and direct or subversive action were instrumentalized to critique traditional cultural codes and brought about new symbolical structures. On the other hand, the role of the media in transmitting these new cultural codes was assessed, in particular how it contributed to the staging of protest and helped to spread the cultural changes initiated by the student movement to a wide audience. The criticism of the media’s role in the public sphere, the set up of independent media institutions and channels, as well as the positioning of the APO activists between established and alternative public spheres also was explored in detail.

A further goal of the conference, in cooperation with the Swiss Social Archive Zurich, was to bring the rarely historicized student movement in Zurich specifically and Switzerland generally, with its local and national disparities to the attention of a scholarly audience. In accordance with the concentration on cultural phenomena, this conference assembled a broad variety of young scholars with different disciplinary backgrounds. The concluding conference “Between the ‘Prague Spring’ and the ‘French May’: Transnational Exchange and National Recontextualization of Protest Cultures in 1960/70s Europe” will be held from August 25 to 27, 2006, at the HCA.

Outlook: “Varieties of Democratic Order: An Interdisciplinary Research Project”

The Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) recently initiated a long-term research project concerned with “Varieties of Democratic Order.” The notion of “varieties” acknowledges differences in the understanding of democracy across time and space. With this in mind, this project will scrutinize and critically evaluate the ways in which democracy accommodates different scholars with different disciplinary backgrounds. The concluding conference “Between the ‘Prague Spring’ and the ‘French May’: Transnational Exchange and National Recontextualization of Protest Cultures in 1960/70s Europe” will be held from August 25 to 27, 2006, at the HCA.

The endeavor will be flanked by three international and interdisciplinary conferences jointly organized by the HCA and the German-American Institute Heidelberg (DAI), and generously sponsored by Manfred Lautenschläger, Chairman of the Board of the MLP Group. The conferences, scheduled for 2006-2008, aim to establish an international and polycultural forum for a comprehensive debate about the challenges facing democracies in the 21st century.

The first conference will take place October 5-8, 2006, under the heading “State and Market in a Globalized World: Transatlantic Perspectives.” State and market compete and at the same time cooperate with each other both within national borders and in the world of international trade. In what realms do state and market best complement each other? In what fields is their rivalry most acute? Which duties and responsibilities should be reserved to democratically controlled governments? Which spheres should be opened up to market forces? Above all, what effects will decisions on these questions have on the shape, form, and future of democratic governance and notions of public sovereignty, self-government, and participation?

In order to set down the leading ideas of this first conference, the HCA held a workshop, hosted by MLP in Heidelberg, in July, 2005. Heidelberg scholars representing six different academic disciplines participated in this brainstorming session. The differing conceptions of the relationship of state and market in Europe and in the United States was identified as the main object of investigation for the conference, including the consequences these conceptions produce for the nature and range of suggested solutions to the challenges of globalization. At the same time, the conference will pay attention to the interest these solutions have aroused in Asia, Latin America, and other parts of the world.

The conference will encompass five systematic sections. The first section, titled “Markets in a Globalized World: Self-Regulation or State-Regulation?” will address issues of liberalization policies, such as privatization and market deregulation, as well as efforts to reconcile national legislation and regulation with global trends and the repercussions of these efforts for democratic governance. The second section refers to economic growth and production and will outline the causes and consequences of differences in the European and the American models. The third section concentrates on religion, cultural identity, and pluralism and primarily will discuss the impact that different relationships between state and church have on the character of democratic order. This section also will address the increasing importance of religious organizations as market actors. The fourth section will discuss the seemingly ever-increasing risks facing modern welfare states, including problems of social security and of environmental protection. The fifth section will take a closer look at educational systems in modern democracies and at the ways in which they predetermine the recruitment of elites.

Outlook: Symposium “The Russo-Japanese War”

From December 1 to December 3, 2005, the HCA co-hosted a three-day multidisciplinary symposium on “The Russo-Japanese War (1904/05) – Dawn of a New Age?” This symposium was co-organized by the Curt Engelhorn Chair for American History, the Institute for Japanese Studies, the Institute of Chinese Studies, the Department of Eastern European History, and the South Asia Institute of the University of Heidelberg. The Russo-Japanese War ended with the Portsmouth Treaty, brokered by U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt. Hosting the peace negotiations and mediating in his role as U.S. President, Theodore Roosevelt brought the diplomatic weight of the United States to bear on this critical issue. For his efforts, he was later awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Guest Speakers included HCA Managing Director Dr. Philipp Gassert and Prof. Manfred Berg, Curt Engelhorn Chair for American History. The Geschwister Supp Foundation generously committed to funding the symposium.
William Funk
(Fulbright Visiting Professor)

“My Year in Heidelberg”

It was a distinct privilege and pleasure to be able to participate in the HCA’s first year of the MAS program.

In the Winter Semester I taught the Law course: Introduction to American Constitutional Law. I generally used a lecture method augmented by PowerPoint slides, but on a number of occasions I probed the class with questions to stimulate the students’ thoughts on the subject. In the United States, of course, it is standard practice to have exams for the Winter Semester course. Nevertheless, they all went smoothly, and the students almost without exception were well prepared and did well.

In the Summer Semester I co-taught a seminar on Law and Religion together with Professor Robert Jewett. Although the enrollment was small, there were also a few auditors who fully participated in the class. The method of instruction was to have the students read a Supreme Court (or other court) case involving religion and to assign one student to argue one side of the case and another student to argue the other side of the case, with Professor Jewett acting as an amicus curiae representing a particular religions’ perspective on the issue. Then, the remaining students would act like the Supreme Court and decide the case. Students were evaluated on the basis of the quality of the presentations they made before the “Court.” The students were active and involved participants.

As a Fulbright Scholar, I perceived my “job” to be more than just teaching one or two courses. Fulbright encourages its scholars to participate in the “community” both to expose others to Americans and American perspectives but also to learn from the community in which the Scholar finds himself. I tried to maximize my opportunities in this area. This included making two presentations to the MAS’s interdisciplinary colloquium, one on American environmental law and one on Same Sex Marriage in the U.S., making a presentation on Same Sex Marriage in the U.S. at the Max Planck Institute, attending bi-weekly seminars at the Max Planck Institute, and sitting in on a number of the MAS’s interdisciplinary seminars and one Speaking and Writing Skills seminar, as well as attending most, if not all, of the social gatherings of the students and staff.

