



Alumni enjoyed the HAUS
10th Annual National Meeting
in New Orleans

Dear HAUS member,

We hope you had a great start into the New Year. We look forward to celebrating the 10th birthday of Heidelberg Alumni Association and HAUS in 2018! We are working hard in New York and in the HAUS Anniversary Committee to make this year special. But we cannot do it without you. We welcome your ideas for events and initiatives around the country. Please share your thoughts!

As for 2017, we had an active end to the year. In addition to our fantastic Annual National Meeting in the Big Easy, you will read about events that took place all over the country, ranging from a red carpet experience to a panel discussion on the German elections from the U.S. perspective.

You will also get an update on two of our HAUS Scholars, as well as activities of alumni. If you have something special you'd like mentioned, please let us know and we'll consider it for our next issue.

Thank you!

We hope you will enjoy this issue of HAUS Blatt.

Herzliche Grüße,


Kathleen Lance
HAUS President


Irmintraud »Jimmie« Jost
Executive Director

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Vice-President Dieter Heermann
(left) and Heidelberg alumni
enjoying dinner in New Orleans

HAUS FELT RIGHT AT HOME IN THE BIG EASY

The HAUS National Meeting in New Orleans turned out to be another successful annual event, with spirited discussions, plentiful updates from Heidelberg, and both fun and enlightening excursions. A special thanks to HAUS Chapter NOLA for hosting the first annual meeting in the South. Shout-outs to Andre, Regional Chair, HAUS NOLA, for scouting hotels and restaurants; Dennis Kehoe for securing our meeting rooms at Tulane University Medical School and Former HAUS NOLA Chair Richard Buchholz for his »insider tour« of New Orleans. Richard's guided bus tour through a set of distinctive neighborhoods of equal historical and architectural interest was one of the weekend's highlights. The driving tour ventured outside the tourist areas from the Uptown/Carrollton area to the Lower Ninth Ward.

Heidelberg University's Vice-President of International Affairs, Dieter Heermann, provided a detailed update on the new developments in the Altstadt, Campus Bergheim and the Neuenheimer Feld. He also pointed out Heidelberg's many diverse international collaborations in the U.S., Europe and Asia. Silke Rodenberg, head of Heidelberg Alumni International (HAI), briefed everyone on her work cultivating and expanding the domestic and international alumni network.

On Saturday evening, alumni relaxed and enjoyed each other's company during an enchanting steamboat ride on the mighty Mississippi. Delicious Cajun food, live jazz and beautiful views from our own deck completed the special night. »What a fun weekend with a fun group of wonderful friends«, stated Martina Barnes, former HAUS Vice President. Christoph Stokowski, Chicago Chapter Co-Chair added: »Thank you for organizing another successful HAUS event!«.

ENERGIZING REGIONAL CHAIR SEMINAR

The Friday prior to the Annual National Meeting, HAUS Regional Chairs and members of the HAUS Leadership Committee gathered for a day-long workshop at the Tulane University Medical School. Participants discussed strategies for the HAUS network, exchanged best practices for organizing regional events and gathered new ideas from the experiences Silke Rodenberg shared from other international HAI clubs. By their own accounts, the volunteers left New Orleans energized and motivated to organize new events in their respective regions.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! HAUS CELEBRATES 10TH BIRTHDAY IN 2018

At the meeting in New Orleans, alumni started the brainstorming process for 2018, when Heidelberg University Association and HAUS turn 10! Alumni suggested to mark the occasion with a »countdown« of regional events across the country, leading up to the HAUS Annual National Meeting 2018 in New York the weekend of September 14–16. Rektor Bernhard Eitel has already committed to attending and marked his calendar accordingly. We encourage you to please do the same and save the date! If you have any ideas for events in your area, we would like to hear them.



