



Dear HAUS member,

More than 30 U.S. alumni traveled to Heidelberg in June to celebrate the university's 625th Anniversary! The Festwoche including the special "Alumni-Tage" was a huge success. Please read HAUS President Kathleen Lance's report below.

Highlight of the Festwoche was the official reopening of the freshly renovated and modernized "Neue Universität". A heartfelt Thank You! to all HAUS members who contributed so generously to the renovation of Hörsaal 14.

During the Festwoche, HAUS also conducted its 2011 annual meeting in Heidelberg with spirited and constructive discussions, and President Barack Obama thanked the Heidelberg Center for American Studies for creating the James W.C. Pennington Distinguished Fellowship.

On the weekend of September 24/25, U.S. alumni will meet in Tiffin, Ohio, to celebrate Universität Heidelberg's 625th anniversary on this side of the Atlantic. We hope to see you there.

To learn more about these topics, about Regional Chapter activities, and news from faculty and alumni, please click on the respective headlines below.

Herzliche Grüße

Kathleen Lance
HAUS President

Irmintraud Jost
Executive Director

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Alt Heidelberg, Du Feine: Anniversary Celebrations in Heidelberg

It was great being in Heidelberg again this summer. It was fabulous being there for the University's 2011 festivities. The University's 625th anniversary was celebrated in fine style, from serious pomp and circumstance to scholarly offerings to letting your hair down and simply having fun. The entire program was thoughtfully designed to be most inclusive and it was carried out beautifully and smoothly.

The rededication ceremony of the Neue Universität building complex took place in the Neue Aula, which is now modernly sleek, bright and airy. All 650 seats were filled. This formal academic ceremony began with an academic procession of Rector Eitel, University Deans and honorary Senators. Bundeskanzler Helmut Kohl, Universität Heidelberg alumnus and honorary chairman of the "Dem lebendigen Geist" fundraising campaign, gave the formal greeting. Other speeches and presentations followed. The ceremony concluded with a concert featuring the newly refurbished university pipe organ and the Collegium Musicum. It was a moving start to the anniversary week.

The Neue Universität renovation work was funded by a public-private partnership unique to German academic institutions. Donations, both large and small, came from the state of Baden Württemberg, private foundations, local citizens and alumni. Both Rector Eitel and Chancellor Kohl mentioned the support of U.S. alumni, in the tradition of Jacob Gould Schurman, whose fundraising efforts in the 1920's resulted in the Neue Uni being built entirely from U.S. funds. Heidelberg Alumni U.S. sponsored the renovation of Lecture Hall 14, across from the Neue Aula. A plaque mounted beside the entrance to Lecture Hall 14 acknowledges the donations from U.S. alumni. A bronze plaque in the foyer outside the Neue Aula recognizes larger donors to the "Dem lebendigen Geist" campaign.

The entire University community turned out for the "UniMeile": scores of displays (some interactive), discussions, lectures and tours offered by faculty, students, researchers and university employees. Some took place in the individual institutes, but many were presented in tents erected on and around Universitätsplatz in the Altstadt. It was great to feel such energy and excitement, and especially to see not only students but also Heidelberg citizens so actively engaged.

There were plenty of opportunities all week long for socializing at receptions and other events, to catch up with old friends and former professors and to make new acquaintances. Live music was played on the Uniplatz throughout the UniMeile event and later on at the Jubiläumsparty in the Marstallhof. There was something for everyone, with musical styles ranging from opera to rock to



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salsa. And, of course, the social pinnacle of the week was the “Ruperto Carola Sommernacht” ball, with classical dancing on the main floor of the Stadthalle and rock music playing upstairs.

America Day was celebrated at the beginning of the 625th anniversary Festival Week. The Heidelberg Center for American Studies was the focal point for America Day, with special lectures and the official announcement of the Pennington Distinguished Fellowship, named for James W.C. Pennington, the first African American to receive an honorary doctorate degree from any European University. Pennington received this honor from Heidelberg in 1849.

Dr. Veit Probst, Director of University Libraries, invited the Heidelberg Alumni U.S. (HAUS) members to an exclusive viewing of gems from the University Library’s manuscript collection. This was organized in conjunction with the HAUS annual meeting. In describing one of the oldest manuscripts in Heidelberg’s special collection, Dr. Probst described not only its literary and art historical significance, but also placed this 9th century manuscript in the context of European history and conquest. From its creation in the Abbey Lorsch, the manuscript was absorbed into the Bibliotheca Palatina collection in Heidelberg, then carried off to the Vatican Library before ending up in Paris, and finally making its way back to Heidelberg as part of the repatriated Bibliotheca Palatina original collection. This tour was, without a doubt, a very special highlight for those who participated and the 90-minute visit in the unairconditioned Director’s office was over before we knew it.