I found the HCA staff uniformly friendly and helpful. They graciously welcomed me into their community and made me and my wife feel at home. I would certainly recommend the experience to other Fulbright Scholars without reservation. And I would love to do it again.

Ayanna Yonemura
(Fulbright Visiting Scholar)

In August and September 2005, Prof. Ayanna Yonemura, Ph.D., visited Heidelberg as a Research Fellow at the HCA. Yonemura, then Assistant Professor for Urban Studies at the Sociology Department of Loyola Marymount University (LMU) in Los Angeles, first became acquainted with the HCA when she gave a talk in the HCA’s “Typisch Amerikanisch” lecture series in January 2005.

Yonemura has published two books and various articles on the history of Japanese Americans and on ethnic minorities in urban spaces. Her newest book, Japanese Americans: A Racialized Planning Project, is to be published in 2006.

In 2002, Prof. Yonemura taught as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Asmara, Eritrea. From 2002 to 2004 she taught Urban Studies and Asian American Studies at California State University, Northridge. In 2005 she came to Germany, again as a Fulbright Scholar, to teach at the University of Frankfurt am Main. Continuing her Fulbright Scholarship, she spent six weeks in Heidelberg conducting research for her current project “Human Rights, Migrants and Terrorism: A Comparative Urban Perspective on September 11, 2001.” Focusing on immigrant and human rights in the United States in the post 9/11 era, Yonemura made use of the outstanding resources of the library of Heidelberg’s Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law.
“1968” in Germany, which will be published in May 2006. In May 2005, he also co-organized an international symposium sponsored by the VW Foundation entitled “The ‘Other’ Alliance: Political Protest, Intercultural Relations and Collective Identities in West Germany and the United States, 1958-77,” the results of which also will be published in a forthcoming volume.

Enlarging his approach to include a more comprehensive transatlantic perspective, Klimke is currently preparing a third young scholar’s forum, “Between the ‘Prague Spring’ and the ‘French May’: Transnational Exchange and National Re-contextualization of Protest Cultures in 1960/70s Europe,” which will take place in Heidelberg in August 2006. The conference will serve as the starting point for a larger Marie Curie Conference and Training Series supported by the European Union on “European Protest Movements since the Cold War: The Rise of a (Trans-)national Civil Society and the Transformation of the Public Sphere,” to be held in cooperation with the Universities of Halle-Wittenberg and Zurich, which Klimke will coordinate in May 2006. His forthcoming publications include “Black Panther, die RAF und die Rolle der Black Panther-Solidaritätskomitees,” in Wolfgang Kraushaar, ed., Die RAF und die Reformzeit der Demokratie.

Outlook on HCA Research Fellows 2005/06

Richard Lehne
(Fulbright Visiting Professor)

Richard Lehne is a Professor of Political Science at Rutgers-The State University of New Jersey and a member of its Graduate Faculty. His professional activities are now concentrated in the area of Business-Government relations, and the Second Edition of his book, Government and Business: American Political Economy in Comparative Perspective has just been released (CQ Press, 2006). Previously, his professional activities addressed issues of state politics and public law.

Lehne has been a guest professor at the universities in Frankfurt, Göttingen, and Leipzig, and he has worked in various capacities and projects in the state government of New Jersey. His doctorate in Political Science is from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. His appointment at Ruprecht-Karls-Universität, Heidelberg, extends through July 15, 2006.

Cesar N. Caviedes
(Visiting Humboldt Fellow)

Cesar Caviedes, Professor of Geography at the University of Florida, is a visiting Humboldt Fellow at the HCA for the academic year 2005/06. He has written widely on Latin America, geopolitics, geography, and El Nino, and is a member of the editorial boards of various journals and periodicals in the U.S., Europe, and Latin America.

Caviedes’ work in Heidelberg will focus on the social geography of North America, comparing and differentiating between the geographic, ethnic, and socio-economic situations in the United States and Canada. Caviedes has received awards from the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung, the Canada Council for the Humanities, and the National Science Foundation. In 1996, he was awarded the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers “Distinguished Latin Americanist Career Award.”
The following list gives an overview of the wide variety of research undertaken by the HCA’s faculty, staff, Directors, and fellows

**Selected Publications**

**Alexander Emmerich:**


**William Funk:**


**Philipp Gassert:**


**Robert Jewett:**


**Detlef Junker:**


**Wilfried Mausbach:**


Christian Rösch:


Dieter Schulz:


Ole Wangerin:

A Forum for Public Debate

As a forum for public debate, the HCA facilitates communication among academia and the general public as well as between the business community, the political sphere, and the media.

The forum serves to present issues of contemporary research in the field of American Studies to the public through activities such as the lecture series “Typisch Amerikanisch” (Typically American), individual lectures on the United States, and high-profile keynote addresses on U.S. and transatlantic affairs.

Strongly believing that mutual respect and consideration can only be achieved through open-minded but critical debate, the HCA seeks to establish a venue for dialogue and discussion about the United States, thus enhancing the understanding of the United States in Germany.

Lecture Series “Typisch Amerikanisch”

The aim of the “Typisch Amerikanisch” (“Typically American”) lecture series is to provide the audience with a multidisciplinary perspective on issues dealing with American culture and society, past and present. The HCA wants to provide the general public with the information necessary to engage in a fruitful debate about contemporary U.S. affairs and transatlantic relations. Issues concerning cultural, political, judicial, and economic developments in the U.S. therefore often are presented in comparison to those in Germany and Europe.

Each annual series is organized around a central theme, offering lectures from different disciplines and areas of expertise, exploring and illuminating the main topic from various angles.

The lecture series “Typisch Amerikanisch” has been hosted by the HCA every winter term since 2002/03. The first series introduced the Heidelberg audience to the activities of the HCA and consisted of ten lectures, one of each department that contributed to the HCA founding initiative.

The second “Typisch Amerikanisch” series in 2003/04 dealt with “Power – Mission – Morals,” focusing on American foreign policy. The series included lectures on the United States’ role in global politics from the point of view of the disciplines of American literature, history, international law, media studies, political science, and religious studies. Many lectures were held by professors from outside of Heidelberg, giving the audience the added benefit of presentations from different perspectives.

