

**HAUS Annual Report  
October 2024**

**From the President**

The year 2023-24 was a year of transitions, starting with the inauguration of Rektorin Frauke Melchior in Heidelberg in October 2023. Rektorin Melchior declared Universität Heidelberg “the place to be”! We couldn’t agree more. In 2024 we bid farewell to Amanda Rohm Daquila, Executive Director of the Heidelberg University Association in New York. And, in September this year, we welcomed Dr. Katja Simons as our new Executive Director. Fresh faces and new ideas, all around. We also welcome YOUR ideas, contributions and energy. Our success, as always, relies on YOUR being an active part of HAUS.

-- Kathleen Lance

**HAUS Mission Statement**

Heidelberg Alumni U.S. (HAUS) is dedicated to building a mutually beneficial global network of current and former students, graduates, researchers, professors, and other friends of Universität Heidelberg.

**HAUS Scholarship**

Through the generosity of HAUS members, we have been able to offer a scholarship annually since 2012 to a student residing in the US, planning to spend the Winter Semester at Universität Heidelberg. The amount awarded is either \$4,500 for one semester for an undergraduate or \$7,000 for one semester for a Master’s Degree candidate. Recipients are asked to participate actively in the HAI network during their time in Heidelberg and to act as HAUS and HAI ambassadors after they have completed their stay. Please note that the scholarship amounts were raised this year, for the first time since we started awarding scholarships.

Our scholarship recipients:

- The 2012-13 scholarship was awarded to Calista Randazzo, California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo. Calista studied German as a foreign language in Heidelberg.
- The 2013-14 scholarship was awarded to Christopher Power, Rutgers University. Christopher participated in the EuroScholars Program and studied philosophy.
- The 2014-15 scholarship was awarded to Jaishri Atri, George Washington University. Jaishri was a Master’s Degree student in molecular biology. A Summer Semester 2015 extension was awarded to Jaishri to support her continued participation in a ground-breaking lab virus study.
- The 2015-16 scholarship was awarded to Cameron Croft, University of Oklahoma. Cameron was a Master’s Degree student in molecular cell biology.
- The 2016-17 scholarship was awarded to Fahiya Rashid, University of California, Irvine. Fahiya was a Master’s Degree student at the Institute of South Asian Studies.
- The 2017-18 scholarship was awarded to Anika Flynn, University of Alaska. Anika was an undergraduate student who plans to study psychology and German in Heidelberg.
- The 2018-19 scholarship was awarded to 2 students: Malaya Sadler, Columbia University, and Fahiya Rashid, our 2016-17 scholarship recipient. Malaya was as Master’s Degree student in anthropology. Fahiya was completing her Master’s Degree at the Institute of South Asian Studies.

- The 2019-20 scholarship was also awarded to 2 students: Kimberlyn Baily of SUNY/Oswego and Mohammed Farooq of Columbia University and the NYU Medical School. Kimberlyn was a Master's Degree student at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies. Mohammed was a Master's Degree student in the Translational Medical Research Program of the Medical School in Mannheim.
- No scholarships were awarded for the 2020-21 academic year, due to the restrictions of the Covid19 pandemic.
- The 2021-22 scholarships were awarded to 3 students: Christina Azura of California State University / Long Beach, Alexandra Johnson of Arizona State University, and Silvia Rodriguez Garcilazo of Whitworth University. Christina was a Master's Degree student in biomechanical engineering. Alexandra was a Master's Degree student in Health and Society in the South Asian Institute. Silvia was a Master's Degree student at the Center for American Studies.
- The 2022-23 scholarship was awarded to Eric Bormann of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Eric is a Master's Degree student in molecular and cellular biology.
- The 2023-24 scholarship was awarded to Ryan Whitlock of California State University / San Luis Obispo. Ryan was a Master's Degree student in the Translational Medical Research program.
- The 2024-25 scholarship was awarded to Sonya Dutton of Williams College. Sonya is a Master's Degree student in Physics.

The 2024 HAUS Scholarship Selection Committee was comprised of HAUS President Kathleen Lance; HAUS Members Christina Azura, Martina Ebert, and Mohammed Esa and Fahiya Rashid; Elisabeth Trnka of the Heidelberg International Relations Division; and Amanda Daquila, Executive Director of the Heidelberg University Association.