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Rektor Prof. Dr. Bernhard Eitel
presents the sixth HAUS Scholarship
to Annika Flynn

THE HAUS-SCHOLARSHIP WILL BE EXTENDED

The new year starts with great news: Thanks to a substantial donation from New York alumnus Richard Anderson, we will be able to extend the HAUS-Scholarship! Since its inauguration in 2012, HAUS awarded one scholarship annually to an American student enrolling at Heidelberg University. With the support from Richard and many other generous alumni, HAUS will be able to increase the annual stipends. We are working on the details. Please stay tuned. Thank you very much to Richard Anderson and to all of you who have been supporting the HAUS Scholarship Fund since the beginning. You are making a big difference in these young people's lives.

HAUS SCHOLAR: DISPATCHES FROM HEIDELBERG

»I have been in Heidelberg for almost five months now and have been loving every minute! In my first month, I took part in a preparatory German course with my fellow international exchange students. I really enjoyed the German class, as it not only helped me improve my language skills, but it also gave me the invaluable chance to establish my new German Alltag before the actual semester started. I have loved getting to explore the beautiful city of Heidelberg, as well as the surrounding area. I was also able to enjoy the wonderful Weihnachtsmarkt (and some Glühwein!) during the holiday season. Lastly, I helped organize a HAUS Lunch Stammtisch meeting, which was a fun way to meet other American students studying in Heidelberg! I have met some wonderfully supportive students, both German and international, and the exchange of culture, viewpoints, and ideas has been inspiring. I am now almost done with my Winter Semester and have enjoyed all my classes, especially my neuropsychology lecture and seminar on consumer psychology. Thank you again for your support!«

Annika Flynn, HAUS Scholarship 2017/2018

HAUS SCHOLAR: DISPATCHES FROM ... CAMBRIDGE

*»For my Master's program in molecular biosciences, the second year usually consists of three laboratory rotations and thesis work. I completed one of my rotations abroad at the University of Cambridge, which is where I am currently to complete my thesis work externally from Heidelberg. I joined a research group at the Department of Genetics at the University of Cambridge that is focused on indole signaling and bacterial antibiotic resistance using *E. coli* as a model organism. I will return to Heidelberg in the summer to defend my thesis, which will be supervised by two professors that are a part of the Zentrum für Molekulare Biologie der Universität Heidelberg (ZMBH). I will be finished with my degree after my thesis defense, and I will either remain in Cambridge or return to Heidelberg for my PhD work.«*

Cameron Croft, HAUS Scholarship 2015/2016



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Adrienne Merritt enrolled in the
Fortbildungskursus for German
teachers and professors

SECOND ANNUAL ONLINE HEIDELBERG GIVING DAY A SUCCESS

Thank you very much for making the second annual Heidelberg Giving Day on October 18 a success. Your generous donations will support three causes: Heidelberg University's alumni network HAUS, the HAUS Scholarship Fund and Heidelberg University in general. Started last year, the annual Online Giving Day commemorates the day Heidelberg University welcomed its very first students on October 18, 1386. Each year alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff and Heidelberg friends are encouraged to commemorate that special occasion with their support within the 24-hour timeframe. All people who donated on October 18 were entered into a raffle. Three winners received Heidelberg University memorabilia from the Uni-shop. The prizes went to lucky donors in California, Washington, DC, and Massachusetts. Congratulations and thank you again to everyone who donated!

NEW ROUND OF ZUKUNFT STIFTEN – EMPOWERING THE FUTURE

»Zukunft Stiften« is the motto and aim of the latest and largest Heidelberg University campaign. The primary objective of the initiative is to secure the university's future through building the first endowment fund. The Ruperto Carola Campaign ZUKUNFT STIFTEN spans five years and is due to end in Summer Semester 2019. Your brochure should have arrived in December. It's not too late to **make a donation**, and many thanks to those who have done so already!