The first lecture was given by Prof. Dr. Berndt Ostendorf, Director of the America Institute of the University of Munich and Chair for American Cultural History from 1981 to 2004. Ostendorf has taught at the University of Massachusetts, the University of New Orleans, Harvard University, and Venice International University, and has published widely on many aspects of American cultural history, including his work as editor and co-editor on Multikulturelle Gesellschaft. Modell America? (1994), Transnational America. The Facing of Borders in the Western Hemisphere (2002), and Iconographies of Power. The Politics and Poetics of Visual Representation (2003).

On November 4, 2004, he opened the series with his talk on “What makes U.S. Popular Culture so Popular? Immigration, Multiculture, and National Identity.” In his lecture, Prof. Ostendorf described how an American popular culture evolved in the U.S., mirroring the antagonistic acculturation of the different immigrant groups. Within the framework of founding myths and professions of faith (the rule of law, “the beloved moral community,” liberalism in civil rights and the economy, and the tradition of populism and the “common man”), Americans continuously had to choose between further fragmentation and integration of their respective cultural heritages, leading to a typical American culture and a national identity that was able to include all of them. This culture is characterized by the principles of seriality and exchangeability of its parts and can be adopted according to the changing demand. Therefore, Ostendorf concluded, the success of American popular culture can not be explained by the common reproach of “cultural imperialism.” Rather, its inherent diversity on the one hand and its promise of the individual pursuit of happiness on the other led to Huckleberry Finn, Jazz music, Sylvester Stallone, and the reversed baseball cap becoming global icons.

The second lecture was held on November 18, 2004, by Prof. Hiroshi Motomura, J.D. Motomura is Dan K. Moore Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was Lloyd Cutler Fellow at the American Academy in Berlin in 2004. He has taught at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; the Hokkaido University in Japan; and the University of Colorado. Motomura is a co-author of the widely used law school casebook Immigration and Citizenship: Process and Policy (5th ed. 2003) and of many influential articles and essays on immigration law and citizenship.

“Typisch Amerikanisch” 2004/05:
Nation and Multiculturalism in the United States

In the winter term of 2004/05 the lecture series “Typisch Amerikanisch” focused on “Nation and Multiculturalism in the United States,” exploring one of the key features of U.S. cultural history. The trend of bringing outside expertise to Heidelberg for the series continued, and this year’s “Typisch Amerikanisch” included two guest speakers from the United States.
In his lecture “Immigration Country U.S.A.? U.S. Immigration Law from Independence to 9/11,” Motomura explored the significant judicial distinction between immigrants and citizens and the subsequent issues of justice for both without equal rights. He identified three different interpretations of immigration and citizenship in the history of U.S. immigration law.

The oldest of these, and no longer applied since the first half of the 20th century, is Immigration as Transition, in which immigrants appear as “intending citizens.” Legal immigrants are treated as future citizens and, after having signed a note of intent, gain access to civil rights, such as the right to vote, even before attaining citizenship. The second interpretation Motomura called Immigration as Contract. Immigrants appear as “citizens on probation,” whose claims to citizenship are forfeit as soon as they break a silent, unspoken agreement to play by the rules of the host country. Even minor transgressions of the law can induce the loss of equal rights and future citizenship. Third, Motomura identified Immigration as Integration, which determines the right to citizenship and equal rights by the depths of social, cultural, and economic ties and commitment.

In his conclusion, Motomura pleaded for a renaissance of Immigration as Transition, so that the U.S., a nation of immigrants, would once again become an immigration country. How this can be achieved is described in his newest book Ame... (mis-)using immigration law as a means in the fight against terror since 9/11.

On December 16, 2004, Prof. Dr. Hans Dieter Laux gave the third lecture of the series on “Looking for the American Dream: Social Advancement, Ethnic Identity, and Spatial Segregation of Immigrants in Los Angeles.” Prof. Laux teaches Geography at the University of Bonn, where he is also an associate of the North America Program (NAP). His main area of expertise is urban social geography, especially in regard to ethnic minorities. Laux, a frequent visitor to the U.S., has conducted many field studies in California. Laux is, among others, co-editor of “German Geographical Research on North America: A Bibliography With Comments and Annotations” (1992) and Ethnicity: Geographic Perspectives on Ethnic Change in Modern Cities” (1996), and has published numerous articles on migration and immigration in California.

In his lecture Laux gave a survey of the varying levels of integration of different groups of Asian immigrants in Los Angeles. Giving examples from his own research in Los Angeles, Laux showed numerous city maps indicating level of income, education, employment, and living conditions. Superimposing these with maps showing the demographic breakdown of Los Angeles, i.e., which ethnic minority lived in which area of the city, Laux was able to demonstrate fundamental differences between Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Vietnamese, and other groups. While one group would live in highly segregated communities, others would be spread throughout the city area. Although in most cases these highly segregated areas showed lower standards of living, in some cases, these communities signified higher income or education levels. Laux’s lecture made it clear that the question of “salad bowl or melting pot?” concerning the integration of ethnic minorities into mainstream U.S. society has to be met individually in each case and remains difficult to assess. The discussion after the lecture turned to issues such as the fracture between Korean store- and business-owners and African-American residents in traditionally African-American neighborhoods in southern Los Angeles and the L.A. Riots of 1992.

The fourth lecture was given by Prof. Dr. Hans-Jürgen Puhle on January 13, 2005. Puhle teaches Political Science at the University of Frankfurt and is Executive Director of Frankfurt University’s North-America Center, Zentrum für Nordamerikaforschung (ZENAF). One of the most renowned political scientists in Germany, Puhle has taught at the Universities of Münster and Bielefeld, as well as at the Universidad de Chile in Santiago; at Cornell and Stanford; at the University of Tel Aviv, Israel; at FLACSO in Buenos Aires, Argentina; and at the Instituto Juan March in Madrid, Spain. He also was a research fellow at Harvard and Oxford. Prof. Puhle is a widely known author of several books and articles in his field and among others is the co-editor of the journals Iberoamerica, Ethnic Identity, and Spatial Segregation of Immigrants in Los Angeles.