But 2011 is not only the University’s 625th anniversary. It is also the 15th anniversary of Heidelberg Alumni International (HAI). There were over 300 alumni registered for the 15th HAI reunion, representing some 40 countries and 5 continents. From the welcoming reception to the farewell brunch, alumni were offered a rich program of scholarly, cultural and social events. Here are just a few highlights:

- ▶ An illuminating panel discussion on the future direction of research and education by Prof. Dr. Harald zur Hausen (2008 Nobel Prize winner for medicine) and Prof. Dr. Paul Kirchhof (Law School).
- ▶ A fascinating lecture by Angelos Chaniotis, former Vice-Rector for International Relations, now a fellow at the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study, on the newly emerging field of study on emotions (outside of psychology).
- ▶ Dr. Volker Then, Director of the Center for Social Investment and Innovation Heidelberg, presented data on the growing trend for philanthropy in Germany.
- ▶ Readings by alumni authors from their latest works.
- ▶ Presentations by and discussions with national alumni groups, illustrating their strengths and diversity.
- ▶ Open Houses and invitations to attend lectures and seminars in many departments and institutes.



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- ▶ A tour of the Heidelberg Zoo, designed especially for families.
- ▶ Walking tours of Heidelberg.
- ▶ The ever popular Riverboat Shuffle on the Neckar, complete with a buffet dinner, live music and dancing.

What's new or noteworthy in Heidelberg? Of course, the newly renovated and modernized Neue Universität complex heads the list. In addition, Heidelberg Alumni International now has spacious rooms in the Marstallstraße 6, having left its original home in the Akademisches Auslandsamt several months ago. The Alte Mensa in the Marstallhof is not the Alte Mensa from decades ago. Its menu now offers an astounding range of choices (yes, choices!), including vegetarian entrees and an extensive salad bar. It is currently ranked #1 among all German university cafeterias. The Bunsen statue in front of the former Anatomie in the Hauptstraße is encased in plywood and glass (artistic statement, perhaps?). There is a new underground parking garage beneath the square fronting the Institut für Deutsch als Fremdsprachenphilologie in the Plöck, which has transformed that space. (Let's hope the trees grow quickly.) And, there are so many new buildings in Neuenheimer Feld that it is hardly recognizable. The Sole d'Oro Italian restaurant in the Hauptstraße has been replaced by a Vietnamese restaurant. And, the old student tavern, Zum Seppl, is closed. Things do change, over time. While it's fun to reminisce about the old days, it's more exciting to look to the future, as the University's motto makes plain: Future. Since 1386.

Kathleen Lance, HAUS President

To see Festwoche pictures, please go [here](#).

HAUS National Meeting 2011 in Heidelberg

Heidelberg Alumni met in late June in Heidelberg in conjunction with Universität Heidelberg's 625th Anniversary Festival Week for the 4th annual HAUS national meeting. More than 30 alumni from across the U.S. made the journey. The Heidelberg Center for American Studies, located in the recently renovated Curt und Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais in the Hauptstraße, graciously hosted the HAUS meeting. Special guests included Silke Rodenberg, Heidelberg Alumni International; Dr. Joachim Gerke, Director of the International Office; Elisabeth Trnka-Hammel, responsible for exchange programs with the U.S.; and Dr. Wilfried Mausbach, Managing Director of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies. Reports were given on HAUS membership size and demographic breakdown, Regional Chapter locations and leadership, plans for 625th anniversary events throughout the U.S., our current financial picture, and the HAUS Leadership Committee structure and function. Spirited discussion followed, focusing on attracting younger alumni, ideas for Regional Chapter programming and improving Heidelberg University's image in the U.S. The American Junior Year program



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and HAUS co-sponsored a brunch following the meeting. Official greetings at the brunch were given by Prof. Dr. Thomas Pfeiffer, Vice-Rector for International Affairs; Dr. Robert Huntington, President of Heidelberg University (Ohio); and Prof. Dr. Detlef Junker, Founding Director of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies. Students from the U.S. currently studying in Heidelberg joined the alumni at the reception to hear about their experiences and to receive an introduction to HAUS.

President Obama sent greetings to Heidelberg

U.S. President Barack Obama conveyed his greetings and his appreciation for the James W. C. Pennington Distinguished Fellowship, established by the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) and the Faculty of Theology of Heidelberg University. The president thanked the HCA for this initiative, which, he said, reflected the strong alliance and enduring friendship between the United States and Germany. The fellowship honors the American pastor and former slave James W. C. Pennington, who received an honorary doctorate from Heidelberg University in 1849. According to President Obama, it is especially appropriate that this fellowship will enable scholars to conduct research on subjects that were important to Pennington: slavery and emancipation, peace, education, religion and inter-cultural understanding. The president expressed his conviction that in honoring James W.C. Pennington's achievements, Heidelberg University will inspire future generations of Americans and Germans. To read more about the greetings, please go [here](#).

To honor the memory of James W. C. Pennington's extraordinary life, the HCA and the School of Theology created the new fellowship for graduate students focusing on research topics close to Pennington's career as a spiritual leader, intellectual, and activist. Preference will be given to research projects centering on U.S. history, transatlantic relations, and the Atlantic world. The HCA and the School of Theology ask for your support in establishing the James W. C. Pennington Distinguished Fellowship. All donations are tax-deductible. To learn more about the award and to donate please go [here](#).

HAUS anniversary meeting in Tiffin, Ohio, on September 24/25

If you were not able to make it to Heidelberg for the Alumni festivities, here is your chance to celebrate Universität Heidelberg's 625th anniversary the last weekend of September in Ohio.