## **Fundraising**

### **HAUS Scholarship**

The HAUS Scholarship is funded 100% from alumni donations. We have been fortunate in being able to award a scholarship each year since its founding in 2012. We thank our generous alumni for their past support and ask, at the same time, for continued support in order to maintain this worthwhile endeavor.

### **Amirana Scholarship Fund**

This scholarship, inspired by U.S.-based alumni, supports medical and dental students from low and middle-income countries.

### **HAUS – Heidelberg Alumni U.S.**

Your donation will fund continued alumni engagement across the United States.

## **HAUS Regional Chapters**

### **Regional Chapters as of October 1, 2024:**

- New York City: Nina Brandt, Chair
- Chicago: Christoph Stokowski, Edward Potash, John Dillon, Co-Chairs
- Southern California: (Chair position currently open)
- Northern California: (Chair position currently open)
- Philadelphia: Anita Heeren, Chair

- Boston: (Chair position currently open)
- Ohio: Mark Peeples, Chair
- Washington, DC: Sarah Rice, Radmila Carmichael, Co-Chairs
- Heidelberg: Heike Kranz, Siegfried Ruppert, Co-Chairs

## **HAUS Regional Chapter Events 2024**

### *In Person*

San Francisco, Jan. 17, 2024, The DWIH San Francisco invited alumni of German research institutions and universities for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Reception at the SAP Labs.

New York, Feb. 29, 2024, New Year's Reception at the private residence of Consul General David Gill.

New York, March 20, 2024, the Heidelberg Law Model UN team (HMUN) visited New York for their annual competition at the UN. The students enjoyed a professional development gathering, including a panel discussion at the American Council on Germany (ACG).

New York/Washington D.C., May 24, 2024, this collaborative gathering of two chapters organized by Sarah Rice. Alumni were invited on a private tour of the Baden-Württemberg-class frigate FGS Baden-Württemberg (F-222) from Germany which docked in New York during Fleet Week.

New York, June 9, 2024, chapter chair, Nina Brandt, opened her home and invited alumni for an informal brunch. HAUS president Kathleen Lance also joined the group.

Heidelberg, July 25, 2024, alumni and friends enjoyed an evening at the beer garden Zum Achter.

### *Virtual:*

March 17, 2024, Virtual Kaffeeklatsch 8.0, Networking and Selfcare with Sonja Kirschner – Sonja guided us towards finding some new ideas, perspectives, and answers when we are challenged with high expectations, difficult decisions, and doubt.

Oct. 25 – 29, 2024, HAUS 16<sup>th</sup> National Meeting, the program included a Kaffeeklatsch and Heidelberg Quiz, organized by Martin Kley, Resident Director of the American Junior Year (AJY); Greetings and Remarks – What's new in Heidelberg by Rektorin Frauke Melchior and Silke Rodenberg (HAI); a virtual Heidelberg City Tour with tour guide Kristian Willenbacher (Studierendenwerk); a film presentation "Swimming for Science – TenneSwim", with Heidelberg Alumnus Prof. Andreas Fath, followed by Q/A with Prof. Martin Knoll (University of the South); and concluded with a coaching session led by Heidelberg Alumna, Sonja Kirschner, founder of double human.

## **HAUS Membership:**

As of October 17, 2024, HAUS has 703 registered members, an increase of 37 since last year's HAUS National Meeting. For comparison, HAI has a total of 20,987 registered worldwide, with 1,400 in the U.S.

## **HAUS Social Media Presence:**

HAUS maintains its social networking presence on Facebook, LinkedIn, X and Instagram. Our Facebook group is Heidelberg Alumni HAUS with 217 members, as of October 28, 2024, at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HeidelbergUniversityUS>

You will find HAUS as a subgroup to HAI on LinkedIn with 471 members, as of October 28, 2024, at: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/2672853/>

Please follow us on X @HeidelbergHAUS. We have 450 X (formerly Twitter) followers.

Find us on Instagram @huaheidelberg. We have 745 followers.

**HAUS Officers:**

Kathleen Lance, President  
Diane Ficke, Communications Director  
Melanie Grossmann, Recording Secretary  
Katja Simons, Executive Director

**HAUS Leadership Committee:**

Diane Guido, 2022-2025  
Fahiya Rashid, 2022-2025  
Kathleen Lance, 2023-2026  
Nancy Stuhlmuller-Hitscherisch, 2023-2026  
Adi Puplampu, 2024-2027  
Diane Ficke, 2024-2027  
Katja Simons, ex officio