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In his lecture “Identifications, Demarcations, and Convergences: America and Europe in the 20th Century,” Puhle addressed the differing integration mechanisms and expressions of multiculturalism and national identity on both sides of the Atlantic. Exploring the Americanization of Europe and the Europeanization of America, Puhle concluded there was a clear limit to the convergence of political, economical, and cultural conditions in Europe and the U.S. This is due mainly to different development patterns, a central issue being that the United States is a nation of immigrants. Recurring waves of immigration and westward expansion led to a continuous mobility as well as to tendencies of fragmentation and atomization of society. These were compensated for by including the immigrants into the process of nation building by: 1) providing work and thus integrating them into the society of ownership and consumption; 2) establishing common institutions, such as representative organs, participatory structures, and equal rights in citizenship; and 3) creating consensual ideologies that were open and obligatory for the newcomers, e.g. the norms of the civil religion, the American dream, or the melting pot. In contrast to Europe, this remains a “typically American” feature of society and has to be considered when assessing the convergence of both regions.

On January 7, 2005, Prof. Ayanna Yonemura, Ph.D., then Assistant Professor for Urban Studies at the Sociology Department of Loyola Marymount University (LMU) in Los Angeles, gave the fifth lecture of the series. The HCA highly appreciated the cooperation with LMU, whose funding allowed for Prof. Yonemura’s travel from the U.S. to Heidelberg.

Prof. Yonemura taught Urban Studies and Asian American Studies at California State University, Northridge. In 2002 she taught as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Asmara, Eritrea. In 2005 she came to Germany, again as a Fulbright Scholar, to teach at the University of Frankfurt and to conduct research in Heidelberg at the...
The concluding lecture of the series was delivered by PD Dr. habil. Helmut Schmahl on February 10, 2005. Helmut Schmahl teaches modern history at the University of Mainz and has taught as Visiting Professor at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He has published articles on German immigration to the U.S. and is co-editor of "Menschen zwischen zwei Welten: Auswanderung, Ansiedlung, Akkulturation" (2002).

In his comprehensive lecture "We are Not Strangers in this Land: German Immigrants in the U.S. from Independence to World War One," Schmahl examined the history of the more than six million German immigrants that came to the U.S. since the late 17th century.

He described the religious, economic, and political push- and pull-factors that drove the immigrants from Germany and attracted them to the U.S. Early German immigrants settled on the East Coast, mainly in Pennsylvania. Later they would also find new homes in the Midwest, especially in the "German Triangle" among Milwaukee, WI; Lincoln, NE; and St. Louis, MO. While early immigrants kept to themselves, living in segregated "Germantowns," this changed with the American Civil War, when identification with their new home country increased. Still, the immigrants conserved their cultural heritage, founding German clubs, German newspapers, and German schools. After the foundation of the German Empire in 1871, ever fewer German immigrants came to the U.S. The lack of influence of not-yet-acculturated Germans led to a decline of German culture in the U.S. This Americanization was accelerated after the U.S. entered World War I against Germany in 1917, as German immigrants came under pressure to acculturate and as everything German was deemed hostile.

Outlook on "Typisch Amerikanisch" 2005/06

The HCA’s lecture series "Typisch Amerikanisch" resumed during the winter term 2005/06. This year’s theme is "The U.S. and the Global Economy." The HCA once again presents high-profile guest speakers to the Heidelberg audience.

The first lecture, given by Prof. Dr. Hannah Buxbaum of the Indiana University School of Law at Bloomington, was on "Regulating Economic Markets: The U.S. as Global Policeman?"

Second, Prof. Dr. Rolf J. Langhammer, Vice-President of the renowned Kiel Institute for World Economics, gave a lecture on "The Transatlantic Free Trade Area (TAFTA): Dead Horse or Attractive Club?"

The third lecture will be given by Norbert Quinkert, Executive Vice President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany and Chairman of the Motorola GmbH, Germany, on "Doing Business in Germany: American Businessmen and the German Market"

The fifth lecture will be given by Richard Lehne, Professor for Political Science at Rutgers University, New Jersey, and Fulbright Visiting Professor at the HCA in 2005/06, on "Trends and Opportunities in U.S. Economic Policy."

Finally, the HCA is especially proud to welcome Prof. Dr. Norbert Walter, Chief Economist of the Deutsche Bank Group, to wrap up the coming series and hold a lecture on "U.S.A.: Eternal Engine of the Global Economy?"
Guest Lectures

"Roger Williams and Liberty of Conscience"

On May 4, 2005, Prof. Edward J. Eberle, J.D., Professor of Law at the Roger Williams University, Rhode Island, gave a lecture at the Faculty of Law in Heidelberg. His talk on “Roger Williams and Liberty of Conscience” was co-organized by the German-American Layers’ Association (DAJV) and the HCA.

Prof. Edward J. Eberle, J.D.

Prof. Eberle taught at the New England School of Law, Boston, as well as at Oklahoma City University, at Konstanz, Münster, and the Universidade Católica Portuguesa in Lisbon. He was a Visiting Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg in 2001. Eberle has published widely on Constitutional Law, particularly First Amendment issues, e.g. Dignity and Liberty: Constitutional Visions in Germany and the United States (2002).

In his lecture, Eberle discussed the life of Roger Williams and the development of his thought with regard to religious freedom, especially in establishing the inviolability of conscience. Williams, born in London in 1603, emigrated to America in 1631. Williams’ 1643 work Key into the Languages of America made him the authority on American Indians, while his 1644 work, The Bloody Tenet of Persecution for the Cause of Conscience, ultimately resulted in his expulsion from Massachusetts and his founding of the Rhode Island colony. The two principal lines of Williams’ thought centered on toleration and the separation of church and state. For Williams, the only proper response to conscience was toleration, and church and state needed to be separated to the betterment of both. Eberle traced the resonance of these two thoughts to the religious freedoms contained in the First Amendment and contemporary Establishment Clause cases.

"Catholic Life in the U.S.A.: The Dilemma of American Catholicism"

On May 31, 2005, the HCA welcomed Prof. Gerald P. Fogarty, S.J., a leading expert on American Catholicism, to Heidelberg. Fogarty, an ordained priest and William R. Kennan, Jr., Professor of Religious Studies and History at the University of Virginia, gave a lecture on “Catholic Life in the U.S.A.: The Dilemma of American Catholicism.”

He has taught at Fordham University, Woodstock College, Catholic University of America, and Boston College. A member of numerous academic organizations, Fogarty has published numerous books and articles on Catholicism in the U.S., such as Nova et Vera: The Theology of Tradition in American Catholicism (1987) and Commonwealth Catholicism: A History of the Catholic Church in Virginia (2001).