For more than 50 years, Heidelberg University (formerly known as Heidelberg College) in Tiffin, Ohio, has sent their students and young men and women from many other American colleges and universities to the American Junior Year Program at Universität Heidelberg in Germany. The friends in Tiffin would like to honor the longstanding partnership by celebrating Universität Heidelberg's 625th



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anniversary on Saturday, September 24/25, 2011 on their campus. HAUS is co-hosting the event. Registration would start around 1 PM. There are plenty of interesting events planned, including a reception and dinner that evening. The activities would conclude late Sunday morning. Since there are other campus events planned for that weekend, it is recommended to book the hotel rooms early since they might fill up soon. For hotel information in Tiffin, please contact the office in New York at info@HeidelbergUniversity.org. Please save the date. We would love to see you there!

HAUS Regional Chapter Activities in the U.S.

HAUS Regional Chapters events from coast to coast:

The Boston Chapter invited their members on April 21 to a "Spring Dinner" in Brookline, Massachusetts. The alumni met at the Beacon Street Tavern and discussed the university's anniversary and the fundraising efforts. They shared memories as well as their travel plans for the summer.

The Regional Chapter in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan area met on May 1 at a HAUS member's residence in Vienna, Virginia. Guest speaker Dr. Gerd Dunkelberg entertained a group of 15 alumni with a poignant lecture regarding 20th Century German Cinema. To read the full report, please go [here](#).

On May 19, the Chicago alumni met at the Gasthaus Berghoff to revitalize the Chicago Chapter, the first HAUS chapter that was formally founded in February 2009. The former Heidelbergers exchanged ideas and phone numbers while enjoying good food and good conversation.

A small but enthusiastic group of Denver-based Heidelberg alumni met on June 10th at the home of Albert Fink and Kathleen Lance for the Denver Regional Chapter Kick-Off Meeting. They enjoyed a light supper al fresco while reminiscing about their experiences along the Neckar. The new Denver Regional Chapter plans to gather again in the fall, possibly in conjunction with a Colorado Symphony concert.

Movie night in Manhattan. The Heidelberg alumni in the greater New York area got together on June 15 for a screening of "One, Two, Three" at the Goethe Institut downtown. The hilarious American comedy, directed by Billy Wilder, takes place in 1961 just before the Berlin Wall was built. The movie offered two hours of great entertainment while highlighting the difficult political times in Berlin exactly 50 years ago.



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News from Faculty and Alumni

In his new book “Popular Justice: A History of Lynching in America”, Prof. Manfred Berg explores the history of lynching from the colonial era to the present. American lynch law, he argues, has rested on three pillars: the frontier experience, racism, and the anti-authoritarian spirit of grassroots democracy. Berg looks beyond the familiar story of mob violence against African American victims, who comprised the majority of lynch targets, to include violence targeting other victim groups, such as Mexicans and the Chinese, as well as many of those cases in which race did not play a role. As he nears the modern era, he focuses on the societal changes that ended lynching as a public spectacle. Manfred Berg is the Curt Engelhorn Professor of American History at Heidelberg University.

[More](#)

“After 9/11: Leading Political Thinkers about the World, the U.S. and Themselves” presents 17 interviews with America's leading public intellectuals. Renowned experts such as Zbigniew Brzezinski, Francis Fukuyama, and Noam Chomsky discuss the nation's foreign policy in the post-9/11 world. Yet, they also comment on their own role in US society – and the mounting challenges they face today. The conversations illustrate the hopes and expectations, the anger and frustration, the shattered beliefs and unshakable convictions of the nation's preeminent minds – at a time when America made its epic transition from George W. Bush to Barack Obama.

The author, Tobias Endler, is Ph.D. candidate at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies.

[More](#)

Heidelberg Alumnus and HAUS-Member Theodore M. Thomas, Professor of Humanities, History and German at Milligan College, is currently researching a book in Heidelberg on Hermann Maas, the protestant pastor of the Heiliggeistkirche from 1915 until 1943. Maas helped Jews escape persecution. He helped obtain the release of some prisoners from the Gurs concentration camp and saved many young people and adults through his vast network. Maas' impressive dedication, work and life has never been chronicled in English language and Prof. Thomas is about to change that. The United States Memorial Holocaust Museum in Washington recently published his article on Hermann Maas.

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Help wanted!

HAUS is looking for volunteers in different areas and for different tasks.

Would you like to get involved in your area and become a Regional Chair? Or, do you like to write? We can always use more help with the newsletter and the website content. If you are interested and have some time and energy to spare, please contact Kathleen Lance at kathleen.lance@alumni.uni-heidelberg.de or Irmintraud "Jimmie" Jost, Heidelberg University Association's Executive Director in New York, at IJost@heidelberguniversity.org

Please let us know if you have information that should be included in the next HAUS Blatt.

To stay up to date on HAUS and Heidelberg University, please go to:

<http://www.haus.uni-hd.de/>

The best way to stay connected and to not miss out on any communication is to register online for the International Heidelberg Alumni networking site, please go [here](#).