U.S. GERMAN INSTRUCTORS TRAINED IN HEIDELBERG

Two German instructors from the U.S., Adrienne Merritt and Mark Reierstad, were selected to receive a flight and housing stipend this year for the Heidelberg University *Fortbildungsseminar* for non-native German teachers and professors, which took place in August. In Adrienne's own words: »Participating in the *Fortbildungsseminar* was eye-opening. I teach German in the Department of Comparative Studies of Literatures and Cultures at Occidental College. Not only was I able to encounter first-hand new techniques and materials to use within my courses, I also attended film showings weekly, lectures on film and multicultural literature, and engaged in discussions concerning German-speaking culture, literature, and the changing face of politics in Germany and the world. I feel so fortunate that I was afforded the opportunity to attend the program and meet some wonderful colleagues from around the globe.«



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Chicago Chapter alumni reminisce
about Heidelberg's lovely
Weihnachtsmarkt at the Christkindl-
markt



NYC-area alumni enjoy the German
holiday spirit at the German univer-
sities alumni holiday party

NEWEST HAUS-CHAPTER MEETS IN HEIDELBERG

HAUS is happy to announce its newest addition – in Heidelberg! The youngest HAUS Chapter met for the first time in October at the Marstall Mensa. Americans who study or work at Heidelberg University enjoyed the newly established *Stammtisch*. Heidelberg alumna Heike Heinzemann Kranz und HAUS Scholarship recipient Annika Flynn organized the second luncheon meeting in the Triplex Mensa on 19 December. »The six of us enjoyed connecting, exchanging on Heidelberg University and local cultural experiences, talking about holiday season plans ... and plotting for next year's get-togethers! A great big thanks to those who made it in spite of the season's numerous commitments!«, said Heike Kranz.

EVENTS FROM COAST TO COAST

Boston

The Boston Alumni dinner at Bisq Restaurant and Winebar in August was great fun. People enjoyed the food as well as the sleek, dark wood finishings and wine-bottle décor, which created an intimate, modern atmosphere. Everyone attending expressed an interest in having a German Language Only dinner with other native speakers, so for our next dinner there will be native speakers present to help with the conversation flow.

Boston alumni also attended a *Konsultations* event at the German Consulate, where Consul General Ralf Horlemann moderated a panel discussion with Professors Stephen Walt (Harvard University's JFK School of Government) and Vivien Schmidt (Boston University's Pardee School of Global Studies) on the German elections in September from the US perspective.

There was also an event in November at German restaurant Jacob Wirth, where Heidelberg alumni met alumni from other German universities. It was a great opportunity for former Heidelbergers to network and exchange experiences made in German academia.

Chicago

Chicago-area alumni braved the cold to *bummel* around Chicago's famous Christkindlmarkt in December. *Glühwein* in hand to keep warm, they browsed the beautiful (and sometimes yummy!) wares and talked about their time in good old Heidelberg. It was a small group, but Regional Co-Chair John Dillon maintained: »We all had a nice short visit.«

New York City

NYC-area HAUS chapter celebrated Universität Heidelberg's 631st birthday at *Zum Schneider* on October 18. The celebration marked the day the first students began their studies at Universität Heidelberg in 1386. Chapter members and friends enjoyed delicious German food while chatting and networking with fellow alumni with multiple toasts to the alma mater. They had so much fun that they forgot to take a picture.



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Northern California alumni savor
German cuisine at Speisekammer in
Alameda



SoCal alumni on the red carpet for
the 11th Annual Festival of German
Film in Hollywood

The NYC HAUS chapter organized a big holiday party together with other German university alumni in December. About 100 guests enjoyed home-made *Glühwein* (courtesy of HAUS), *Stollen* and *Pfeffernüsse*. Even the *Weihnachtsmann* made an appearance. Alumni from more than 15 different German universities celebrated and networked with each other and enjoyed conversations with alumni of all ages and disciplines. Since the event was such a success, it is already on the calendar for 2018.

Northern California

Northern California alumni met in August at German restaurant *Speisekammer* in Alameda for the first HAUS event in the East Bay. Jimmie Jost, Executive Director of Heidelberg University Association, was in town from New York and Dr. May-Britt Becker, Managing Director of the Excellence Cluster CellNetworks was visiting from Heidelberg.

Alumni of Universität Heidelberg, Freie Universität Berlin, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München and DAAD gathered in October at *Biergarten* in San Francisco. The neighborhood beer garden was a great opportunity for alumni and friends to meet and network, and catch up. As the event took place around Oct. 18, they gave a toast to Heidelberg University's birthday!