In his lecture on “the dilemma of American Catholicism,” Fogarty raised two questions. First, can a truly catholic church exist in an environment that is religiously pluralistic and gives it no special privilege? Second, can a religious body be truly American if its members owe their religious allegiance to the Bishop of Rome? In a tour de force, Fogarty explored the history of the Catholic Church in America from the 17th century to the present, leading from the religious liberty afforded Catholics in the early Maryland colony to the pragmatic separation of church and state to the recent disreputable sex-abuse crisis that attracted inglorious attention even in Europe.

This lecture was organized in cooperation with the Atlantische Akademie Rheinland-Pfalz e.V. in Kaiserslautern.

"Paths of Coherence in Emerson’s Philosophy: The Case of ‘Nominalist’ and ‘Realist’"

Prof. Russell Goodman of the University of New Mexico gave a guest lecture in Heidelberg on October 24, 2005. His lecture, “Paths of Coherence in Emerson’s Philosophy: The Case of ‘Nominalist and ‘Realist’,” was co-hosted by the English Department and the HCA.

Emerson criticizes “foolish consistency” in “Self-Reliance,” but his writings nevertheless set out a coherent and consistent view of things. This coherent vision is achieved through an epistemology of moods, however, which offers no stable resting point for evaluating life or the world. In “Nominalist and Realist,” Emerson dramatizes the radical disjunctions between the “realist” and “nominalist” positions, maintaining that reality is an “Old Two Face” and that “the only way we can be just, is by giving ourselves the lie.”

Russell Goodman grew up in New York City and studied philosophy at the University of Pennsylvania, Oxford, and Johns Hopkins University. He currently is Professor of Philosophy at the University of New Mexico. Professor Goodman works primarily on American philosophy and on the relation between the American traditions of...
pragmatism and transcendentalism and currents of European thought. He is the author of several articles and book chapters on Emerson, William James, Ludwig Wittgenstein, and Stanley Cavell, and two books with Cambridge University Press, American Philosophy and the Romantic Tradition (1990) and Wittgenstein and William James (2002). Goodman also has published six anthologies: five volumes on pragmatism with Rutledge; and Contending with Stanley Cavell, published by Oxford University Press in 2005. Prof. Goodman has directed a summer seminar and a summer institute on Emerson for the National Endowment for the Humanities and was a Fulbright Senior Lecturer in American literature at the University of Barcelona.

"This is My World Now: Henry David Thoreau by Moonlight"

On June 20, 2005, Prof. David M. Robinson gave a guest lecture entitled “This is My World Now: Henry David Thoreau by Moonlight.” The lecture was held at the English Department and was co-organized by the HCA and the Department of English.

David M. Robinson is Oregon Professor of English and Distinguished Professor of American Literature in the Department of English at Oregon State University. He has held Fellowships from the American Council for Learned Societies and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and has been Fulbright Guest Professor at the University of Heidelberg. A leading authority on 19th century intellectual history, he has published several books on American Transcendentalism and Universalism, including Emerson and the Conduct of Life (Cambridge University Press, 1993) and Natural Life: Thoreau’s Worldly Transcendentalism (Cornell University Press, 2004).

Next to Walden and Resistance to Civil Government, Thoreau’s Journal has come to be recognized as his most significant contribution to the emergence of a modern ecological sensibility which attempts to bridge the gap between the sciences and the humanities. In his lecture, Professor Robinson examined the journal entries in which Thoreau recorded his impressions during frequent his walks at night, at dusk, and at dawn. Thoreau used these walks to test his daytime perception against the quite different illumination of the moon or the setting or dawning sun, finding a quite different, and quite compelling, landscape. These experiments in perception and imagination were undertaken when Thoreau was devoting himself more completely to his Journal and orienting himself more decidedly toward more precise scientific observations of the natural world.

MAS Commencement 2005

In 2003/04, the single most important event was the inauguration of the HCA and its M.A. in American Studies (MAS) program. This year, in 2004/05, the highlight of the year clearly was the graduation ceremony for the first class of the MAS, the MAS Commencement 2005.

On October 26, 2005, the HCA celebrated the achievements of the 15 graduates of the Class of 2005 and simultaneously welcomed the 17 students of the Class of 2006. An audience of 200 invited guests, including some graduates’ parents who had traveled to Heidelberg from as far away as Hong Kong, enjoyed the ceremony, which was held in the prestigious and solemn Great Hall of the Old University.

Opening Addresses were spoken by Prof. Dr. Peter Hommelhoff, Rector of the University of Heidelberg; Peter W. Bodde, U.S. Consul General in Frankfurt (Main); Hans-Jochen Schmidt, Head of the Division of Non-European Countries, Directorate General for Cultural Relations and Education Policy of the German Federal Foreign Office, Berlin; Dr. Rudolf Kühner, President of the Presidio Karlsruhe; Prof. Dr. Stefan Weinfurter, Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy; and by Prof. Dr. Detlef Junker, HCA Founding Director. The keynote address was given by Prof. David Calleo, Dean Acheson Professor and Director of European Studies Program at Johns Hopkins University’s Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Washington, D.C.

In his address, Rector Hommelhoff emphasized the long-standing tradition of close ties between the University of Heidelberg and the United States, calling particular attention to the engagement of Jacob Gould Schurman, U.S. Ambassador to Germany from 1925 to 1930, to whom the University of Heidelberg owes a special debt of gratitude. It was Schurman who initiated a fundraising campaign in the U.S. in 1928 that finally led to the construction of the “New University” in Heidelberg. To this day, this building remains the focal location for lectures and seminars in the humanities, law, and social sciences.

Hommelhoff called the HCA “a real success,” honoring the MAS program as “setting an example in its interdisciplinary approach as well as in the internationality of its students.” Hinting at the university’s Heidelberg House, to be established at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in 2006, Hommelhoff committed the University to “keep building Heidelberg bridges across the Atlantic that can be traversed in both directions.”

The HCA was especially honored to welcome U.S. Consul General Bodde at the commencement ceremony. Addressing the “community of values and of purpose” that is shared by the United States and Europe, Consul General Bodde expressed his confidence in the strength of the partnership between the U.S. and Europe. He stressed the fact that the MAS, by bringing students from around the world to Heidelberg to study the history, politics, and culture of the United States, helps to maintain and expand the long-standing tradition of close ties between the University of Heidelberg and the United States.
States, enhances the transatlantic relationship by deepening mutual understanding. “We have to understand each other to face the challenges of today’s world.”

This view was echoed by Hans-Jochen Schmidt of the German Federal Foreign Office, who declared that “the HCA is a fantastic forum and platform for transatlantic dialogue.” For many decades, Schmidt said, Heidelberg has been the humus of German-American relations. As he pointed out, the HCA does not simply foster transatlantic relations. By bringing together students from all over the globe to spend one year together, the HCA also helps global understanding between many different cultures. Schmidt also thanked the commitment of the private and institutional donors that supported the establishment of the HCA.

As the representative of the government of the State of Baden-Württemberg, Dr. Rudolf Kühner congratulated the graduates of the Class of 2005 on behalf of Günter Ottinger, Minister-President of the State of Baden-Württemberg. He stressed the importance of research and science in the politics of Baden-Württemberg, which spends more on its universities than does any other German state government. Along with the long history of academic excellence at Germany’s oldest university, the HCA now offers a “pioneering concept in its international and interdisciplinary approach,” said Kühner. With regard to the close political, cultural, and economic ties between Baden-Württemberg and the U.S., Dr. Kühner saw the HCA further strengthening this partnership, “a partnership marked by mutual understanding.”

Prof. Stefan Weinfurter reminded the audience that the HCA, although a central academic institution of the University, is in fact “the child of the Faculty of Philosophy,” where the concept of its formation was first developed. Still, Weinfurter said, the success of the HCA is due to the commitment of the six different Faculties that came together and pooled their resources. Only together can they secure the institute’s prosperity. As the Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy, Weinfurter took pride in the achievement of the Class of 2005, hoping they will become “ambassadors of the University of Heidelberg all around the world.”

After welcoming the Class of 2006 to Heidelberg, Prof. Junker welcomed keynote speaker Prof. David Calleo. Calleo earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from Yale University and has taught at Brown, Yale, and Columbia Universities. He was a visiting fellow in Bonn and Munich as well as in Geneva, Oxford, and Paris. Calleo is a member of various academic organizations and has served as consultant to the U.S. Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs during the Lyndon B. Johnson administration. Calleo has published numerous articles and books on Germany, European affairs, and transatlantic relations. In the fall of 2004, Prof. Calleo was George H. W. Bush Fellow at the American Academy in Berlin.

Prof. Calleo congratulated the graduates of the Class of 2005 and the HCA for its success, dubbing the Center “a fine new institution in a great old university.” In his lecture “Unipolar Folly? Disfunctional Visions across the Atlantic,” Prof. Calleo examined the current state of transatlantic relations. He identified fundamental differences in the way that Europe and the U.S. view the political post-Soviet global system. While the United States represents a “unipolar vision of world order,” with the EU, European States have been creating their own vision, a “new political formula – a Union of nation states.”

Taking into account the rise of new powers, especially China and India, and looking at the “failure in Iraq,” Calleo concluded that “neither economically nor militarily is the world unipolar.” On the other hand, the European model also poses problems. The enlarged EU is losing coherence and direction, the constitution has been dismissed, and the welfare states need to be reformed. “Failure is no longer unthinkable,” said Calleo. He advised that “Europe’s model must be saved in Europe itself” and that Europe has to grow into “a more balanced and rounder power.”

Calleo concluded that both Europe and the U.S. need to “rejuvenate their imaginations” when creating visions of the global political system. Both have to redefine their vital relationship and regain their old intimacy. This task will have to be completed by the new generation, said Calleo, addressing the Class of 2005. For neither the U.S. nor Europe can “hide from shaping history.”

The keynote address was followed by the ceremonial transferal of the M.A. diploma to the Class of 2005 by Rector Hommelhoff. The MAS Commencement 2005 ended with cheerful reception at the Bel Etage of the Old University.

As a special feature, the ceremony reintroduced the tradition of the graduates wearing academic gowns and hoods for their commencement ceremony. This tradition was abandoned after World War II, with only high ranking university officials and professors wearing their academic attire on special occasions ever since. During the MAS Commencement 2005, members of the Rectorate, the Faculties, and the MAS teaching staff also attended the ceremony vested in their academic gowns and hoods.
attire, featuring the colors of their respective faculties. The graduates wore classic M.A. gowns and custom-made HCA hoods boasting two blue ribbons, provided by England’s most traditional robe makers Ede and Ravenscroft in Cambridge.

The HCA hopes that other institutes of Heidelberg University will follow this example and help to reestablish this centuries-old tradition.

In a short introduction, Dr. Philipp Gassert, Executive Director of the HCA, drew the attention to the special regard of Germans for the Kennedys since John F. Kennedy’s famous speech in Berlin in 1963. Shriver confirmed this impression: “Hardly in any other country have we been welcomed so warmheartedly,” adding that this is the case “even though I am most notably known in Germany as the brother-in-law of Arnold Schwarzenegger.” This is about to change as “Best Buddies” is coming to Germany.

Shriver related how while still a student he noticed that every single individual can do something to help people with intellectual disabilities. He related how he established “Best Buddies,” mentioning his aunt, Rosemary Kennedy, who died in 2004 and was herself intellectually disabled. “There were so many things she couldn’t do, but she could swim,” he exclaimed. This is the lesson he learned: “No matter who they are, everybody has a skill that others don’t have.” Shriver believes in giving these people the opportunity to develop these skills, and believes that one-on-one friendships can provide such opportunities.

“Best Buddies” now positively impacts more than 250,000 people worldwide each year. Apart from the United States, “Best Buddies” chapters exist in 15 other countries, reaching from Australia to Sweden. Now the first chapters are to be founded in Germany. “We want to start with five schools and universities in Germany,” said Shriver.

In doing so it is not important how many people volunteer in the beginning. “If only one student from Heidelberg founds a chapter, that is at least one life changed,” he continued. It is not just the disabled people who benefit from “Best Buddies” friendships. “We learn so much from them, we learn respect and friendship, we too are motivated and inspired.”

Shriver’s address was followed by a video presentation. The audience watched Shriver and other participants together with their “Best Buddies,” engaged in sports, playing music, or simply enjoying a pizza together. Sean Penn and Kevin Spacey urged the audience to “find out if there is a “Best Buddies” program at your school. And if there isn’t, create one!”