Southern California

The Southern California chapter of HAUS enjoyed a night out in Hollywood in October. The evening began with dinner at the historic *Musso & Frank Grill* restaurant, a Hollywood tradition since 1919. HAUS members renewed their friendships and exchanged stories of their time in Heidelberg over a lovely meal. The group then walked across the street for the opening night of the 11th annual Festival of German Film at the Egyptian Theater. After a welcome from the Goethe Institute and Consul General Hans-Joerg Neumann, they watched the Los Angeles premiere of the movie *Tiger Girl*, followed by a discussion with the director, Jakob Lass. The evening ended with a reception outside of the theater. »This was the second year that HAUS SoCal participated in this event and we hope even more can join us on the red carpet next year«, said Diane Guido, Regional Chair, HAUS SoCal.



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DC-area alumni celebrate Heidelberg
University's 631st at Café Mozart



Emily Westhoven (Representative,
Science, Research and the Arts at
Baden-Württemberg International)
and Heidelberg University Associ-
ation's Jimmie Jost and Lisa Vitale
»woman« the Heidelberg booth at
NY Career Booster

Washington DC

On October 18, HAUS DC celebrated Universität Heidelberg's birthday at *Café Mozart*. Known for its unique German fare, the restaurant provided a symphony of authentic German flavors in the heart of Washington DC. The venue's festive atmosphere proved to be the perfect go-to dining experience for the occasion. Rada Carmichael, Co-Chair HAUS DC: »Es was sehr nett, wieder zusammen im *Café Mozart* zu sein«.

WANTED: YOUR ADVENTURES, MEMORIES AND EXPERIENCES

The Heidelberg Alumni International Team's »HAI« campaign is still going strong and it is not too late to participate. The purpose is to capture alumni impressions of their time in Heidelberg while »HAI« lighting the great diversity of people in the international alumni network. Everything is done online through the alumni portal. Simply go to the [link](#) and share your special experiences or memories of Heidelberg, in English or German. You also have the opportunity to upload any photo, whether of yourself or of anything that best represents you. Once you send it, the HAI-Team will format and publish. It is a great way to hear from alumni in their own words.

HEIDELBERG PRESENTS AT CAREER FAIR

Universität Heidelberg was well-represented Friday, October 13 at the Goethe-Institut New York Career Booster Germany 2017. Heidelberg University Association's Irmintraud »Jimmie« Jost and Lisa Vitale were among the many representatives at the information fair. The event was a perfect opportunity for high school and college students to learn more about universities, scholarships, internships, exchange programs, and work and research opportunities in Germany.

HAILS AND FAREWELLS

HAUS is happy to announce Rada Carmichael as a return Co-Chair for the Washington Metropolitan Regional Chapter. Welcome to Adi Puplampu (Brookfield, Wisconsin) as the latest member of the HAUS Leadership Committee. Stephanie Cabell (Washington DC) and John Dillon (Chicago) have agreed to serve a 2nd term on the Leadership Committee. Thank you for your continued service!



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Heidelberg alumnus and Staten
Island District Attorney Michael
McMahon receives the Heidelberg
Wissenschaftsatlas from Rektor
Prof. Dr. Bernhard Eitel

LEUTE VON HEUTE

Michael McMahon, alumnus, member of the Heidelberg University Association's Advisory Council, and District Attorney of Staten Island, traveled to Heidelberg to meet Rektor Prof. Dr. Bernhard Eitel and was presented the Heidelberg *Wissenschaftsatlas*. The same day, he was also inducted into the Heidelberg Club International (HCI). Congratulations, Michael!

Alumnus Gerry Hadden published his first novel *Alles Wird Unsichtbar* (*Everything Turns Invisible*). Released in October, the novel tells the story of Milano Prieto, an adopted child growing up in the Bronx in the seventies in a family of exiled Cuban musicians, and his downward slide toward disaster. Much of the story takes place in a fictitious village in Northern Germany. Hadden is an award-winning documentary filmmaker for CGTN-America. He studied at Heidelberg University in 1988.

*Please let us know if you have
information to include in the
next HAUS-Blatt.*