Even more impressive than these two Hollywood stars was the moment following the presentation, when Eunice Kennedy Shriver rose to speak. She had been listening throughout the entire event, sometimes taking notes. When she spoke, she
spoke quietly, but very distinctly, each word chosen with care. With great earnestness she spoke of her brother John F. Kennedy, of his legacy, the spirit of commitment to your community, and of the need for volunteer service.

The audience appeared thoughtful as it left the hall. Shriver and Kennedy left a mark. There were potential candidates, but no direct commitments yet. Still, the trip to Germany was worthwhile, as it led to the official inauguration of Best Buddies.

More information can be found at www.bestbuddies.org.

60th Anniversary of the End of World War II

On March 30, 2005, Heidelberg celebrated the 60th anniversary of the end of World War Two. It was Good Friday of 1945 when the US-Army moved into Heidelberg and ended the Nazi-Regime, some five weeks before the final capitulation of the Third Reich on May 8.

To commemorate the liberation of Heidelberg, Lord Mayor Beate Weber invited representatives of Heidelberg’s public life, as well as officials of the 7th US-Army which is still based in Heidelberg, to a ceremonial event held at the city hall. Prof. Detlef Junker, HCA Founding Director, was invited to speak on “Heidelberg and the American Occupation.”

Beate Weber addressed the audience, thanking all parties involved for the lasting period of peace in Europe since 1945. She reminded the audience of the “miracle” of Heidelberg and recounted the well known story of how Anni König (born Tham) saved the city in 1945. It was Ms König, then a young girl of 16 years, who rowed a group of Heidelberg Assemblymen in her boat across the Neckar river to negotiate the peaceful handover of the city to the US-Army that stood on the northern shore. With all bridges, including Heidelberg’s landmark “Old Bridge” having been destroyed by the Germans, her courageous act secured the only possibility for negotiations.

This was confirmed by Prof. Junker: “There is no doubt that Heidelberg would have been razed by the Americans, if a peaceful handover of the city would not have been negotiated.” In his speech, Prof. Junker recollected that initially the relationship between the citizens of Heidelberg and the US-troops was not one of intimate friendship. The “friendly foe” angered many Heidelbergers, especially by seizing large parts of private and public property in order to house the GIs and the Army administration. Still, Junker continued, the American re-education policies led to the city receiving the only possibility for negotiations.

In his address, Prof. Junker outlined the relations of Europe and the U.S. in a long-term analysis. Junker identified three different phases of the transatlantic relations. First, a “Europeanization of America” from U.S. independence in 1776 to World War I; second, an “Americanization of Europe” from 1917 to the end of the Cold War; and third, a “Marginalization of Europe?” especially during the Presidency of George W. Bush and since September 11, 2001 – a phase Junker accentuated with a question mark.

Transatlantic relations have dramatically changed, explained Junker, since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The U.S. have turned from the last remaining superpower into the first “hyperpower” of the world. Once a “benign hegemon” in Europe, guaranteeing security and peace, the U.S. have become the champion of a global and unilaterally defined pax americana utopia, which may very well lead to a marginalization of Europe.

Facing the evident failure of this pax americana, domestically in the U.S. as well as internationally, e.g. in Iraq, Prof. Junker concluded that this failure will open up new opportunities for transatlantic cooperation. For this to happen, it is vital to continue dialogue across the Atlantic, to adhere to a sustained political, cultural, and especially educational exchange. According to Prof. Junker, “That is the only possibility to prevent the latent anti-Americanism to settle down in the souls of the Europeans, and the latent anti-Europeanism to settle down in the souls of Americans.”

620th Anniversary of the University of Heidelberg

Founded on October 18, 1386, the University of Heidelberg is Germany’s oldest University. On October 22, 2005, the university celebrated its 620th anniversary with an academic ceremony. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Detlef Junker, Founding Director of the HCA, entitled “Europe and the USA,” indicating this year’s ceremony’s focus on the university’s international relations.

This focus was underlined by Prof. Peter Hommelhoff, Rector of the University of Heidelberg. Recognizing the prospering relations with foreign universities, the Rectorate decided to further commit the university to its international relations as a strategic goal. In particular, relations with the United States will be emphasized. By establishing a Heidelberg House at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Heidelberg hopes to strengthen existing relations with the U.S.

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Fundraising

Although the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) is a central academic facility of the University of Heidelberg, it is nonetheless financed through private and public funds. Over the past year, the fundraising efforts with private and institutional sponsors have been an essential component of the HCA. The Heidelberg Center for American Studies depends heavily upon this “public-private-partnership” for its financial survival, and continuous fundraising will remain a fundamentally important task in the HCA’s future. The creation of a new institute for American Studies in Heidelberg would not have been possible without the support of many generous donors.

From day one, the Jacob Gould Schurman-Foundation headed by Rolf Kentner, Honorary Senator of the University of Heidelberg, has been a vital proponent of the HCA. With a registered office in Mannheim, the Schurman-Foundation is in charge of tax deductible contributions to the HCA from Europe and Germany:

Jacob Gould Schurman-Stiftung

c/o Baden-Württembergische Bank
Postfach 120254
D-68053 Mannheim
T +49 6221 / 79 634 - 29
F +49 6221 / 79 634 - 17
D-69115 Heidelberg

A major success in the HCA’s fundraising endeavors has been the establishment of the Foundation “Friends of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies” (FHCA) in New York in the spring of 2004. The FHCA also oversees tax deductible contributions to the HCA from the United States:

Friends of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (FHCA)
c/o Lucy Whitehead
Mannheim LLC
712 Fifth Ave., 32nd Floor
USA-New York, NY 10019
T + 1 212 / 664 8600
F + 1 212 / 664 8415

JP Morgan Private Bank
1211 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036
ABA # 021000021
A/c # 739 178636

Contributions made to these two foundations have enabled the development of the HCA, and have allowed the HCA to undertake special activities such as the new graduate program “Master of Arts in American Studies,” the “HCA Spring Academy,” inter-national conferences, and research workshops among others.

The HCA gratefully appreciates the generous support of individuals, corporations, and institutions, including the Baden-Württembergische Bank AG, the BASF AG, Honorary Senator of the University of Heidelberg Curt Engelhorn and the Angel Foundation, John Deere, the Ladenburg Foundation, the Landesbank Baden-Württemberg (LBBW AG), Honorary Senator of the University of Heidelberg Manfred Lautenschläger, Dr. Bernd-A. von Maltzan, the Schurman-Foundation, Jerry Speyer, Hans-Peter Wild and the Leonie-Wild-Foundation, and the ZEIT-Foundation Ebelin and Gerd Bucerius.

The Alumni-Association of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) was founded during in 2004 during the festivities marking Prof. Detlef Junker’s 65th birthday.

The Alumni-Association aims at providing its members the means to keep in touch with the University of Heidelberg in general and the Heidelberg Center for American Studies in particular. The network is open to all graduates of the HCA’s Master of Arts in American Studies Program (MAS), as well as to graduates and researchers of the University of Heidelberg who deal with the United States in their M.A. thesis, Staatsexamen, doctoral dissertation, or Habilitationsschrift, or who are and were teaching about the USA at the University of Heidelberg.

Having started with ten founding members, the network now has welcomed more than fifty members. Nevertheless, we invite and encourage graduates or researchers from the different disciplines that are united in the HCA to apply for membership. Since one of the network’s aims is the exchange of professional experiences. Applications from those who have completely left academia are as welcome as those from researchers.

Since the HCA’s Alumni Directory went online in August, 2005, communication between members has been greatly simplified. Available to Association members only, this directory includes the names of all members and provides users with email addresses and further information about the fields of study and current positions of those members who volunteered this information. The directory can be found on the HCA’s homepage (www.hca.uni-hd.de) under “Alumni” and then “Alumni Network.”

If you are a member and haven’t received or have forgotten your username and password, please contact us.

Members receive a monthly email newsletter that keeps them informed about current activities and developments of the HCA and includes invitations to upcoming events.

The HCA also will organize an annual homecoming event for its alumni. This will take place on the day of the MAS Commencement ceremony and most likely also on the following weekend. Though we are planning to create a special program for our alumni during these days, our main goal is to enable the graduates of each year to get to know the members of the alumni network personally and to gather information and tips first hand.

If you are thinking of becoming a member of the Alumni-Network for American Studies please don’t hesitate to contact:

Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA)
Rebekka Weinel
Schillerstr. 4-8
D-69115 Heidelberg

T +49 6221 / 79 634 - 17
F +49 6221 / 79 634 - 29
alumni@hca.uni-heidelberg.de

Or just check our website for the online application.
Media Coverage

During the past year, reports on the HCA, its faculty and staff, and its activities have appeared in the following media:

Deutsche Presse Agentur (dpa), Deutsche Welle Radio, Deutsche Welle TV, Deutschlandfunk Radio, Deutschland Radio, DIE ZEIT, The Herald Post, Mannheimer Morgen, Meier – Das Stadtmagazin, Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung, Rheinischer Merkur, Scientific American, Stadtblatt Heidelberg, Stars and Stripes, Stuttgarter Zeitung, SWR 2 Radio, SWR 3 TV, UniSpiegel, and various online media.

Cooperation and Support

The HCA is grateful for the cooperation and help that it has received over the past year from the following institutions:

The American Academy Berlin; the Atlantische Akademie Rheinland-Pfalz e.V.; Best Buddies International; the Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut Heidelberg (DAI); the European Central Bank (ECB) in Frankfurt am Main; the Fulbright Foundation; the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD); the German-American Lawyers’ Association (DAJV); the German Embassy in Washington, D.C.; the German-Pennsylvanian Association; the Humboldt Foundation; the U.S. Consulate General in Frankfurt am Main; and the U.S. Embassy in Berlin.

Additionally, the HCA would like to thank the following institutions of the University of Heidelberg for their support: the Computing Center, the Guesthouse, the International Office, the Internationales Wissenschaftsforum Heidelberg (IWH), the Rectorate, the Studentenwerk Heidelberg, the University Library, and the Zentrale Universitätsverwaltung.

The New Corporate Design

In September 2005, the HCA introduced its new corporate Design. Graphic Designer Bernhard Pompey was asked to create a new visual appearance for the institute.

Following an initial research period and the discussion of various blueprints and drafts, a new HCA umbrella design crystallized. It will be utilized in all areas of activity of the HCA, such as the MAS program, the annual Spring Academy, and the lecture series “Typisch Amerikanisch”.

The challenge in creating the new design was to develop an overall HCA profile that was inclusive and flexible enough so that the individual programs would both stand out on their own, and still be clearly identifiable as a part of the HCA.

The new design includes the HCA’s new signet, its new corporate typeface, and new corporate colors.

The signet — a variable word-logo — consists of three fundamental elements. The first element is the combination of three initials and a respective subclaim, e.g. “HCA” added with “Heidelberg Center for American Studies”. The second element is that of the six points included in the signet. On an abstract level, the multiple and variably points visually express the HCA’s core principals of interdisciplinarity and internationality. More concretely, each point is a symbol for one of the six faculties which cooperate in the HCA. The points in the left-hand column represent the HCA itself, its research activities, and its function as a forum for public debate. Those in the right-hand column stand for the different educational programs (The MAS and the prospective B.A. and Ph.D. in American Studies). Different points are magnified corresponding with the related area of activity. The third element in the signet is the corporate color. The umbrella design of the HCA features a dark blue (see cover of this report). In addition, bright clear colors were chosen for the different subbrands: sharp red is used for the MAS and bright green has been chosen for the Spring Academy.

The font chosen was taken from the Adrian Frutiger designed typeface “FrutigerNext”. The font distinguishes itself by its excellent legibility and high visibility from distances, which is of extreme importance, e.g. for the HCA posters.

The new corporate design encompasses all print- and media products, from the HCA business cards and stationary to brochures, flyers, and publications such as this report, to doorplates and merchandising articles.

On the following page you can find pictured examples of the new corporate design.

Born in 1977, Bernhard Pompey holds a diploma in Graphic Design from the University for Applied Science and Art in Freiburg. He currently studies Communications Design at the University of Mannheim. Pompey has successfully worked with corporations such as Kraft Food’s chocolate brand Milka, the globally renowned Fraunhofer Gesellschaft, the Jazzfestival Bühl, and the Australian Art Centre. For more information please visit www. bernahrdpompey.de.